Frequently Asked Questions about the Assessment Bibliography

Why did the Research Committee of the American Art Therapy Association create an Assessment Bibliography?

The task was consistent with the Research Committee’s mission to facilitate greater access to scholarly communication and provide information to the general public regarding research in the field. The project was undertaken in 2015 after it was seen that the existing Outcomes Bibliography, undertaken about 2005, necessarily omitted much art therapy research.

Why was some research excluded from the Outcomes Bibliography?

The Outcomes Bibliography was intended to make findings about the effectiveness of art therapy readily available to laypeople and mental health professionals, particularly art therapists. The hope was that the field would be well represented in this manner. The Outcomes Bibliography categorizes published research that tracked people’s responses to art therapy treatment. It excluded research on other topics.

What is the Assessment Bibliography (AB)?

It gathers references about how people make art and in what ways art is significant in understanding people. It is for the use of laypeople and mental health professionals. The focus is on works that define the assessments used by art therapists, discussion of those assessments and issues in assessment, and research resulting from the use of such assessments.

What are the criteria for inclusion in the AB?

A work must be been in print at some time, or be widely distributed or readily available at some time. In its content, the issue or practice of assessing must be clear, even if it is not the dominant content of the work. Theoretical approaches to assessment are included as well as practical applications. A work arising from a neighboring field such as art education and psychology is included if it has some practical or theoretical connection to the use of assessment by art therapists. Non-English works are included.

What does it mean to include a work in the AB?

It means the work exists and can be accessed. It is not an endorsement by the Research Committee of the assessment, the research technique, or the findings described in the work.

What are the criteria for exclusion from the AB?

Generally, a work that does not refer to art of any type would be excluded. For example, a psychological biography of an artist that does not refer to the images created by the artist would be excluded, even though it is a form of inquiry that
involves assessing. Also excluded are case reports that are not explicit about the assessment process, particularly if the report is on one patient. A reference work on art may be included but a reference work on psychopathology may be excluded, even though both may be essential to the work of the art therapist.

*Can a work be listed in both the Outcome Bibliography and the Assessment Bibliography?*

Yes.

*Why are unpublished works included in the Assessment Bibliography?*

A large proportion of scholarly works on assessment in art therapy have not been published. They were distributed as hard copies and conference recordings. These works were influential in the development of the field and how assessments were used, and are an important part of the history of art therapy. When such a work is published, the unpublished version is removed from the bibliography, unless it contains unique material.

*How can I get a copy of an unpublished work?*

Some items are available digitally. Interested readers can request that a work made available for them digitally. To do so, write to Research Committee member Anne Mills at annemills@cox.net (as of 1/1/2015). A contribution to defray the cost of digitizing may be requested.

*I’m interested in looking up references on one particular assessment. How shall I search for them?*

The Research Committee wants the Assessment Bibliography to be easily searchable. If the name of the assessment which the article/chapter addresses is not in the title, an acronym naming the assessment is added to the end of the citation. E.g.,

- Bird’s Nest Drawing BND
- Diagnostic Drawing Series DDS
- Person Picking Apple from a Tree PPAT or FEATS
- Ulman Personality Assessment Procedure UPAP

*I noticed an error or omission or have something else about the Assessment Bibliography to bring to the Research Committee’s attention. How shall I do so?*

Please write to Research Committee member Anne Mills at millsanne@me.com (as of 6/1/2021).

*Who contributed to the creation of the Assessment Bibliography?*
The project was initiated by Research Committee Chair Megan Robb and helmed by Anne Mills. Contributors include: Donna Betts, Sarah Deaver, Deborah Elkis-Albuhoff, Morgan Gaydos, Juliet Laura King, Anne Mills, Megan Robb, and Patricia St. John.