PsycTESTS®: My How You Have Grown!

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W e’ve talked about PsycTESTS before in these pages. In November 2010 we shared the details of Operation Test Derby and the all-hands-on-deck process that was needed to jumpstart our test collection process. In a special issue in June 2011, prior to our September launch, we outlined PsycTESTS’ purpose, the types of tests it contained, and the new fields and limits created specifically for the database in Introducing PsycTESTS®. Now that PsycTESTS has been in the marketplace for more than a year and is available on all of our major platforms, we can catch our breath and take stock of how PsycTESTS is doing.

How is it doing? In a word: Great! So much so that in this issue, we celebrate the passage of a major milestone: We’ve passed 10,000 records, blowing through our goal for 2012 and setting us up for even greater growth ahead. As more researchers report to us how pleased they are with the database, we are ever more confident that we’ve succeeded in creating the much-needed tool we set out to build. To mark the moment, we’d like to do something we don’t normally do. We’d like to honor the individuals who have gone to extraordinary lengths to bring PsycTESTS to birth and ensure its success. An inclusive list follows this article.

The Beginning

In a way, PsycTESTS is rooted in an APA Books project, the Directory of Unpublished Experimental Mental Measures (D.U.E.M.M.), which is a nine-volume collection of test instruments. The content looked so much like content for a database, and we’d received so many questions about how to find tests, that the idea of a test database was a short leap. Electronic Books Manager Olin Nettles presented the idea in 2009, and the more APA Publisher Gary VandenBos thought about a tests and measures database, the more he liked it.

We knew it was a big undertaking, though at first, we didn’t realize quite how big. This was different from anything else we’d ever attempted. Finding tests in the maze of resources available turned us into explorers, creating the interface on our existing platform when the structure and fields and limits differed so greatly turned us into mechanical engineers, and developing the production process required a whole different set of steps and skills and turned us into efficiency experts. We’d like to acknowledge Senior Director Linda Beebe and PsycINFO Managers...
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Olin Nettles, Jan Fleming, Susan Hillson, Brenda Evans, Alvin Walker, Kathleen Sheedy, and Lynn Willis, who have been involved at every step of PsycTESTS, as has James Whitfield, Associate Manager in Production.

Tests
From the beginning, what was to set PsycTESTS apart was that it would provide access to the text of the test itself wherever possible. Thus, for PsycTESTS to succeed, we knew we needed to find tests and fast. We launched in September 2011 with fewer than 3,000 tests in the database and an all-out campaign to aggressively acquire suitable content. When we set a goal of 10,000 records by the end of 2012, it seemed like an impossible task. But we’ve learned from experience, and in addition to dedicated APA staff, freelancers, and contractors searching for tests, we also

- Emailed authors directly to see if they would like to contribute their tests. Although at first, most interactions were spent explaining what PsycTESTS would be, now so many of the authors already know PsycTESTS that we are reaching the tipping point where they are beginning to contact us to contribute their instruments. For this task, we’d like to acknowledge Content Development Manager Lynn Willis and John Firsching, Mary O’Rourke, Michelle Provenzano, and Amanda Conley.
- Collaborated with the Center for the History of Psychology at The University of Akron to digitize historical tests in their collections. That collaboration involved APA staff, Olin Nettles, and Executive Director Dave Baker and Digital Projects Manager Jodi Kearns at the Center.
- Partnered with other publishers, such as Elsevier and Sage, to be able to add their content.
- Joined with commercial publishers to provide structured information about and links to their tests.
- Hired graduate students to search (see accompanying article).

Platform Interface
We originally envisioned a separate search page for PsycTESTS on APA PsycNET because the field structures for PsycTESTS are so different from the other APA databases. In 2011 librarian and end user feedback at ALA–Midwinter and a university site visit to UCSD made us change course. The user’s need for simple initial searching complemented with detailed faceting options at the search results stage made integration into the existing platform essential.

The technology impact of integrating PsycTESTS search functions with existing database search functions was daunting, but we felt the end result would be worth it. We thank the ALA librarians and the UCSD students for their input. For tasks as diverse as constructing the wire frames and usability testing (Eva Winer), PsycNET technical requirements and mockups (Sahar Sheikhani), and a separate help menu (Tim McAdoo), we thank APA staff. The entire list of ITS staff who participated is included at the end of the document.

Production
One of the greatest challenges with the database has always been the mechanics of how to categorize and present the data. Our first discovery of how rocky a road this would be was simply identifying the fields and limits for the record. Seven managers all looked at the same eight articles containing tests and independently filled in the fielded information they thought would comprise a basic record. The result? It was a bit like the story of five blind men describing an elephant—the results were so inconsistent they had to stop and rethink the information we really wanted to capture. That began an arduous process of defining, testing, and refining by the PsycINFO management team.

Production Challenges
Among the many challenges they encountered were the following:

- Who knew there are so many ways tests can be developed? (for starters, from “scratch,” by combining items from different tests, and by translation to a different language or context).

In December we ran an article, PsycINFO News: How Are We Doing?, soliciting feedback on the newsletter. Please visit this link and take our survey: Survey Gizmo link: http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/1130225/PsycINFO-News-Survey
Who knew there were so many kinds of test reliability and validity?

What do we do in our records when multiple tests are named alike, when tests have no names at all, when tests appear in multiple versions, or when tests appear in multiple languages?

PsycINFO management as a whole struggled to find resolutions for all of these issues. The bibliographic production team, led by Brenda Evans, has had to adapt to a new day-by-day work flow. This database requires them to search for the test’s origins into the process and to find other studies that have used the test substantively. When they find a relevant article, they must tease out the data on test development and validation from the studies themself.

Unlike the other databases, where a record is a record, the complete record in the PT database is actually a package composed of several components that can grow over time. This makes managing the workflow to bring these components together both interesting and never actually completed. We thank Production Workflow Supervisor Cyndy Nixon for this challenging task and the entire production team.

All of these issues had to be thought through and required a production solution. This has been an epic case of form following function. As our needs have evolved, our production system has had to follow suit. We’d like to acknowledge the ITS staff who designed and redesigned Artemis, our production database, even as our vision of what PsycTESTS would be kept changing. Thank you Publishing Product Services Manager Sabina Mathur and Lawrence Logan, Ashish Thomas, and Adrian Breeman.

Training, Marketing, and Sales

Of course, the list of people who have contributed goes on. The Customer Relations Team, led by Susan Hillson, has created documentation and conducted endless presentations and training webinars. The Marketing and Sales Teams, led by Peter Gaviorno, with Tim Rinda spearheading the promotional campaign and Neil Lader leading the boots-on-the-ground sales, has played a crucial role.

And those of you who have encouraged us to create PsycTESTS, contributed your time for beta tests, and have supported our efforts by subscribing have our gratitude as well.

The 10,000 Record

PsycINFO News is published bimonthly by PsycINFO®
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750 First Street, NE • Washington, DC 20002-4242
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Fax: 202.336.5633
E-mail: psycinfo@apa.org
Web: www.apa.org/pubs/databases

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We thank the following people:

**Bibliographic Production**
- Brenda Evans
- Cyndy Nixon
- James Whitfield
- Verna Walker
- Aja Martin
- Amy Carey
- April Talley
- Davon Smith
- Elissa Bush
- Hesham Mabrouk
- Laura Labedz
- Maggie Blanchard
- Thomas Wolfe
- Yashira Brooks

**Consultants**
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- Dave Jean
- Devin English
- Gauri Saxena
- Henry Prempeh
- Hilah Kaufman
- Jayme Haynes
- Jessica Henry
- Jill Blaemers
- Jill Settles
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- Marisa Hughes
- Natalie Alizaga, Ryan Murphy
- Tova Jacobs

**Sales & Marketing:**
- Adrienne Lundy
- Angela Dyson
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**ITS**
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- Adrian Breeman
- Andy Elkington
- Ashish Thomas
- Harish Srinivasan
- J.J. Larrea
- Jerald Thinakaran
- Kalyan Jupalle
- Lawrence Logan
- Nivaldo Fernandes
- Sabina Mathur
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- Jill Settles
- Julius Najab
- Karen Carter
- Laura Schaffner-Gray
- Lazaida Rivera
- Linda McKenney
- Marcy Kramer
- Marisa Hughes
- Natalie Alizaga, Ryan Murphy
- Tova Jacobs

**APA PsycNET Search**
- Eva Winer

**Licensing**
- Chuck Defilippo
- Donna Montez
- Alison Entringer
- Josephine Asiamah
- Marika Braschler
- Onyeka Okoroji
- Paola Gonzalez
- Trina Ginyard

**Sales & Marketing**
- Peter Gaviorno
- Tim Rinda
- Neil Lader
- Allison St. Cyr
- Beth Roberts
- Christine Chambers
- Denise Higgins
- Julie Rovesti
- Matt Kircher
- Mike Sanoff
- Rob Kolton
- Tom Wolfe
- Valerie Arnett
- Vanessa Sierra

**Science**
- Marianne Ernesto
- Howard Kurtzman
- Steve Brechler

**Journals**
- James Till
- Mark Winter
Graduate Students: Our Not-So-Secret Weapon

As our need for tests and speed in acquiring them became more evident, we decided on a new strategy to search for appropriate content: graduate students. Who better to understand the need for the tests and to have the research skills to find relevant content? APA is fortunate to have found a number of gifted local graduate students to work with us on PsycTESTS, some of whom have moved on to postdocs or careers but continue their PsycTESTS research. Here are profiles of three who have been among our most useful and productive.

Hilah Kate Kaufman writes:
I am currently completing a postdoctoral fellowship at the Kennedy Krieger Institute, where I am working as a family therapist. I graduated in 2012 with a doctorate in clinical psychology from George Washington University. My areas of clinical expertise are early childhood mental health, childhood trauma, and family therapy. I have focused my research on understanding the interplay between environmental and genetic factors in shaping relationships and family dynamics.

I have been working for PsycTESTS since March 2011. It has allowed me to use my skills as both a clinician and researcher. My work has given me a true appreciation for the history and evolution of the field of psychology. I have particularly enjoyed researching tests and measures on gender roles, culture, and ethnicity from the past 75 years. An examination of such measures can provide a window into changing attitudes and perceptions of social constructs over time.

Julius A. Najab writes:
I am near completion of my dissertation at George Mason University. I study and am interested in quantitative psychology, evaluation, and social science in social policy.

Countless times in professional conferences and meetings I’ve heard calls for a database like PsycTESTS. Once a singular database has widespread dissemination through the academic world, I suspect we, psychological scientists, will seriously examine the development and validation processes of our measures. Easing the burden of access to knowledge will help the psychological research community when deciding whether a new measure needs to be developed or modified. One thing that always surprises me is that authors will not highlight or clearly identify their newly created measures. Measures and methodological articles generally have very high citation rates, so it would make sense for authors to emphasize their new potentially very beneficial scientific contribution.

Chris Nettles writes:
I am in my last year of a doctoral program in Clinical/Community Psychology at George Washington University and currently interning with two organizations, The Evaluators’ Institute and Community Science, Inc. I am primarily interested in health disparities among those in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community, especially in how stressful environments “get under the skin” in such a way as to affect all aspects of health, psychological and physical.

Part of my work with PsycTESTS involves finding references that may be particularly obscure, and I spend a good portion of my time at the Library of Congress (my first time with a closed stack system—very interesting). I have been most struck by the sheer volume of tests available on just about every topic imaginable. If there is something that you want to study from a psychological perspective, there is likely already a test out there for it. One of the real strengths of the database is that it does allow one to get a full historical perspective on how measuring a particular psychological construct or process has evolved over the years, for example, in the LGBT population I study, prior to the 1970s the measures and articles in which they appeared took a decidedly more pathological view of homosexuality. Today the measures seem more focused on understanding the challenges LGBT individuals may face in the world.
The Faces of PsycTESTS

Some of the Faces of PsycTESTS. From top to bottom, left to right: Beverly Jamison, Alison Cody, Tony Habash, Rennie Georgieva, Linda Beebe, Brenda Evans, Christopher Nettles, Cyndy Nixon, Pah Mangasrangsi, Mark Winter, Laura Labeled, Jan Flemming, Tim Rinda, Gary VandenBos, Kathleen Sheedy, Sabina Mathur, Rachel Hamilton, Mike Sanoff, Vanessa Sierra, Lynn Willis, Olin Nettles, Harish Srinivasan, Nivaldo Fernandes, Hilah Kaufman, Susan Hillson, James Whitfield, Amanda Conley, Trina Ginyard, Marika Braschler, Karen Ross, Alexa Robertson, Sahar Sheikhan
In Search of Using the Thesaurus in PsycTESTS®

Now that PsycTESTS is available on all of the major vendor platforms, we wanted to take a few minutes to demonstrate how our thesaurus has been integrated into this database. As you may know, APA’s *Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms* forms the backbone of our controlled vocabulary. It’s updated regularly, with both additions and changes to existing terms.

To view the tutorial, please visit [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wAQMYS3PHSQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wAQMYS3PHSQ)

There are a lot of interesting features in the thesaurus, but in this tutorial we’re going to focus just on how you can access it and bring the terms you find into your search. For more in-depth information about the thesaurus, use the links below to view the thesaurus tutorial for the platform you use to access APA databases.

Note: Remember that PsycTESTS is still growing, and that you may need to use broader thesaurus terms in your search than you would in PsycINFO.

Why Use the Thesaurus?

**APA PsycNET:** [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M3y7MY9CQ9U](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M3y7MY9CQ9U)

**EBSCOhost:** [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WUoy4DNZxg8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WUoy4DNZxg8)

**ProQuest:** [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpCdSrMlAXE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpCdSrMlAXE)

**OvidSP:** [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aeDJeXFjNG8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aeDJeXFjNG8)

APA grants permission for librarians and educators to link these tutorials to their library web sites, Libguides, course management software, and other resources intended to assist students and researchers in their work.

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Get More: Quotes & Trials

Have a question about licensing an APA database? Interested in a trial or a quote? Contact our Sales and Licensing team at [quotes@apa.org](mailto:quotes@apa.org).

Get More: In-Person Training

Attending ACRL in Indianapolis? Save the date for a training session with APA! We’ll be hosting a lunch and learn on Thursday, April 11 at 11:30am–1:00. More details to come, but if you have particular search topics or functionality that you would like us to cover in the demonstration, just drop us a note at [psycinfo@apa.org](mailto:psycinfo@apa.org).

New from APA: Topic Guides

We’ve recently transformed our Interdisciplinary Application Guides into a new, more usable format. Our Topic Guides show how you can search PsycINFO for resources in fields such as Nursing, Education, Military Psychology and Law. The post-card sized guides are a great complement to our Quick Reference Guides. Online, we’re offering a version of the Topic Guides that you quickly run off on a color printer, and have pulled the content into a PowerPoint slide deck for you to more easily pull portions of it into existing handouts and lesson plans. Take a look at what we’ve done so far! More are on the way: [http://www.apa.org/pubs/librarians/guides/psycinfo-guides.aspx](http://www.apa.org/pubs/librarians/guides/psycinfo-guides.aspx)

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New From APA: APA Journals Pro App

If you subscribe to PsycARTICLES via APA PsycNET, you can now access that content on the go! This winter we released APA Journals Pro, an app for iOS and Android that allows you to search and browse PsycARTICLES, and download full-text after quickly authenticating against your institution’s subscription. Note that if you do not subscribe to PsycARTICLES on the APA PsycNET platform, you can still search and browse the content, but you will be unable to access the full text. The app is currently available as a free download in the Apple App Store ([https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/apa-journals-pro/id572503642?mt=8](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/apa-journals-pro/id572503642?mt=8)) and the Google Play Store ([https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.apa#t=W251bGwsMSwxLDIxMiwiY29tLmFwYSJd](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.apa#t=W251bGwsMSwxLDIxMiwiY29tLmFwYSJd)).
The American Psychological Association’s Excellence in Librarianship Award was created to recognize an outstanding contribution to psychology and behavioral sciences librarianship. The award includes a $2,500 check and an inscribed plaque, which will be presented at the EBSS Forum at the American Library Association Annual Conference in Chicago in June 2013.

Who Is Eligible?
This award is open to both librarians and allied professionals who have demonstrated significant achievement in librarianship in the social and behavioral sciences.

Examples of achievement may include one or more of the following: instruction, project development, publications, research, or service. APA employees are not eligible.

Who Can Nominate?
Individuals may nominate themselves or others. Nominations will be accepted from library users, students, faculty, library colleagues, or others with knowledge of the nominee’s achievement.

Nomination Procedure and Timeline
Please submit the following electronically by April 19, 2013:

- Nomination statement (describe the contribution and its significance within and outside of the institution); a current curriculum vitae; and optional supporting documentation may be included with nomination (digital copies or URL’s leading to online documentation)
- Letters of support (no more than three; at least one letter from a direct beneficiary of the services provided by the nominee is strongly encouraged)
- Contact information for the nominee

Submissions are being accepted online at APA Excellence in Librarianship Award (excellenceinlibrarianshipaward@apa.org).

Applications will be kept in the award pool for three years. Applications may be updated each year, as long as they are received by the award deadline.

Selecting the Recipient
The recipient will be selected by a committee of peers and be notified in May 2013.

Please direct questions to APA Excellence in Librarianship Award (excellenceinlibrarianshipaward@apa.org).