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Analay Perez

Janet F. Carlson

Buros Center for Testing at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Applying Visual Methods to Document the History of Psychological Testing: A Qualitative Approach

Analay Perez, M.A. & Janet F. Carlson, Ph.D.

INTRODUCTION

- The history of testing is deeply rooted across various areas of applied psychology including clinical, education, and industrial/organizational.
- Purpose:** Explore the history of testing through a qualitative lens by focusing on three threads: (a) history of testing in the U.S., (b) lives of Oscar and Luella Buros, and (c) work of the Buros Institute/Center.

METHOD

- Using photo documentation methods, two researchers identified photos to portray each era across the three threads.
- Photos were obtained from archival and current sources including the Luella Buros Collection of the Anthropology Department at a mid-western institution comprising more than 12,000 photos.

Key:

- Blue: Historical Events in Testing
- Orange: Oscar and Luella Buros
- Purple: Buros Institute/Center

Pictured below are the first to eighth editions of the MMY, with the original 1938 edition at the far right. Currently, the MMY is in its 21st edition.

1930-1940

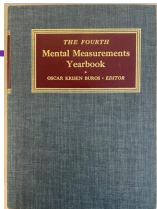


1940-1950

The home on Montgomery St. in Highland Park, NJ, housed The Gryphon Press in the basement and the editorial office upstairs in the study.

The 4th MMY was published in 1953.

1950-1960



1960-1970

First edition of TIP, published in 1961, was the second reference series.

He was the recipient of many kinds, including a Educational Research Psychological Association for senior Fulbright lectureship in College, Uganda, 1956-1957; award, 1965; an appointment as 1975; and the Educational Distinguished Service to follow of the American Psychological Association. Many other important scientific personal characteristics of in the final paragraph of her Measurement Yearbook.



1970-1980

Sharing my life with Oscar has been an inspiration and an adventure. In his professional life, he had to whatever pursuits were undertaken. In later years, between the publication of books, we traveled extensively. He planned, with great enthusiasm, both conventional and unconventional trips throughout the world—including journeys in Africa and Asia of unforgettable experiences and dimensions. Oscar was a warm, sincere, and unique person who was loved, admired, and respected by many. We are deeply grateful for the gift of his life.



1980-1990

Bancroft Hall at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln was the second home of the Buros Institute of Mental Measurements.

1990-2000



2000-2010



Luella Buros was recognized for her contributions to the MMY and to psychological testing more broadly.

Dr. Barbara Plake (below), served as director of the Buros Institute from 1988 to 2006, and Dr. Kurt Geisinger is the current director.

2010-2020

The first edition of PPE, published in 2013, by the Buros Center. The second edition of PPE was published in 2018.

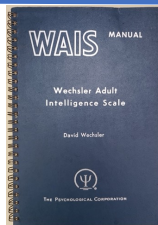
Henry Murray published the Thematic Apperception Test, a projective story-telling technique involving a series of grainy, indistinct sketches.



1930-1940

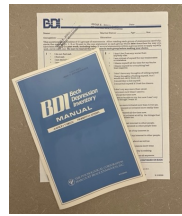


1940-1950
The MMPI (1943) used empirical keying to quantify dimensions of personality and advanced the use of validity scales to thwart faking.

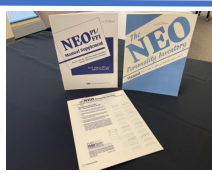


1950-1960

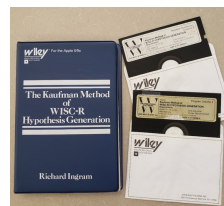
1960-1970
The Beck Depression Inventory is a 21-item self-report questionnaire developed by Beck et al. in 1961 that continues to be used as a depression screener.



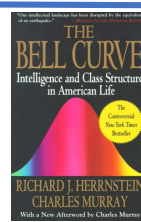
1970-1980



1980-1990
Kaufman brought software to the desktop by introducing a program to calculate scores and offer potential interpretations of the WISC-R.

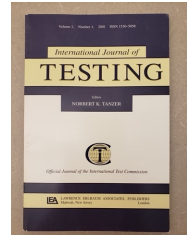


1990-2000

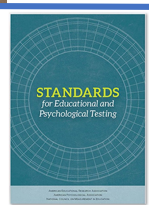


The Bell Curve christened the term "cognitive elite" and stirred much controversy that persists to this day.

2000-2010
The 2001 inaugural issue of the *International Journal of Testing* advanced the internationalization of testing concerns.



2010-2020



The most recent edition of the *Standards*, developed in 2014, includes information on test development, fairness, and applications of testing in education and psychology.

As an artist, Luella Buros worked in watercolors, oils, sculpture, and photography. *Street Musicians* (below) is an example of oil on canvas painting by Luella.



1940-1950

Oscar and Luella made 11 trips to Africa. Pictured below is Oscar at Makerere College, Kampala, Uganda, serving as a Senior Fulbright Lecturer in Statistics (1956-1957).



1960-1970

An excerpt from the preface of the eighth MMY written by Luella addressing Oscar's passing.



1980-1990



2000-Present



Above is a recent photo of the restored Land Rover Oscar and Luella used during their travels in Africa.

1990-2000

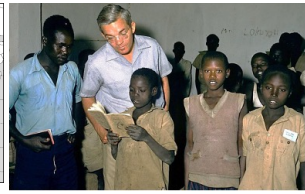
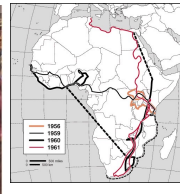


Luella Buros donated to the founding of *Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology* in 1995, establishing the Luella Buros Endowment for Peace.

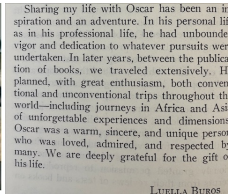
1930-1940



1950-1960



1970-1980



In the mid-1980s, Luella arranged to donate to the University her artwork and extensive collection of 1,200 African artifacts. The bequests were transferred in 1995, upon her death.

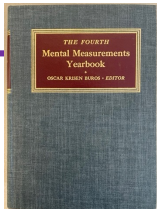


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