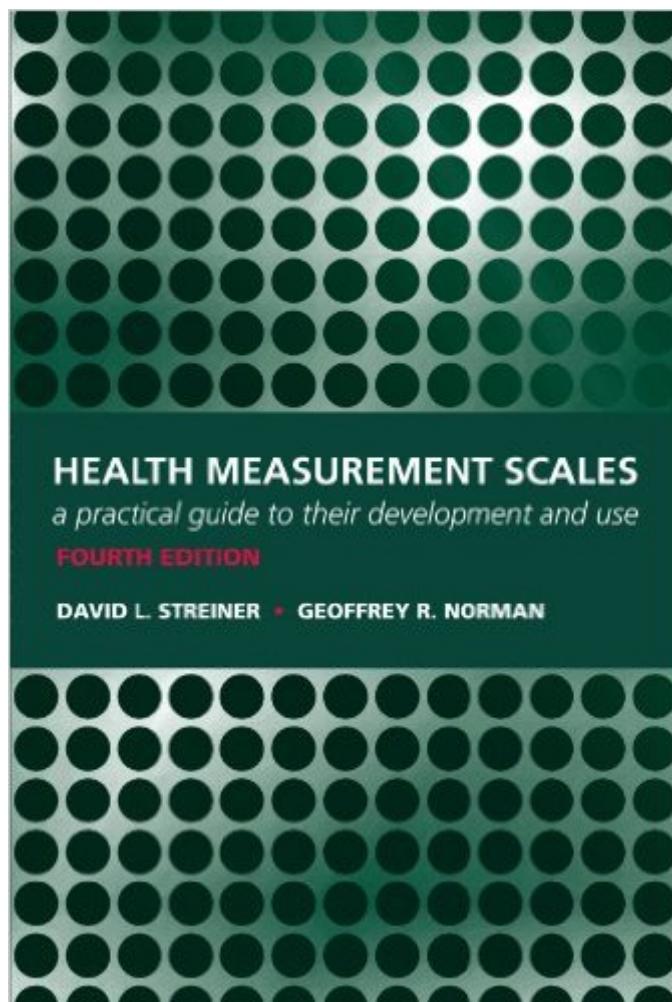


The book was found

Health Measurement Scales: A Practical Guide To Their Development And Use



Synopsis

Clinicians and those in health sciences are frequently called upon to measure subjective states such as attitudes, feelings, quality of life, educational achievement and aptitude, and learning style in their patients. This fourth edition of Health Measurement Scales enables these groups who often have limited knowledge of statistics, to both develop scales to measure non-tangible health outcomes, and better evaluate and differentiate between existing tools. It covers how the individual items are developed; various biases that can affect responses (eg social desirability, yea-saying, framing); various response options; how to select the best items in the set; how to combine them into a scale; and then how to determine the reliability and validity of the scale. It concludes with a discussion of ethical issues that may be encountered, and guidelines for reporting the results of the scale development process. Appendices include a comprehensive guide to finding existing scales, and a brief introduction to exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis. It synthesizes the theory of scale construction with practical advice, making it the ultimate guide to how to develop and validate measurement scales that are to be used in the health sciences.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I really like this book and wish that I'd found out about it before my psychometrics class in the spring started, because I would have assigned it in a heartbeat. It's got a lot of the kind of practical advice that anyone thinking of creating a scale REALLY needs to hear first, including the #1 bit of advice: Should you make one yourself? For instance, excellent summaries of the work on scale usage

biases by Jon Krosnick, Norbert Schwartz, etc., give useful cautionary information for scale constructors. I have a few disagreements---some of the advice about procedures such as some of the scaling methods they mention is out of date, for instance, and the chapters on factor analysis and IRT are a bit weak, but I can cover that with other material. It certainly doesn't detract from the value of the book overall and I've learned a bunch I didn't know reading it. It'll be on the syllabus next time!

As others have said, this is a beautifully written book that is full of practical advice on developing a new health scale/instrument but beyond that advice this has wonderful chapters on statistics. It has the most readable chapter on reliability I have seen (and also good coverage of generality theory and item response theory). In addition to lucid prose, the references are perfect for people who know only a little statistics (or even if you know a lot outside of this area). For example, the concepts of statistical reliability are explained and then popular options including Pearson correlation, kappa, Intra-class correlation (ICC) and Bland Altman methods are each given a page or two. So, if you are struggling with what method to use to assess reliability start here and then hit the references that they suggest (Weir 2005 for this example). Basically this is the first book a clinical investigator should pick up if they want to develop an instrument/scale.

This is undoubtedly, one of the best books I have read in this area. The authors follow an appropriate sequence in terms of addressing scale development, testing and analyses issues. The best thing about the book is that it is really easy to comprehend and covers all the important areas. I feel it is a "must buy" for professionals in the area of health-related quality of life and outcomes research.

The book is extremely well written by people that know their field. For people interested in psychometry it gives a new perspective applying psychometrics in the health sciences. I found many applications and suggestions that were very useful.

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