The Handbook for Using the Self-Directed Search: Integrating RIASEC and CIP Theories in Practice helps career counselors and specialists integrate John Holland’s RIASEC theory with cognitive information processing (CIP) theory.

RIASEC theory is the basis for the Self-Directed Search (SDS), a successful career assessment that helps users find occupations and fields of study that best match their personality. CIP theory explains the career choice process.

The synergy created by these two theories is a recurring theme in the book. Topics include:

- John Holland: A Personal Introduction
- RIASEC Theory: Past and Present
- Review and Use of the SDS Form R, 5th Edition
- Comparing and Using SDS Forms, Formats, and Features
- Practicing RIASEC and CIP Theories
- Interpreting the SDS

The book contains a variety of resources and forms that can be reproduced for use with clients, including a Guide to Good Decision Making Exercise, an Individual Learning Plan, and an SDS Case Analysis Worksheet.

It also includes case studies, program development strategies, and a look at the evolution and future trends of RIASEC theory and the SDS.
“All in all, the Handbook is the single most comprehensive source and resource for John Holland and the RIASEC theory. It covers much of the research and practical work of the Florida State University authors and their colleagues and graduate students. It forced me to think about the Holland theory in more multifaceted and complex ways.

I highly recommend this book for people who are using Holland-based assessments to help them unravel the various facets of using interests in career decision-making and the career development process and apply the results less superficially while working with students or clients. It is also great for career counseling graduate students who may be required to know the Holland theory in a more profound and academic way.”


“There is little else to do but rave on about the virtues and resources offered in the Handbook. Janet Lenz and Bob Reardon are to be commended for doing such a fantastic job in producing and editing the Handbook. No career center, counselor’s, or practitioner’s shelf should be without one. John Holland would be proud, and rightly so.”


“Suggesting the integration of two theories (RIASEC and CIP) is a major contribution for providing career practitioners with the means and the process when working with adults the Handbook is a useful resource for career practitioners and others who use the SDS in their practices. For those who have studied RIASEC theory and the SDS, the Handbook is a comprehensive update and review (p.189).”


Handbook for Using the Self-Directed Search: Integrating RIASEC and CIP Theories in Practice

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