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Where's the Beef? Tests and Measurements Resources that Help You Find the Actual Test

Brian M. Olesko

Wright State University - Main Campus, brian.olesko@wright.edu

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Background

- When library users need to find a complete copy of an unpublished psychological test they often turn to the reference staff for help. The best places to look for unpublished tests are in journal articles and in test compilation reference books but searching for tests in these sources can be difficult.
- Research databases can help you determine which journal articles made use of a particular test but most databases don't indicate if a copy of the actual test is included in the article.
- Searching for tests in reference books is even more difficult. Library catalog records rarely list the individual tests included in a compilation and your library catalog cannot search the compilations not owned by your library or library consortium.
- Fortunately, there are two resources freely available on the web that can help you determine which tests are available in journal articles and in test compilations.
 - TestLink, a database constructed by Educational Testing Service (ETS) is very useful for locating complete copies of tests in journal articles.
 - Tests and Measures in the Social Sciences: Tests available in Compilation Volumes, is a resource created by Helen Hough at the University of Texas at Arlington. It is an online index of tests available in test compilations.

Resources

TestLink

- Searching TestLink is the best way to determine which tests are available in journal articles. TestLink database records include an "Availability" field which often lists a reference to a journal article. When a journal article is listed a complete copy of the test is usually available in the article. Tests included in journal articles are frequently located at the end of the article, in an appendix, but some can be found within methods or results sections.
- A range of search fields are available in TestLink. When you already know the test you want you can search by test title, acronym, or author. When you need to know which tests are available that cover a given topic you can search by test descriptor or abstract. TestLink records include major and minor descriptors and abstracts that describe the tests.
- Screen shots to the right show the TestLink homepage with a description of the resource and an example of search results for the test "Acculturation Rating Scale for Mexican Americans". The journal article listed in the Availability field includes an appendix that contains a complete copy of the test.

Tests and Measures in the Social Sciences: Tests Available in Compilation Volumes

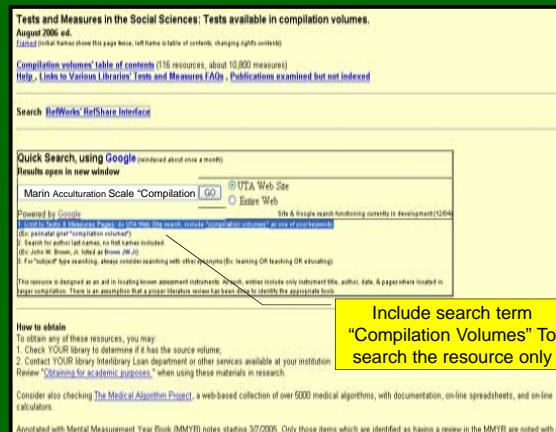
- This resource makes it possible to search for individual test titles included in test compilation books. The resource indexes 116 compilation volumes listing 10,800 test titles and is updated regularly.
- The resource uses Google for search functionality and includes keyword and author indexes. It can also be searched using the RefWorks RefShare interface. To search the resource using Google it is important to include the phrase "Compilation Volumes" along with your search terms so that the resource searches the compilation volumes only and not the entire University of Texas website.
- Screen shots to the right show the resource homepage with a search entered for the test "Marin Acculturation Scale". The next shot shows one result of the search with the desired test and compilation volume indicated.
- Use interlibrary loan to get copies of volumes not owned by your library.

Making use of these two resources is an excellent way to begin a search for a complete copy of a test

TestLink Homepage
<http://www.ets.org/testcoll/index.html>



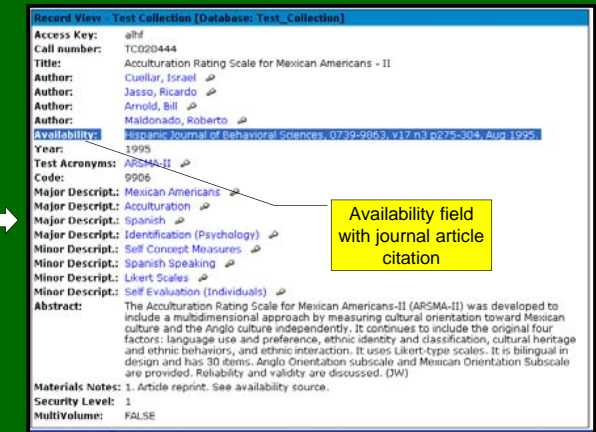
Tests and Measurements in the Social Sciences Homepage
<http://libraries.uta.edu/helen/test&meas/testmainframe.htm>



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Brian Olesko
Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio

TestLink database Record



Search results page

