What is PsycTESTS? What will I find in it?

PsycTESTS is a database that provides information about psychological tests and measures. It includes citations to articles that discuss the test and how it can be used. Some information about the test is taken from the articles and presented right in the database. In many cases, the full test (or a document with a selection of test items) is available to download as well.

What won’t I find in PsycTESTS?

It’s important to note that while the full test may be available, PsycTESTS is not meant to be a source for tests you can administer to patients or research volunteers. If you find a test you’d like to administer, use the information in the Master Test view, highlighted below, to contact the author or publisher. They will be able to provide the additional materials you need to administer the test and interpret the results.
Can I search PsycTESTS at the same time as other databases?

You can search PsycTESTS in combination with any other databases available to you on EBSCOhost. But you’ll be able to search more specifically if you choose to search only PsycTESTS, as shown here.

What search options does PsycTESTS have?

There are a lot of search options, which can help you research more efficiently. Maybe you want a test developed for a particular population or age group. Do you only want to look at tests that are administered in an interview rather than as a questionnaire? You can set those options at the start. You can also specify the date range in which the test was published in the literature.
If you prefer to start your search off broadly and then adjust based on your results, you can use the “Refine Results” bar on the left of your results page. Note that each individual result also shows the psychological construct the test is meant to measure, and contains a link to the test itself, when available.
When I’m searching for articles, I can read an abstract to help me decide if it’s a useful article. Are there abstracts for the tests?

Here’s a look at what you’ll see when you click a test name in your results list. A description and other basic information about the test is provided, along with Test Child Records that include information from articles about the test. If the full test is available, you’ll see the PDF link at the top left. Any supporting documentation will be listed at the bottom of this page.
What are the test child records for?

The test child records report on articles that discuss the test. Note that you will not see each of these listed for every test in the database.

**Test Development:** The article here discusses the development of the test. You’ll see this for most of the tests in the database.

**Test Reviews:** The article here reviews the test – this is available for a small percentage of the tests.

**Test Use:** The article here reports on a new use of the test – for example, a researcher may have taken a test designed for adults and administered it to teenagers. This is also available for a small percentage of tests.

To look at more information about the test, click on the link for one of the child records.

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**Expert Tip:** Sometimes, the Test Child Records section may only list a link labeled “Test Primary Data.” This means that we have been unable to identify an article about the test. This is most often the case for tests available through commercial publishers and for historical tests (right now, the oldest tests in PsycTESTS are from the late 1890s). The Test Primary Data link will pull up additional information about the test, including contact information for the publisher if the test is available commercially.
Do you include reliability or validity information for the tests?

Yes! Click on the link to the Test Development Record, highlighted on the previous page. You’ll see a variety of information about the test displayed right in the database. This includes the format of the test and how many items or questions it contains, how it’s administered, and the reliability and validity. You may still need to find the full text of the article, but this information should help you determine if this test will fit your needs.

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Expert Tip: Reliability and validity information are taken directly from the article that’s referenced in the “Source Citation” field at the bottom of the page. If the authors didn’t report on them, these fields will not be present.

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I want to read one of the articles linked from the test. How do I find it?

The citation information for each article is provided in two places. In the list of Test Child Records for the test, you’ll see that the information under the link includes the title of the article, authors and other information. If you have already clicked on one of the test child records, you can find that information in the “Source Citation” field at the bottom of the page. (Take a look at the screenshots above, and on page 5.) You can use that information to track down the article. If you’re not sure how to do this, ask a librarian for help.
Can I use a test I found for a class assignment or in an article I’m writing?

In most cases, yes! If the full test is available, open the file and look at the Permissions line. In most cases you’ll see this:

Permissions:
Test content may be reproduced and used for non-commercial research and educational purposes without seeking written permission. Distribution must be controlled, meaning only to the participants engaged in the research or enrolled in the educational activity. Any other type of reproduction or distribution of test content is not authorized without written permission from the author and publisher.

This means that you can use the test for a class assignment (perhaps you need to write a test review, or compare several tests that measure the same disorder) or use and cite it as a part of your research when developing your own test.

Can I administer these tests to patients or participants in a study?

The type of research referred to in the permissions is not human subjects research. If you want to actually administer the test to someone, you need to contact the author or publisher to get permission and materials for administering the test.

Can I save the search I just did, or the tests I found?

If you’re going to need to do this same search again in the future, you may want to use the tools at the top of the search results page to automate the process. Under the “Share” link at the top right, you can save all the results on that page or the search itself to your folder. You can set up an email alert for new tests that match your search criteria or get them via an RSS feed. You can also save a permalink to your results list — handy for sharing what you’ve found with classmates, researchers in your lab, or members of your journal club.
When you’re looking at the page for a test, you’ll see some icons on the right that provide you with some ways to save the information. You can print, email or save the page, or add it to a folder in your My EBSCOhost account. You can get an automatically-generated citation or export the information to RefWorks, EndNote or another citation manager. You can also add a note about the article, or get a permalink to it.

Where can I find the things I’ve saved?

Saved items and searches are added to your My EBSCOhost account. Make sure you sign in before you start saving things! If you save something without signing in, it will be lost when you close the browser. You can sign in using the link at the top right of the page, next to the Folder link.

If you don’t already have an account, click on “Sign In,” and then “Create a new Account” to quickly set up a login.
I still have questions! Who can I ask?

Ask your librarian!

Use the Help link at the top right of any EBSCOhost page to access specialized help for PsycTESTS and more general help for using the EBSCOhost interface.

Take a look at our training videos: http://bit.ly/PsycTESTS_EBSCOhost