

# BUROS

## CENTER FOR TESTING

*Improving the science  
and practice of testing*



The Buros Center for Testing originated in the fertile imagination of Oscar Krisen Buros with the publication of the 1938 *Mental Measurements Yearbook*.

In addition to his efforts to improve the quality of tests with these book publications, Oscar Buros sought to develop an organization capable of providing evaluation services and research leadership essential to making a substantive improvement in the science and practice of testing.

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## *Become a Reviewer*

TEST REVIEWS  
ASSESSMENT LITERACY  
PSYCHOMETRIC CONSULTING

[buros.org](http://buros.org)

## BECOMING A REVIEWER FOR THE BUROS CENTER FOR TESTING

A tireless monitor of the testing industry, Oscar Krisen Buros created a forum for leading scholars to publish “candidly critical” reviews of commercially available tests designed to serve the interests of both practitioners and the public at large. The *Mental Measurements Yearbook* and *Tests in Print* series have become the recognized standards for essential information about tests.

### *Test Reviews & Information*

The Buros Center encourages meaningful and appropriate test selection, utilization, and practice, as well as improved test development and measurement research. Through its epic series, the *Mental Measurements Yearbook*, the Buros Center for Testing provides descriptions and critical reviews of thousands of commercially available English language tests.

To date, more than 10,500 test reviews have been published in the 19 volumes comprising the series. Each volume includes timely, consumer-oriented test reviews, providing evaluative information to promote and encourage informed test selection.

### *The Test Review Process*

A test qualifies for review if it is commercially available, new or recently revised, and meets the general criterion of providing at least a minimal level of psychometric data (e.g., development history, reliability estimates, validity evidence).

Reviewers are selected for their specialized content knowledge and their training in the field of testing and measurement. Criteria employed for the evaluation of a test are those generally accepted and endorsed by the professional community, articulated in documents such as the *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing*.

For most tests, reviews are completed by two independent reviewers. Reviews undergo a rigorous editorial process during which they are carefully fact-checked and edited. The Editors reserve the right to request changes or to reject reviews that do not meet the minimum standards of the *Mental Measurements Yearbook* series.

### *Anatomy of a Test Review*

Reviews are written for the rank and file of test users. Each review is concise, averaging between 1,000 and 1,500 words, and provides descriptive information about a test, discusses its developmental history, evaluates its technical characteristics, and offers professional commentary. Reviews are published in print and are available electronically through subscription services (EBSCO and Ovid) and Test Reviews Online (Buros website).

Reviews serve the following purposes:

- to provide test users with carefully prepared appraisals of test materials for their guidance in selecting and using tests;
- to stimulate progress toward higher professional standards of test construction by commending good work, by censuring poor work, and by suggesting improvements; and
- to impel test authors and publishers to present more detailed information about the construction, validity, reliability, norms, uses, and possible misuses of their tests and test scores.

### *Qualifications and Responsibilities of Test Reviewers*

We depend on the assistance of professionals who volunteer their time and expertise in the review process. To qualify as a reviewer, individuals must have completed a terminal degree (e.g., PhD, PsyD, EdD) and must have training in psychometrics. Typically, invited reviewers are asked to review two tests per yearbook.

Reviewers should strive to write objective, unbiased reviews. Reviews should be frankly critical, as reviewers should draw upon their knowledge and expertise to judge carefully and thoroughly all elements—developmental, technical, and practical—of the instrument under scrutiny. Reviewers are expected to give credit where credit is due and to describe weaknesses with consideration of their likely implications and effects.

### *Benefits of Serving as a Test Reviewer*

Reviewing a test is an extremely important professional responsibility with critical implications for test authors, publishers, and users. Benefits of serving as a reviewer for the Buros Center for Testing include:

- **Professional Service**—Reviewing tests offers an opportunity for improving the science and practice of testing.
- **Stewardship**—By providing vital information to prospective test users and test takers, reviewers help ensure appropriate testing practices.
- **Authorship**—For each test review published, credit accrues to the reviewer, who has been invited to write a review on the basis of his or her professional experience and expertise.
- **Affiliation**—Reviewing tests establishes a professional association with a center renowned for its contributions to the field of measurement.
- **Complimentary Copy**—Reviewers receive a free copy of the yearbook in which they served as sole or first author of one or more reviews.

To apply, visit  
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