Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science

Volume 59 | Annual Issue

Article 54

1952

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Recommended Citation

Schumacher, C. S. and Lauer, A. R. (1952) "Exploratory Study of the Spearman Rank Formula for Use in Item-Analysis [Abstract]," *Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science*: Vol. 59: No. 1, Article 54. Available at: https://scholarworks.uni.edu/pias/vol59/iss1/54

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Exploratory Study of the Spearman Rank Formula for Use in Item-Analysis

By C. S. Schumacher and A. R. Lauer

ABSTRACT

Practically all other types of correlation methods have been used to evaluate items both for internal consistency and against an external criterion. Likewise criticisms have been leveled against most of the methods commonly used on several grounds.

The authors present a method of item analysis based upon the conventional rank-formula in which the criterion is divided into nine groups. Five and seven groups were found unsatisfactory. Comparisons with certain other methods will be presented when criterion data are grouped into nine groups. The method has certain advantages not found in other methods and evaluation of it will be made. The results show that same discrepancies exist between various methods used.

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