TIPS FOR SEARCHING FOR INFORMATION ON TESTS AND MEASURES IN
PsycINFO (Ovid-Web)

I. Use of the database thesaurus: Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms
Only some very prominent instruments are included in this "official" list of database subject headings. They should be searched, as the main focus of an article, like any other subject heading, e.g.,
California Psychological Inventory.sh.
or
California Psychological Inventory and Map Term to Subject Heading

It is also useful to conduct a keyword search on the instrument title, e.g.,
California Psychological Inventory (omit Map Term to Subject Heading)
or
California Psychological Inventory.ti,ab,hw,tc,id.
This type of search will identify other articles that mention the instrument even if the instrument is not the focus of these articles, i.e., applications in which the instrument was used.

II. What if the instrument title does not appear in the database thesaurus?
Just do a keyword search on the title. In the keyword example above, the search was limited to preselected index fields; this approach will yield the greatest number of results. However, keyword searches can be limited to specific individual index fields if desired, e.g.,
California Psychological Inventory.ab. [ab = abstract]
California Psychological Inventory.ti. [ti = title]
California Psychological Inventory.id. [id = key concepts]

III. Use of the index field Test & Measures (.tm.)
Similar to Part II, use this search parameter to identify the titles of instruments named in source documents. Search Personality.tm. to find records in which named instruments have the word “personality” in their titles. Search the title of an instrument in the .tm. field to determine the documents in which that instrument was used, e.g., California Psychological Inventory.tm. This feature’s coverage extends back to 1985.

IV. Can I search by the acronym for an instrument name instead of the full name of the instrument? Will that affect the results of my search?
In the abstract of a record, generally any time the acronym for an instrument name appears (e.g., CPI), the full name of the instrument also will appear at least the first time the acronym is provided. Both the acronym and the full instrument title may appear in the article title; only the full instrument title is likely to appear in the key concepts field. Consequently, searching the full instrument title generally will yield a greater number of records than a search restricted to the acronym.

Furthermore, an acronym associated with an instrument title also may happen to be used to refer to some other resource. In such cases, the search results will include irrelevant records.

V. How do I handle variant spellings when keyword searching?
Check the database indexes. Click on the More Fields icon in the middle of the Main Search Page. Select the field(s) for which you wish to display the index. Type the word or phrase in the search box. Then click on the:
Perform Search button to search the text in the selected field(s), or
Display Index(es) button to browse the selected indexes, starting with the text entered.
VI. Which *PsycINFO* limit features are helpful for finding information on measurement instruments?

A. The easiest thing to do is limit the results of a particular search statement to the broad *Limits: Tests & Measures* checkbox in the top section of the *Limit a Search* screen.

B. Another approach is to limit your search results to one or more content codes listed in the *Classification Codes* box appearing on the *Limit a Search* screen. Apply these codes judiciously because, in general, only one code is assigned to each publication indexed. This means that if the code selected does not reflect what the indexer thought was the most significant aspect of the publication, the publication will be overlooked in the search. The most relevant classification codes for retrieval of information on measurement instruments are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2200</td>
<td>Psychometrics &amp; Statistics &amp; Methodology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2220</td>
<td>Tests &amp; Testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2221</td>
<td>Sensory &amp; Motor Testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2222</td>
<td>Developmental Scales &amp; Schedules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2223</td>
<td>Personality Scales &amp; Inventories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2224</td>
<td>Clinical Psychology Testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2225</td>
<td>Neuropsychological Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2226</td>
<td>Health Psychology Testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2227</td>
<td>Educational Measurement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2228</td>
<td>Occupational &amp; Employment Testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2229</td>
<td>Consumer Opinion &amp; Attitude Testing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Suppose that 2220 Tests & Testing is thought to be the most appropriate code. It can be combined with the name of a specific instrument using either the (a) subject heading or (b) keyword approach. It can also be combined with (c) the subject heading for a type of instrument. Examples:

**Sample Search A**

#1 Rorschach Test.sh.
#2 Limit 1 to 2220 tests & testing

**Sample Search B**

#1 Attitudes Toward Women Scale
#2 Limit 1 to 2220 tests & testing

**Sample Search C**

#1 projective personality measures.sh.
#2 Limit 1 to 2220 tests & testing

VII. Do *PsycINFO* records indicate whether the actual measurement instruments are contained in the source publications?

If a publication includes the actual instrument in its entirety, the notation [Appended] appears in the Tests & Measures field (.tm.) adjacent to the name of the measure(s). This feature’s coverage extends back to 1985.

It remains possible, for the period from about 1996 to some unspecified time in the 1980s, to search the key concepts (id) field for the phrase "XX appended" where XX stands for instrument? or inventor$ or measure? or question$ or scale? or survey? or test? ($= right-hand truncation; ?=one character truncation). The inclusion of such a phrase in the key concepts field indicates the presence of an instrument in the source publication. To search all the phrases simultaneously, type:

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((instrument? or inventor$ or measure? or question$ or scale? or survey? or test?) adj appended).id.
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