

Finding Social Science Survey Instruments: A Daunting Task

FOR NOVICE AND expert social science researchers alike, locating a copy of a survey instrument can be a daunting task.

First of all, there are two types of surveys and testing instruments: published and unpublished. Published instruments must be purchased from publishers and sometimes may only be administered by a licensed professional. The Alkek Library has several published testing instruments on the third floor in the Kits section as well as in Secure Collections at the Periodicals & Media Desk. Tests shelved in the Kits section may be checked out while

those in the Secure Collection are intended only for students enrolled in a particular class that uses the test as part of their curriculum.

Next to the kit shelves is the **Testing Collection**, which houses books that provide access to unpublished tests and survey instruments. The Testing Collection material includes both print books as well as e-books.

The **Tests & Measurements databases** page lists several resources that may be used to browse for reviews of tests as well as the full text of many unpublished instruments related to the social sciences. A good resource to help

with locating testing instruments is the **Tests & Measurements research guide** that lists many helpful resources and provides definitions for published and unpublished tests as well as a table listing database resources and what purpose each serves.

Don't hesitate to contact a librarian for assistance with locating tests & measurements. The research guide and **Ask-a-Librarian** page provide contact options for research assistance.

*by Arlene Salazar
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Faculty Focus

New Tools for Building and Managing Visual Research Collections

WITH THE CURRENT explosion of visually-oriented technologies, the new millennium has seen a profusion of information centered on the image. Our culture is deeply visual—focused on reading images as text, data, proof, and information.

This focus impacts academic research across a spectrum of disciplines, from scientific slides and star maps to the photographic record of ethnographic cultures, public history, and visual art. To align with visually-oriented research possibilities, the University Library has licensed **Artstor Shared Shelf**, an interdisciplinary image-hosting management platform and part of the university's **Artstor collection database**. **Shared Shelf** allows faculty to share, annotate, centralize, and publish image collections both locally and globally.

Shared Shelf may be used as a teaching or research tool across academic disciplines to gather and share collections, knowledge, and new insights. Do you have visual research collections that would benefit from database aggregation, metadata application, and/or online publication? Any discipline or faculty



that has need of a robust image hosting platform may use Artstor Shared Shelf.

In 2015, the library will be piloting a project to work with research faculty interested in increasing visibility of their image collections as teaching or research tools. Image collections may range from ecosystem biodiversity to historical maps to photography of ethnographic cultures to other visually focused scholarly research areas. If you have image collections, we are interested in hearing from you.

If you'd like to learn more about Shared Shelf, please see the library's **Artstor page**, the **Shared Shelf overview**, or watch a **video**

playlist to see the range of academic disciplines where Shared Shelf is currently being used. The libraries will be conducting workshops for faculty to learn about Shared Shelf in November and early 2015. To attend, please **register here**.

If you'd also like to discuss a potential project or find out more about Shared Shelf, please feel free to contact **Ray Uzwyshyn**, Director of Collections and Digital Services, (512)245-5687.

*by Ray Uzwyshyn
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