The Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI) Revealed:
Creation and Use of a Research Repository for the PAI

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Introduction

The Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI) is a self-administered, objective measure of adult personality (Morey, 1991). The PAI contains 344 items, which comprise 22 nonoverlapping scales: 4 validity scales, 11 clinical scales, 5 treatment scales, and 2 interpersonal scales. Ten of the scales contain conceptually derived subscales designed to facilitate interpretation and coverage of the full breadth of complex clinical constructs. For more information about the development, administration, interpretation, reliability, and validity of the PAI, refer to the PAI Professional Manual, 2nd Edition (Morey, 2007).

Since its introduction, the PAI has become a widely used clinical and research tool, yet there is no summary of research studies using the PAI to date. Therefore, the purpose of this white paper is:

a) to explore the nature and scope of research utilizing the PAI over the last three decades; and

b) to describe the creation of a comprehensive list of research references that can be easily accessed by researchers and clinicians to aid in research and practice.

Creation of a PAI Research Repository

The references in the PAI research repository represent studies identified by the author of the PAI as research studies (e.g., peer-reviewed journal articles, theses, dissertations, conference presentations) about or utilizing the PAI since its publication. The references identified were imported into Mendeley, a reference management software program. Mendeley is both a desktop application and website designed to find references and cite them within a document. It is free of charge. The PAI research repository can be accessed online at www.mendeley.com/community/personality-assessment-inventory-(pai).

New Mendeley users are able to create a free account to access the PAI research repository. After creating an account, users may download the Mendeley desktop application. For individuals who do not wish to create a Mendeley account, a Word document of the full reference list can be found at www.parinc.com/PAI_reference_list.

Categorization of References

To facilitate ease of use of the PAI reference repository, the articles are categorized, or tagged. Initially, the category of personality disorders was selected and within that category, articles were tagged by subject (see Figure 1) using author keywords and searching the title and abstract for relevant terms. Personality disorders were tagged according to Section II diagnostic codes from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5th Edition (DSM-5; American Psychiatric Association, 2013). Additional categories (e.g., psychopathy, acquired or developmental disorders) will be added as the repository is continually updated.

Figure 1. Personality disorders tags used in the PAI repository.
**Using the PAI Research Repository Website**

Figure 2 shows the PAI research repository’s website overview page; Figure 3 shows the documents page; Figure 4 shows the library view. The overview page is the central dashboard of the PAI research repository website and allows you to navigate easily between pages. On this page, users can also invite colleagues to access the repository. The documents page (Figure 3) allows users to view a list of all references in the order they were uploaded; therefore, it is an ideal place to check for new additions to the repository. The library view (Figure 4) allows users to easily add a reference to their personal Mendeley account for future use by clicking the check box next to the desired reference. It also allows users to see tags assigned to references.

**Using the PAI Research Repository Desktop Application**

Figure 5 shows the desktop application of the PAI research repository. This is the most powerful way to use the repository. Users may search for articles of interest by tags (select Filter by My Tags) or by using the search box in the upper right-hand corner. You can also filter by author keywords, author names, or publication. If you do not wish to create a Mendeley account, a Word document of the full reference list organized by personality disorder can be found at [www.parinc.com/PAI_reference_list_personality_disorder](http://www.parinc.com/PAI_reference_list_personality_disorder).

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Figure 2. View of the PAI research repository’s overview page.
Figure 3. View of the PAI research repository’s documents page.
Figure 4. View of the PAI research repository’s library page.
Figure 5. View of the PAI research repository's desktop application.
Research on Personality Disorders in the PAI Research Repository

Initially, 1,241 articles were identified by the PAI author as research studies utilizing the PAI. Of those, 333 (26.8%) were coded as relating to one or more personality disorders. Personality disorders are grouped into clusters based on descriptive similarities. Cluster A includes paranoid, schizotypal, and schizoid personality disorders. Individuals with these disorders often appear odd, eccentric, or bizarre to others. Cluster B includes borderline, antisocial, narcissistic, and histrionic personality disorders, characterized by dramatic, emotional, and/or erratic behavior. Although not categorized as a personality disorder, we also tagged studies of psychopathy given the term’s relationship to antisocial personality disorder. Cluster C includes avoidant, dependent, and obsessive–compulsive personality disorders, characterized by anxiety and fearfulness.

Most studies (92.2%) were related to Cluster B personality disorders (see Figure 6). Within Cluster B, borderline personality disorder was most commonly studied (52.1%), followed by antisocial personality disorder (24.8%), and the related psychopathy category (22.1%); see Figure 7. There were no studies related to histrionic personality disorder.

The breakdown of studies for Cluster A and Cluster C personality disorders are displayed in Figures 8 and 9, respectively. The most commonly studied Cluster A personality disorder—by far—was paranoid personality disorder (90.9%), with only 9.1% of studies related to schizotypal personality disorder and no studies related to schizoid personality disorder. The most commonly studied Cluster C personality disorders were avoidant (46.7%) and obsessive–compulsive personality disorders (46.7%).

Conclusion

Use of the PAI research repository is encouraged to facilitate research within these topics. It is hoped that this repository can serve as a starting point to help researchers better understand the complex phenomena related to personality in adults.