

Learning about Assessment And Finding Assessment Resources

Learn About Assessment

Good assessment is designed based on the careful identification and specification of learning or behavioral outcomes. Some resources for assessment design are:

- Johnson, D. W., & Johnson, R. T. (2002). Meaningful Assessment. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.
- American Society for Engineering Education Joint Task Force on Engineering Education Assessment. (1996). Assessment White Paper: A Framework for the Assessment of Engineering Education. Retrieved January 2005 <http://www.asee.org/resources/assessmentwhitepaper.cfm>.
- American Society for Engineering Education. (1998). How Do You Measure Success: Designing Effective Processes for Assessing Engineering Education. Washington, D.C.: ASEE Professional Books.
- NSF User Friendly Handbook for Project Evaluation: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2002/nsf02057/start.htm>
- Field Tested Learning Assessment Guide: <http://www.flaguide.org/>
- Online Evaluation Resource Library. <http://oerl.sri.com/index.html>
- The Educator's Reference Desk. www.eduref.org
- Foundation Coalition <http://www.foundationcoalition.org>

Locate Instruments

Once one gains an understanding of the assessment process and has identified goals and objectives and specified the program's desired outcomes, the search for associated instrumentation can begin. If, for example, a mentoring program seeks to improve students' perceived level of social support, then conduct a keyword search for instruments designed to assess perceptions of social support, using the resources below:

- Tests in Print (TIP), according to its publishers, the Buros Institute, is "a comprehensive bibliography to all known commercially available tests that are currently in print in the English Language." Lists of tests from TIP can also be generated by searching Buros Test Reviews Online at: <http://buros.unl.edu/buros/jsp/search.jsp> .
- The Educational Testing Service Test Locator includes some of the tests in TIP, as well as tests that are not commercially available. <http://www.ets.org/testcoll/index.html> .
- Various organizations and businesses develop and/or administer tests. See, for example the ACT's "Education Survey Services" at: <http://www.act.org/ess/index.html>
- Some research articles published in academic journals include a reference to the instrument(s) used in the study or include the tool, in whole or part, in the article or appendix. Articles can be located through searching databases (e.g. Web of Science, Education Full Text, PsychInfo, and ERIC) available on your institution's library web site.

Find Reviews of Assessment Instruments

Assessment instruments range drastically in quality, so it is good to do some research. These are two resources used to determine the quality and appropriateness of a given instrument.

- The Mental Measures Yearbook (MMY) provides technical and acquisition information for tests, along with high-level professional reviews. Individual test reviews are available online (<http://buros.unl.edu/buros/jsp/search.jsp>) for a fee or in print at an academic library.



- Some tests are the subject of academic scrutiny and information about them can be found in journal articles by searching the databases previously mentioned.