What is PsycTESTS? What will I find in it?

PsycTESTS is a research database that provides information on tests that originated in the scholarly literature. Tests are mined from the journals currently covered in the PsycINFO database. Nearly 40,000 unique tests are represented in PsycTESTS, organized into 15 instrument types and 30 categories.

PsycTESTS records include citations and links to articles that discuss the development of the test and how it can be used. Most information about the test is taken from these articles and presented right in the database. The rich content records help you navigate the complex body of test literature and discern whether an existing test will meet their research needs or if they need to develop a new test. In some cases, the full test (or a document with a selection of test items) is available to download as well.

Many tests developed within the context of a study are unnamed by the author and effectively “lost” in the literature. This is the case for over 50% of the tests in PsycTESTS. PsycTESTS staff intensively data mine the behavioral literature to unearth such tests and then name them using guidelines that emphasize the clarity of test purpose. These “lost” tests are then searchable by their created names, author names, constructs, classifications, citations, acronyms, etc.

How can I use the tests I find in PsycTESTS?

Look for the Permissions field, highlighted below. When it reads “May use for Research/Teaching,” the test can be used for non-commercial research or educational purposes. This statement permits general use in a clinical setting, for a class assignment, or as a cited resource in developing your own test.
When the full-text test is available, you will see a PDF Full Text icon at the left side of the record.

If you open this PDF, there will be a longer Permissions statement on the cover sheet.

It is important to note that most tests in the database do not include all the materials you need to administer and score the test. Supplemental materials such as instructor guides and answer sheets are typically not included as part of the full-text test. You should contact the author to obtain these materials.

To use a test for commercial gain or to reproduce it for other uses, you are required to contact the copyright owner for permission. For example, republishing a test or reproducing it on the open internet require copyright owner permission, as does using a test in research intended to support commercial gain.
How can I contact the copyright owner of a test?

To contact the author or publisher for permission, use the information provided in the Authors and Address fields. In addition to permissions, you may wish to contact the author for additional information about the test that will help you understand how best to administer it 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 limit your results to those with a full or partial version of the test, and specify the date range in which the test was published in the literature. If you are using the date range limit, keep in mind that most PsycTESTS records are recent; 75% are from 2000 forward.

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.

**Expert Tip:** Use the PsycTESTS Classification to limit to a general area of psychology. It’s available on the **Advanced Search** screen, or by clicking the **Show More** link in the **Refine Results** bar on the search results page. See more at: [https://bitly.com/PTClassCodes](https://bitly.com/PTClassCodes)
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 what you’ll see when you click a test name in your results list. This page is called the **Master Test Record**. 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 Full Text** 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.

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? What about the factor analysis?

Yes! Click on the link to the Test Development Record, highlighted on the previous page. The PsycTESTS record provides as much detail about the test as can be gleaned from the article: the study context in which the test was developed; the test development process; characteristics of the test (e.g. format, number of items); psychometric properties when available (reliability, validity, factor structure), and test items. 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.

Is there a way to find other versions of the test?

If any other versions of a test are included in the PsycTESTS database, you’ll see them listed towards the bottom of the Master Test Record page. This includes short forms, long forms, translations or other versions that have been developed.

The best way to quickly find these other versions is to conduct a new search on the test name. Be sure to leave off any version designators, like “short form” or “revision,” as shown below.
I want to read one of the articles linked from the test. How do I find it?

The citation for each article is provided in two places. In the list of Test Child Records 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, look in the Source field at the top of the page. 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 administer these tests to patients or participants in a study?

Look for the Permissions field. When it reads “May use for Research/Teaching,” the test can be used for non-commercial research or educational purposes. This also permits general use in a clinical setting. To use a test for commercial gain or to reproduce it for other uses, you are required to contact the copyright owner for permission. For example, republishing a test or reproducing it on the open internet require copyright owner permission, as does using a test in research intended to support commercial gain.

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

If you’re going to need to run this same search again in the future, you can 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 E-mail 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 or researchers in your lab.
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 add the record to a Folder in your My EBSCOhost account, print it, email it, or save the page. 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, get a permalink to it, or share it on social media.

Where can I find the things I’ve saved?

Saved items and searches are added to your free personal My EBSCOhost account. If you save something without first 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!

You can also use the help menu at the top right of any EBSCOhost page to access specialized help for PsycTESTS and more general help for using the EBSCOhost interface.

To learn more about how to find psychological tests: www.apa.org/science/programs/testing/find-tests.aspx

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