

## BOOK REVIEWS

### A GUIDE TO THE CLINICAL USE OF THE 16 PF

Samuel Karson and Jerry W. O'Dell

Champaign, IL.: Institute for Personality and Ability Testing, 1977.

The authors of *A Guide to the Clinical Use of the 16 PF* were proceeding on the assumption that "... a simple, elementary guide to the Sixteen Personality Factor Questionnaire (16 PF) would be helpful to practicing clinicians who would like to use this test." The authors were not only correct in their assumption about the need for such a book, but also highly successful with their stated objective of capturing the essence of Cattell's thinking "... in language simple enough to make it attractive and usable to professionals in the field who work with people over 16 years old." That is, Karson and O'Dell have succeeded in taking Cattell's ideas and recasting them in dynamic form so that clinicians can relate to them.

The book is divided into six chapters which are written so the reader can share the excitement of Cattell's ideas without getting bogged down in technical details. Chapter 1 explains the different forms of the 16 PF and describes the procedures for administration and scoring. Chapter 2 launches the reader into the interpretations of the 16 PF by presenting a psychological report and the profile from which it was developed. This chapter not only illustrates the kind of information which can be obtained from the 16 PF, but presents a consummate lesson in report writing. The inferences in the report are broken down and the evidence supporting each of them is examined. Chapter 3 consists of a brief, intuitive description of how the 16 PF was developed. Chapter 4 provides a description of the 16 primary scales along with useful comments about how the scales fit together into clinical patterns. Chapter 5 contains a description of the second-order factors along with some illustrative profiles for them. Unfortunately, however, the authors did not choose to reproduce the regression equation for the second-order factors or provide the clinician with a "quick and dirty" procedure for calculating factor scores. Chapter 6, the largest in the book, summarizes the steps which should be followed in interpreting the 16 PF and provides 15 case studies which show how the test can be used in clinical practice.

The reviewer's experience in using the Karson and O'Dell book as one of the texts for an introductory personality assessment course (covering the Rorschach, Holtzman, MMPI, TAT, CAT, and 16 PF) indicates that students are likely to get "turned on" by the 16 PF. When students are introduced to this book first, they are more willing to read the *Handbook for the 16 PF* and venture into more advanced work by Cattell. In addition, one also finds students seeking out other Cattell-type tests which they have encountered in their reading. Before the Karson and O'Dell book was available, one did not often get this sort of reaction to the 16 PF specifically, or in general, to Cattell's work.

In summary, Karson and O'Dell have made a substantial contribution to the clinical literature by providing a non-technical introduction to the 16 PF. This book will not only interest students in reading more about the clinical applications of the 16 PF but it is also likely to lead them into further study of Cattell's

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contribution to other areas of psychology. Anyone who teaches an introductory course in applied personality assessment should seriously consider using the Karson and O'Dell book as one of their texts if they wish to provide an even-handed treatment of the different approaches to assessment in the personality area.

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## MULTIVARIATE APPROACHES FOR THE BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES: A BRIEF TEXT

G. Frank Lawlis and Douglas Chatfield  
Lubbock, Texas: Texas Tech Press, 1974

The twentieth century has been an especially notable one for the social sciences. Systematic, empirical inquiry has significantly extended their bodies of knowledge, and they have seen the emergence of a related interdisciplinary field largely within their own ranks, that of the study of human behavior. Perhaps nothing has aided the growth of both more than the essentially synchronous development of statistical methodology as a research tool and sister intellectual discipline.

Given the substantial reliance of the behavioral sciences upon statistics and the frequent joint inquiry which has occurred, an unsurprising result has been the appearance of many publications intended to explain statistical techniques to the behavioral scientist or to extend the boundaries of knowledge about statistics as a behavioral research tool. The present volume is of the former type, and it consists of seven chapters. The first three discuss introductory material and basic concepts, and remaining chapters focus upon multiple correlation, factor analysis, and illustrative applications of multivariate procedures.

The two initial chapters are rather uneven. The first offers a very brief statement of historical development of interest in multivariate analysis among behavioral scientists and introduces numerical techniques, notation, and "univariate regression." Curiously, no consideration of the fundamental assumptions of most of the procedures subsequently discussed is undertaken. Also, the development of the notion of variance is indirect and rather elusive. Chapter Two presents a variety of bivariate techniques, including some (tetrachoric coefficient) which are not widely discussed. Among the problems, however, is the use of symbols without prior explanation or definition, such as  $\hat{y}$  (p. 19) and the formula for computing z scores (p. 20).

Lawlis and Chatfield's discussion of matrix algebra, though, is a distinct success and the best chapter in the book. Until recently this topic has not been covered in the typical mathematical or statistical course work of behavioral scientists; yet it has proven to be an invaluable aid in the computation of most