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The Future of Testing: Title Pages, Contents, Preface, Acknowledgments, Dedication

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THE FUTURE OF TESTING

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Preface

Tests are constructed and used to facilitate assessment and understanding of human beings in all their multifaceted complexity. Hence, testing by its very nature is both a scientific and a social endeavor.

The interplay between testing and society has resulted in both praise and criticism from concerned citizens, psychologists, educators, and numerous other professional and consumer groups. For over 40 years, Oscar K. Buros, as Director of The Institute of Mental Measurements and Editor of the Mental Measurements Yearbooks, contributed immensely to this interplay between testing practices and societal issues. On March 19, 1978, Oscar Buros died. Luella Buros, his wife and lifelong helpmate, completed the work on The Eighth Mental Measurements Yearbook with the support of the Institute’s devoted staff. She also took steps to relocate the Institute to ensure the continuation of the Institute’s scholarly work and services for test consumers. The new Buros Institute of Mental Measurements is now at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln.

An important objective of the new Buros Institute is to conduct an extended outreach effort that will help communicate more effectively with test users about contemporary issues in testing. Thus, it was the combination of recent social issues focusing on testing and our desire to fulfill more vigorously the mission of the Buros Institute that motivated the development of an annual scholarly symposium and this series on measurement and testing.

We intend each symposium and volume in this series to present state-of-the-art knowledge that will contribute to the improvement of test construction and test usage. Such a schema will incorporate topics across a broad spectrum such as theoretical models of human behavior, test standardization procedures, social and legal factors in testing, administration of testing programs, and test-based decision making. Thus, the series will be focused thematically and yet be flexible enough to integrate current and future measurement and testing issues into its schema.

The success of the Buros–Nebraska symposium and this volume is the result of the efforts of many individuals. We thank Luella Buros for having faith in us to carry on and extend a tradition that has become so important to the measurement field and to test users. Barbara Plake, as editor of the first volume in the series, made conceptual and editorial contributions that were of critical importance to the success of the series. Finally, we want to thank Larry Erlbaum for his support, encouragement, and commitment to the project and to its timely completion.

Series Editor
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Lincoln, Nebraska
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are hopelessly in debt to a number of individuals who, individually and collectively, have dramatically influenced the quality of this volume. Although it is difficult to know where to start and where to end in acknowledging the many who have contributed in innumerable ways to this volume, this listing here should make it abundantly clear that this book was developed as a result of the gifts of other people.

Our most immediate gratitude must go to the individuals who contributed chapters here. Their dedication to scholarship and academic craftsmanship made our task a pleasure. We extend a warm thank you to the volume authors for their cooperation, persistence, and patience during the editing and revision process.

A number of individuals connected with the Buros Institute of Mental Measurement and Testing are richly deserving of recognition. James V. Mitchell, Director of the Buros Institute, has been intergrally involved in this project since its inception. Also, we are grateful to members of the Buros Advisory Committee within the Department of Educational Psychology:

Robert D. Brown  Kenneth D. Orton
Roger H. Bruning  Wayne C. Piersel
David N. Dixon  Royce R. Ronning
Terry B. Gutkin  Toni E. Santmire
James V. Mitchell, Jr.  Steven L. Wise

A number of dedicated professionals gave their time and talents to review and provide comments on the chapters of this book. William E. Coffman, Frank Farley, Charles Golden, Ronald Hambleton, Jo Ida Hansen, Robert Linn, Joseph Mattarazzo, Gerald J. Melican, Kevin Murphy, Anthony J. Nitko, Herbert C. Rudman, Dr. Frank Schmidt, Lyle Schoenfelt, Barbara Showers are gratefully acknowledged. In addition Lester Andrews provided essential editorial assistance.

Finally, but most especially, we would like to thank our families. Barbara Plake thanks her family, especially her husband and daughters, for their encouragement, sacrifice and understanding. In addition she wishes to express gratitude to her mother (Mrs. John K. Sterrett), brother (Wayne E. Sterrett), and sister (Margaret Sterrett-Bartels), for their love, support, and enthusiasm for her creative activities.

Joe Witt wishes to thank his wife, Larie, and his daughter, Sarah, for their understanding and patience during the completion of this volume.
Series Dedication

At the combined annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association and the National Council on Measurement in Education in April of 1980, Luella Buros, widow of Oscar Buros, was presented with a plaque honoring the achievements of her husband. The inscription read as follows:

"TRIBUTE"

"Whereas Oscar K. Buros established the series of Mental Measurements Yearbooks, and continued publishing these brilliantly over the last 40 years of his life; and

"Whereas these yearbooks have achieved recognition as classic contributions to the theory and practice of educational and psychological measurement, and of great benefit to our various professions—

"Therefore, we the undersigned officers of the American Educational Research Association and the National Council on Measurement in Education do hereby pay public tribute to the memory of Professor Buros, and to the high principles of quality and integrity which he represented in his work and in his life."

It was most fitting that Luella Buros received this tribute on behalf of her husband, because she had helped him in many ways from the very beginning of the series, particularly with matters pertaining to business and design. Oscar Buros had dedicated the Third and Seventh Mental Measurements Yearbooks to his wife, and when she completed The Eighth Mental Measurements Yearbook after his death, she dedicated it "To the memory of my beloved husband: Oscar Krisen Buros." The new Buros Institute of Mental Measurements will be dedicating both Tests in Print III and The Ninth Mental Measurements Yearbook to Oscar Buros. For the books in this symposium series, however, we decided to take a different path and dedicate the volumes to a remarkable couple who had a loving, happy, and productive relationship over so many years. We therefore dedicate this volume to:

Oscar and Luella Buros
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Barbara S. Plake:
To my father, Dr. John K. Sterrett, who will put this volume in his glass bookcase . . . in heaven.

Joseph C. Witt:
For my mentors, Robert M. Adams, Nancy Kerr, and Lee Meyerson, who provided excellent role models of an academic psychologist.