

FACT SHEET

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Practical Assessment, Research & Evaluation

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Practical Assessment, Research, & Evaluation (PARE) is the most widely-read, scholarly journal in the assessment field. The journal has experienced steady growth since it first went online on November 13, 1999. By February 2008, there were 188 titles that had been retrieved more than 5,290,000 times. Today, there are 332 titles that have been retrieved more than 17,134,473 times from around the world. Each of the 20 most popular articles has been downloaded more than 175,000 times. In 2016, manuscripts were downloaded 1,571,000 times – that is approximately 4,300 articles every day.

Purpose

The purpose of PARE is to provide access to peer-reviewed articles that can have a positive impact on how assessment, research, and evaluation are used by education professionals at all levels.

Content

Manuscripts published in PARE are scholarly syntheses of research and ideas about issues and practices in education. They are designed to help members of the community keep up-to-date with effective methods, trends and research developments. While they are most often prepared for practitioners, such as teachers, administrators, and assessment personnel who work in schools and school systems, PARE articles often target other audiences, including researchers, policy makers, parents, and students.

Practical Assessment, Research & Evaluation seeks to publish the following types of papers

- Overviews that serve as an introduction to a topic.
- Current information of a factual nature related to a topic.
- Issue Papers that define and describe a controversial topic.
- Practice Applications, which provide specific, generalizable examples of how practitioners can apply research results in practical settings.
- Research Findings that present the current status of research in an area.
- Synopses of Synthesis Papers, which summarize an existing review and synthesis publication.

Availability

PARE is a free, open-access journal available at <http://pareonline.net>. Articles are announced as they are published via a Google group subscription managed by the reader but controlled by the editors. No other communications are disseminated using the group list.

Sponsorship

The production of PARE is made possible through the generous support of our sponsors. In 2016, PARE was sponsored by

- Alpine Testing,
- American Institutes for Research (AIR),
- The Buros Institute,
- The Clemson University Graduate School,
- Graduate Management Admission Council, &
- Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

Selectivity

In 2016, PARE received 115 submissions and published 13 manuscript. In recent years, our acceptance rate has consistently been about 15%. A blind version of each within-scope submission is circulated to the Editorial Board and reviewed by at least two members. Virtually all of those that are accepted are provisionally accepted pending additional information or edits.

Two key questions in the review are whether the results generalize and whether the results are likely to alter someone's practice. Thus, PARE does not accept evaluations of local programs. PARE also does not accept validity studies of test instruments. PARE is not interested in derivations or entirely new techniques, but rather improving availability and understanding of existing methods.

Impact

Visibility

Next to each title, PARE publishes a live running total of the number of times each manuscript has been downloaded. This allows authors to see the impact of their work and readers to gauge the popularity of individual titles. Manuscripts are typically downloaded more than 1,000 times within months of their publication.

Alexa Ranking

Alexa (<http://alexa.com>) is the premier data analytics site for the internet. According to Alexa, PARE is one of the more popular sites in the assessment field. Table 1 shows the rankings of PARE and two other sites for assessment professionals. Not surprisingly, PARE articles appear in the top hits from Google searches on most measurement topics.

Table 1. Internet rankings

Web site	Incoming links	Global Ranking
PARE	793	308,204
NCME	261	1,985,407
ATP	152	5,120,061

SJR Ranking

The SCImago Journal & Country Rank (<http://www.scimagojr.com/>) is a portal that includes the journal indicators developed from the information contained in the [Scopus®](#) database (Elsevier B.V.). These indicators are commonly used to assess journal impact. While PARE is a scholarly journal, it does not publish basic research. Hence, one would expect the frequency of PARE manuscripts being cited among scholarly journals to be relatively low. Nevertheless, as seen in Table 2, PARE enjoys an excellent reputation among scholarly journals in the field.

Table 2. Journal Impact

Journal	Approx number articles per year	Cites per article (2008-2015)	SJR average prestige per article
<i>Practical Assessment Research & Evaluation</i>	15	3.17	191
<i>Educational & Psychological Measurement</i>	50	1.51	244
<i>Applied Psychological Measurement</i>	40	1.15	161
<i>Journal of Educational Measurement</i>	29	2.54	156
<i>Applied Measurement in Education</i>	18	1.00	63

Indexing

PARE articles are index in the Directory of Open Access Journals, Scopus, Ebsco, Google scholar, ERIC and others. In 2016, all the older papers in PARE were converted to PDF and added to DOAJ.

Readership

PARE's readership is global. Table 3 shows the number of unique users by country since June 2011. Readers from 211 different countries have visited the PARE web site. Some 47% of the unique users reside in the United States; 53% are non-US.

Table 3. Unique visitors since June 28, 2011

Country	Visitors
US	84,431
GB	13,468
CA	9,033
AU	7,317
PH	4,347
DE	3,322
IN	3,126
ID	2,896
NL	2,729
CN	2,113
MY	2,100
IR	1,853
BR	1,825
SE	1,709
SG	1,585
PK	1,514
ES	1,513
ZA	1,436
TW	1,423
MX	1,406
TH	1,396
NZ	1,280
HK	1,095
IT	1,051
JP	1,016
FR	966
KR	884
IE	859
PT	786
NO	722
AT	709
GR	678
FI	673
BE	625
SA	615
VN	599
CH	596
DK	590
RU	544
NG	520
AE	516
PR	479
CO	479
IL	455
CL	396
PL	365
KE	357
CZ	344
EG	333
PE	319
TT	298

Table 4 shows the percentage of PARE readership by role based on a user survey conducted over a few days in September 2014. There were a total of 3,947 respondents. The percentages are very similar to those from a survey conducted in 2008.

PARE is reaching a wide audience. Not surprisingly, the top groups - graduate students, researchers, and K-12 teachers - are those that are directly involved in learning and using assessment, research, and evaluation. Because the journal addresses important practical issues and because of its reputation as a refereed outlet, PARE is a top source for other audiences as well.

Table 4. Who is reading PARE?

Role	Percent
Researcher/Professor	27.7
Researcher	18.2
College Professor	9.5
K-12 Teacher/Admin	18.5
K-12 Teacher	15.9
K-12 Librarian	0.5
K-12 Staff	1.1
K-12 Administrator	1.0
College Students	41.7
Undergraduate Student	16.9
Graduate Student	24.8
Other	11.0
Parent	2.4
Test Developer	1.4
Other	8.3

Why are people reading PARE?

Table 5, based on the same 3,947 respondents, shows the reasons given for reading PARE. Notably large percentages of the readership are reading PARE as background material for their own research (i.e. class assignment and research report preparation) and out of professional interest. Again, PARE is reaching assessment, research and evaluation professionals and aspiring professionals.

Table 5. Reason for reading PARE

Purpose	Percent
Background for policy making	4.9
Class assignment	33.3
Research report preparation	25.1
Professional interest	14.9
Personal interest	7.4
Other	7.1
Find teaching resources	7.3