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 Test Master record, highlighted below, to contact the author or publisher. (To get to this section, just click the test name in your results list.) 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 OvidSP. 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. Here’s a look at just some of the options available when you use the Multi-Field Search view in OvidSP. Don’t forget that you can also set limiters!
If you prefer to start your search off broadly and then adjust it based on your results, you can use the “Filter By” bar on the left of your results page. (If you don’t see the filter you want, use the limiters highlighted in the image above.) Note that each individual result contains links to the Complete Reference, which provides more information on the test, and 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 “Ovid Database PDFs” link at the top right. 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.

You’ll see these records in two places. In the results list, look at the Test Record Type line. The Test Master record will contain links to any test child records that exist for that particular test, and we recommend starting with that record when reviewing your results.
You can limit your results to just Test Master Records right on the Multi-Field Search screen – look in the Limits area under the search boxes. If you don’t see the checkbox, click on Additional Limits to find it.

Here’s what the list of test child records looks like when you view the Test Master. To look at more information about the test, click on one of the links.

**Expert Tip:** You may also see “Test Primary Data” records. 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.

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

The citation to the article in each of these records is provided at the bottom of the page, in the “Source Citation” field. 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:

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 part of your research into 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 save it to automate the process. You can set up an RRS feed for new tests that match your search criteria. You can also save your search and come back to run it manually. You can save all the searches in your history, or use the checkboxes to save particular searches.
Some additional options will appear on the search results screen. When these icons are displayed, use the checkboxes on the results screen to select particular tests. Once you’ve made your selections, you can print them, email them, export them to a file or to software like RefWorks or EndNote. You can also add them to your My Projects folder.

**What if I see a login when I try to save something?**

Some of the options mentioned above will require that you set up a free account on OvidSP. If that’s the case, you’ll see this login appear.

Click on the “Create a new Personal Account” link and you can quickly set up an account. Access your account at any time from the top right of any OvidSP page.

**I still have questions! Who can I ask?**

Ask your librarian!

Use the Help link at the top right of any OvidSP page to access general help for using the interface. For specialized help for PsycTESTS, click the information icon next to the database name, as shown on page 2.
