The Test Collection at ETS: 34 Years and Still Growing
By Karen McQuillen, Educational Testing Service (ETS)

Abstract
This essay updates the following two articles that were previously published in the Winter 1975/1976 and 1984 issues respectively of *Education Libraries*, and featured the ETS Test Collection.

Introduction

I joined the staff of ETS as a Clerical Assistant (III) in 1983, about seven years after the article *Two Profiles: The ETS Test Collection* was published. At that time, the three collections that made up the present day Brigham Library, the Test Collection, Archives, and the research library (consisting of books, journals, and online databases), were three separately managed units. The staff of these units only worked on the collection for which they were responsible. Since that time, there had been a complete merge of the three collections under one manager, with all Brigham Library staff cross-trained to work with all three collections. Because of the staff reductions mirroring those that most special libraries have faced over the past 25 years, the total number of staff working with all three collections is less than half of what it was in 1983.

In spite of that, the Test Collection at ETS is still maintained, and each test continues to be abstracted and indexed thoroughly. The collection now consists of about 26,000 assessment devices, covering six major types: Achievement; Vocational; Cognitive, Aptitude, and Intelligence; Tests for Special Populations; Attitude; and Affective Measures and Personality Tests. ERIC descriptors are used to assign subject terms, and each instrument includes an abstract of approximately 250 words.

The cataloging records of the Test Collection at ETS are fully searchable on the open web via ETS's corporate website. This searchable database, Test Link, may be found at http://www.ets.org/testcoll. As such, much of the printed matter the Test Collection had produced, such as Annotated bibliographies, the TEST COLLECTION BULLETIN, and the ANNOTATED INDEX, are no longer necessary and ceased publication.

Brigham Library

The Test in Microfiche sets, which were a new offering at the time of the writing of the 1975/1976 article, contained complete test instruments for which the authors had given ETS permission to distribute. These are tests which are otherwise unpublished. In 2001 microfiche ceased to be the media on which tests were distributed. All new tests for which ETS has permission to distribute are converted to in PDF format. Via the Tests on Demand service, which utilizes the ETS Store, they are available for downloading from at $25 per download. There are about 1900 downloadable tests available. The ERIC Thesaurus of Descriptor is used to assign subject terms to the test instruments. Instructions as to how to create a result set limited to the tests available for downloading are found at the search site.

At the time of the writing of the 1975/76 article, the collection was known as The ETS Test Collection. However, since the collection is made of up tests of many test publishers and individual authors, the collection's title became confusing to people searching the website. Many thought it was a source for ETS tests only, or that inclusion of any test in the collection was given a "stamp of approval" by ETS. As the "Terms of Use" section of the Test Link site states

Typically, the tests included in this service have not been subjected to the intensive investigation usually associated with commercially published tests. As a consequence, inclusion of a test does not imply any judgment by ETS of the quality or usefulness of the instrument. The purchaser must assume full responsibility for controlling access to these materials, the manner in which they are used, and the interpretation of data derived from their application.
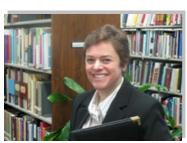
A slight rearrangement of the title aims to help eliminate some of that confusion. Our moniker is now Test Collection at ETS.

References
According to a Yahoo! Search, more that 1500 websites link to Test Link from their site (Search = link: http://www.ets.org/testcoll at http://www.yahoo.com).

As many test authors now post their instruments at their own websites, it has become more difficult to gain permission to become an instrument's distributor. However, when such tests are located, they are added to the database, and a link to the web-based version is included. Author information helps users track down tests if the link is broken.

Note: Libutti, P. O. (2004). *Digital resources and librarians: Case studies in innovation, invention, and implementation*. Chicago: Association of College and Research Libraries, includes the chapter *The Educational Testing Service's Test Collection*, written by retired Brigham Library Director (and former Education Division Chair) Janet Williams and me. It has a complete history of the collection and further details the methods used to select and catalog tests.

Karen McQuillen
Manager, Library Services, Brigham Library
Educational Testing Service, Rosedale Road
Princeton, NJ 08541
609-734-5664
kmcquillen@ets.org