

The prototype

Our proposed survey instrument, a prototype, consists of eight screens. Not all respondents need to proceed through all eight screens.

Screen 1 introduces the survey and informs respondents of the purposes of the census, provides an explicit confidentiality statement, and provides an explanation of the structure of the instrument.

Screen 2 requests four items of demographic information—age, year in school, gender, and whether the student is full-time. The dropdown boxes and radio buttons constrain responses to those allowed by the institution conducting the census.

Screen 3 explains the next set of questions—on athletic experience, participation, and ability. It allows respondents with no interest in future participation in athletics to so indicate and complete the instrument without having to view any of the other screens.

Screen 4 of the proposed instrument is reached only by respondents who wish to enter information concerning athletic experience, interests, and abilities. It lists the responses that will be allowed when the information is requested (on screen 6), and contains a neutral statement of the burdens and benefits associated with participation in intercollegiate athletics. A more sophisticated version of the instrument might contain hyperlinks to definitions of various terms.

Screen 5 allows respondents who wish to enter information concerning athletic experience, interests, and abilities to *select the sports for which they wish to provide information*. The purpose of this is to reduce the size and complexity of screen 6, on which the information is actually entered. Only those sports selected on screen 5 are listed on screen 6. The NCAA administers championships in 23 sports for its member institutions. In addition, it recognizes 7 “emerging sports” that are intended to provide additional athletics opportunities to female student-athletes. The number of intercollegiate sports sanctioned by the NAIA and NJCAA is smaller. We recommend listing all the NCAA championship and “emerging sports” on screen 5.

Screen 6 is where actual information regarding experience, current participation, interest in future participation, and self-assessed ability is entered. These four categories appear side-by-side, which is sensible conceptually and psychometrically but was not done in any of the 57 survey instruments in the OCR case files. The allowable responses, which are constrained by radio buttons that also prevent multiple responses, are as follows:

- For experience at the high school level, “Recreational,” “Intramural,” “Club,” “Junior Varsity” and “Varsity.”
- For current participation, “Recreational,” “Intramural,” “Club” and “Varsity.”
- For interest in future participation at the institution: “Recreational,” “Intramural,” “Club” and “Varsity.”
- For ability: “Yes, I have the ability” and “No, I would need to develop the ability.”

The reason for inclusion of four separate categories is that a determination of interest and ability is related to the pattern of response across these categories. For example, to determine the number of students of the underrepresented sex with interest and ability in a varsity sport, the students to be counted could be those who express an interest in future participation at the varsity level, indicate that they have the ability to do so, and have current or high school experience beyond the recreational level.

Although not shown in screen 6, hyperlinks could be used to provide access to definitions of these terms (or any other terms, for example, sports with which not all respondents may be familiar). Placing the definitions in a separate window avoids impeding the flow of the survey instrument.

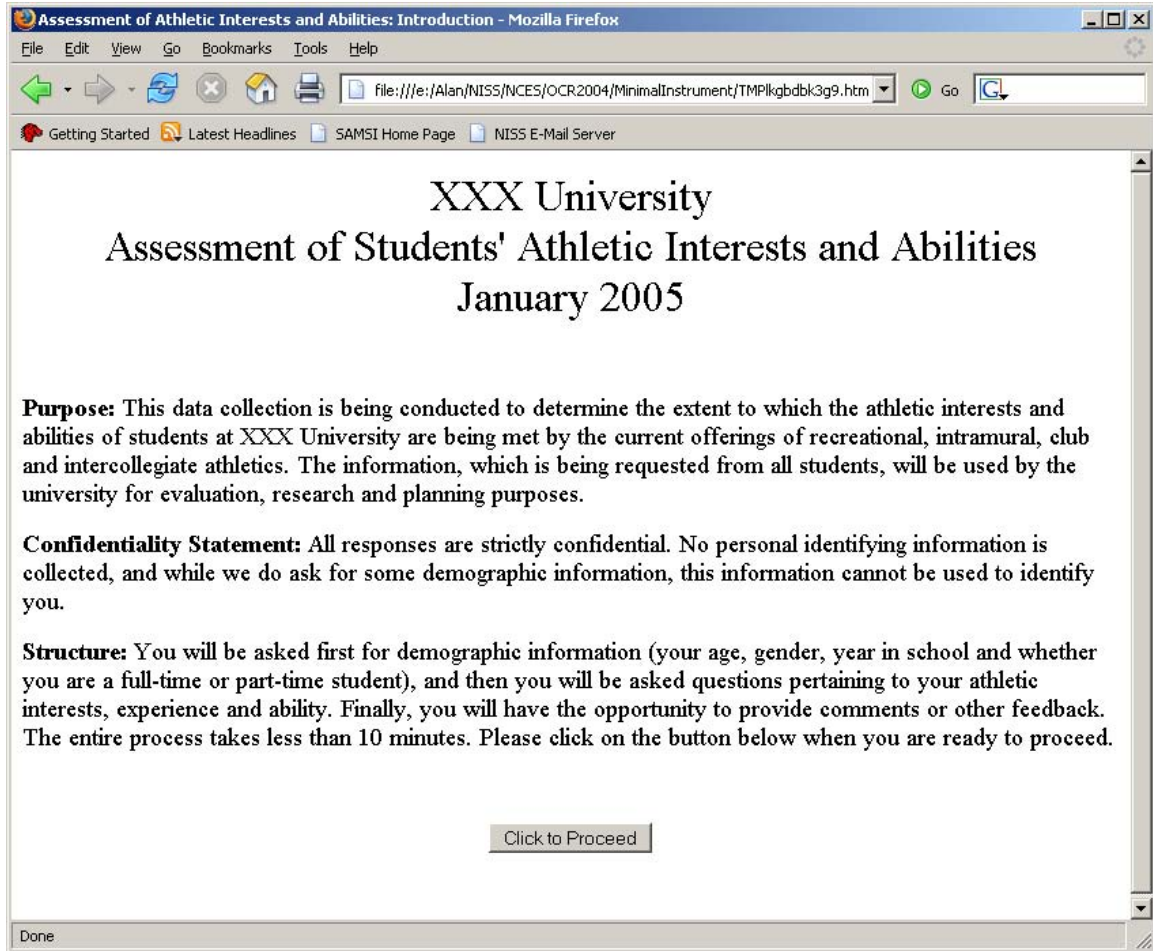
Screen 7 offers respondents the opportunity for comments or other feedback, asks them to click a button to record their responses, and thanks them for participating.

Screen 8 is a pop-up screen that appears only for full-time students of the underrepresented sex who have expressed an interest and ability to participate at a higher level. It lists the sport(s) in which the student has indicated an ability and interest in future participation, and asks the student to provide contact information if the student wishes to be contacted by the athletics department or some other organization in the university with respect to her interests. The student can exit this screen without providing the requested information by indicating that she does not wish to be contacted.

This prototype web-based data collection instrument has the following properties:

- Simplicity;
- Explicit explanation of reasons for the data collection;
- Explicit confidentiality statement;
- Opportunity for global “no interest or ability” response;
- Opportunity to filter sports for which detail is provided;
- Nonprejudicial wording of items;
- Inclusion of all of experience, current participation, interest in future participation, and ability; and
- Fixed-form responses.

Screen 1: Initial screen of the prototype data collection instrument, containing the purposes of the survey, a confidentiality statement, and an explanation of the structure of the instrument.



SOURCE: NISS-produced prototype.

Screen 2: Second screen of the prototype data collection instrument, in which respondents provide four items of demographic and student status information. This example shows a respondent who is 20 years old, female, a junior, and a full-time student.

Assessment of Athletic Interests and Abilities: Demographic Information - Mozilla Firefox

file:///E:/Alan/NISS/NCES/OCR2004/ProposedSurveyInstrument/TMPwb0zdb7fk3.htm

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XXX University

Assessment of Students' Athletic Interests and Abilities

Demographic Information

Please provide the following demographic information. When you have entered the information, click the button to proceed.

Your age:

Your gender: Female Male

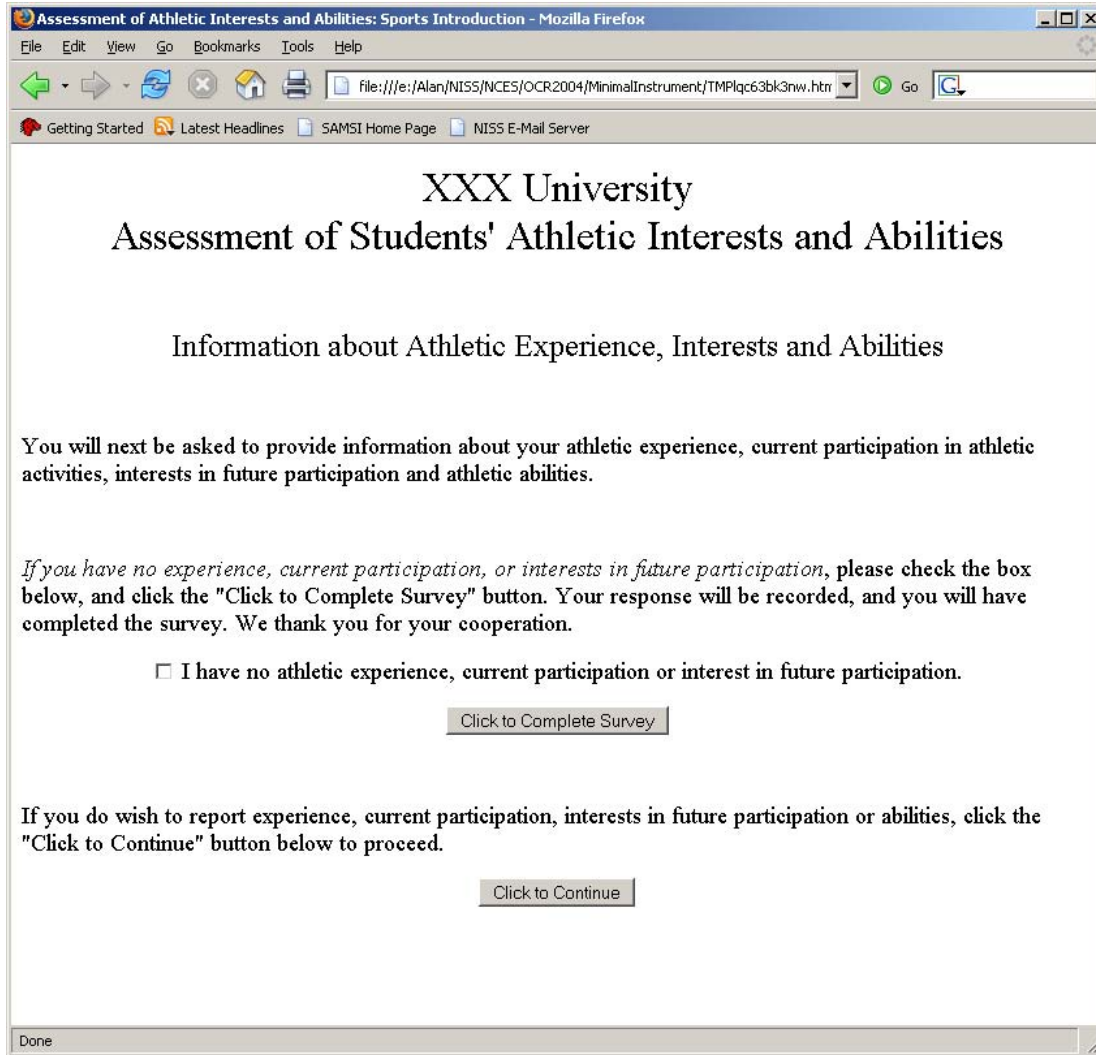
Your year at XXX:

Your student status: Full-time Part-time

Done

SOURCE: NISS-produced prototype.

Screen 3: Third screen of the prototype data collection instrument, on which respondents with no experience, current participation, or interest in future participation can so indicate and complete the process.



SOURCE: NISS-produced prototype.

Screen 4: Fourth screen of the prototype data collection instrument, which is reached only by respondents who wish to enter information concerning athletic experience, interests, and abilities.

The screenshot shows a Mozilla Firefox browser window with the title "Assessment of Athletic Interests and Abilities: Sports Explanation - Mozilla Firefox". The address bar contains the file path: "File:///E:/NISS/NCE5/OCR2004/MinimalInstrument/data-sportsintro2-minime". The browser's bookmark bar includes "Getting Started", "Latest Headlines", "SAMSI Home Page", and "NISS E-Mail Server".

The main content of the page is centered and reads:

XXX University

Assessment of Students' Athletic Interests and Abilities

Information about Athletic Experience, Interests and Abilities

For the sports that you choose on the next screen, you will be asked to provide information about your athletic experience, current participation, interests in future participation and abilities. The format in which the information is to be entered is:

- **Experience:** At what level did you participate in this sport in high school? Responses from which you may choose are "Recreational," "Intramural," "Club", "Junior Varsity" and "Varsity."
- **Current Participation:** At what level are you participating in this sport at XXX? Responses from which you may choose are "Recreational," "Intramural," "Club" and "Varsity."
- **Interest in Future Participation:** At what level do you wish participate in this sport at XXX? Responses from which you may choose are "Recreational," "Intramural," "Club" and "Varsity."
- **Ability:** Do you believe that you have the ability to participate at the level at which you indicated interest? Responses from which you may choose are "Yes, I have the ability" and "No, I would need to develop the ability."

Because of the large number of sports, please check the boxes below for those sports for which you wish to provide information about your athletic experience, current participation, interests in future participation, and abilities. When you have done so, click the button to proceed. *You will be able to enter information only for those sports that you have checked.*

Before you proceed, you should be aware that participation in intercollegiate athletics imposes burdens on student-athletes, but also creates opportunities. For example, intercollegiate athletics usually requires athletes to devote 20 hours of practice each week during the season, as well as individual regimens of training during the off-season. Athletes are required to travel and occasionally miss classes. On the other hand, many intercollegiate athletes receive financial awards that cover all or a portion of school expenses. They are also given access to academic support services, including tutoring, counseling and study tables, that are not available to other students. Of course, how these burdens and opportunities balance against one another is a matter of personal circumstances and judgment.

Done

SOURCE: NISS-produced prototype.

Screen 5: Fifth screen of the prototype data collection instrument, which is reached only by respondents who wish to enter information concerning athletic experience, interests, and abilities. Here, respondents select the sports for which they wish to provide information. The list is illustrative, consisting of the 23 sports in which the NCAA conducts championships and 7 “emerging sports.” The respondent illustrated here has chosen basketball, lacrosse, and volleyball, which appear in screen 6.

Assessment of Athletic Interests and Abilities: Sports Selection - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools Help

file:///E:/Alan/NISS/NCES/OCR2004/MinimalInstrument/TMPigwbracy0.h

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XXX University

Assessment of Students' Athletic Interests and Abilities

Information about Athletic Experience, Interests and Abilities

Because of the large number of sports, and since any one person is unlikely to have experience, current participation, or interest in future participation in more than a few, please check the boxes below for those sports for which you wish to provide information about your athletic experience, current participation, interest in future participation, and abilities. When you have done so, click the button to continue. *You will be asked to enter information only for those sports that you have checked.*

Sport	Sport	Sport
<input type="checkbox"/> Archery	<input type="checkbox"/> Golf	<input type="checkbox"/> Squash
<input type="checkbox"/> Badminton	<input type="checkbox"/> Gymnastics	<input type="checkbox"/> Swimming and Diving
<input type="checkbox"/> Baseball	<input type="checkbox"/> Ice Hockey	<input type="checkbox"/> Synchronized Swimming
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basketball	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lacrosse	<input type="checkbox"/> Team Handball
<input type="checkbox"/> Bowling	<input type="checkbox"/> Rifle	<input type="checkbox"/> Tennis
<input type="checkbox"/> Cross Country	<input type="checkbox"/> Rowing	<input type="checkbox"/> Indoor Track and Field
<input type="checkbox"/> Equestrian	<input type="checkbox"/> Rugby	<input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Track and Field
<input type="checkbox"/> Fencing	<input type="checkbox"/> Skiing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Volleyball
<input type="checkbox"/> Field Hockey	<input type="checkbox"/> Soccer	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Polo
<input type="checkbox"/> Football	<input type="checkbox"/> Softball	<input type="checkbox"/> Wrestling

Done

SOURCE: NISS-produced prototype.

Screen 6: Sixth screen of the prototype instrument, on which respondents enter information concerning experience, current participation, interest in future participation, and ability *only for those sports selected on screen 5.*

XXX University
Assessment of Students' Athletic Interests and Abilities
 Information about Athletic Experience, Interests and Abilities

The sports listed below are those you selected on the previous screen.

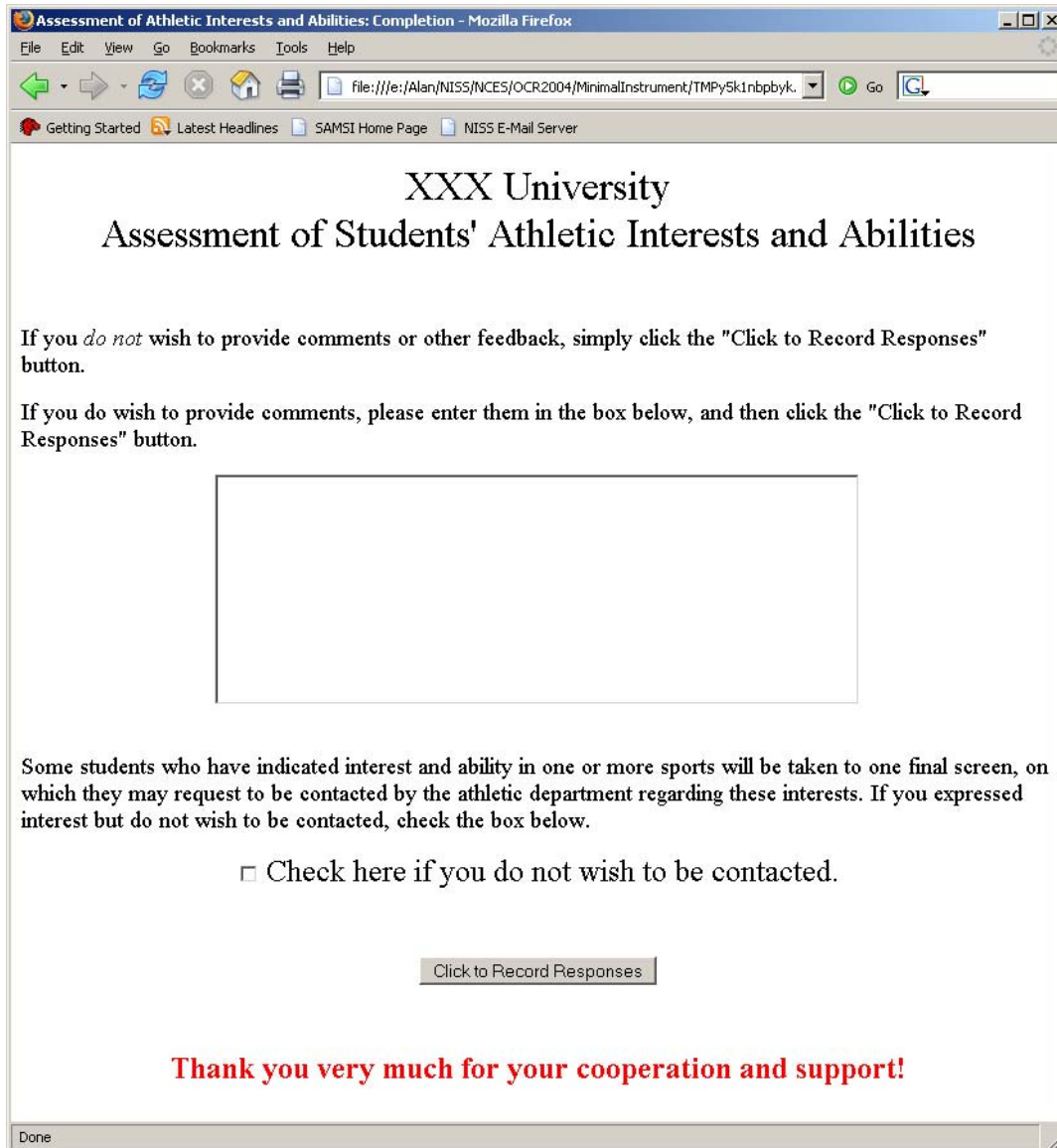
- *If the list is not correct, please use your browser's back button to return to the previous screen and modify your choices.*
- *If the list is correct, please fill in all applicable responses. You do not need to respond to every question, and missing responses will be treated as (depending on category) "No Experience," "No Current Participation," "No Interest in Future Participation" and for Ability, "Not applicable." When you have completed all answers that you wish to complete, click the button to record your responses and proceed to the final part of the survey.*

Sport	Experience: At what level did you participate in this sport in high school?	Current Participation: At what level are you participating in this sport at XXX?	Interest in Future Participation: At what level do you wish to participate in this sport at XXX?	Ability: Do you believe that you have the ability to participate at the level at which you indicated interest?
Basketball	<input type="radio"/> Recreational <input type="radio"/> Intramural <input type="radio"/> Club <input type="radio"/> Junior Varsity <input type="radio"/> Varsity	<input type="radio"/> Recreational <input type="radio"/> Intramural <input type="radio"/> Club <input type="radio"/> Intercollegiate	<input type="radio"/> Recreational <input type="radio"/> Intramural <input type="radio"/> Club <input type="radio"/> Intercollegiate	<input type="radio"/> Yes, I have the ability <input type="radio"/> No, I would need to develop the ability
Lacrosse	<input type="radio"/> Recreational <input type="radio"/> Intramural <input type="radio"/> Club <input type="radio"/> Junior Varsity <input type="radio"/> Varsity	<input type="radio"/> Recreational <input type="radio"/> Intramural <input type="radio"/> Club <input type="radio"/> Intercollegiate	<input type="radio"/> Recreational <input type="radio"/> Intramural <input type="radio"/> Club <input type="radio"/> Intercollegiate	<input type="radio"/> Yes, I have the ability <input type="radio"/> No, I would need to develop the ability
Volleyball	<input type="radio"/> Recreational <input type="radio"/> Intramural <input type="radio"/> Club <input type="radio"/> Junior Varsity <input type="radio"/> Varsity	<input type="radio"/> Recreational <input type="radio"/> Intramural <input type="radio"/> Club <input type="radio"/> Intercollegiate	<input type="radio"/> Recreational <input type="radio"/> Intramural <input type="radio"/> Club <input type="radio"/> Intercollegiate	<input type="radio"/> Yes, I have the ability <input type="radio"/> No, I would need to develop the ability

[Click to Proceed](#)

SOURCE: NISS-produced prototype.

Screen 7: Seventh and potentially final screen of the prototype data collection instrument, which offers respondents the opportunity to provide comments or other feedback, or to request being contacted by the athletic department. Only respondents who check the box are taken to screen 8.



SOURCE: NISS-produced prototype.

Screen 8: Eighth and final screen of the data collection instrument, reached only by respondents who expressed interest and ability in specific sports, to ask whether they wish to be contacted by the athletic department and if so, to provide contact information.

Assessment of Athletic Interests and Abilities: Demographic Information - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools Help

file:///E:/Alan/NISS/NCES/OCR2004/MinimalInstrument/TMP7gxdeball7.htm

Getting Started Latest Headlines SAMSI Home Page NISS E-Mail Server

XXX University

Assessment of Students' Athletic Interests and Abilities

Request to Be Contacted by Athletic Department

You have indicated interest and ability in one or more sports, as summarized below:

Age:	20
Gender:	Female
Year in school:	Junior
Status:	Full-time
Sport(s):	Lacrosse Experience = Varsity Current Participation = Intramural Interest in Further Participation = Intercollegiate Ability = "Yes, I have the ability"

If you would like to be contacted by the athletic department regarding these interests, please fill in the information below, and then click the "Click to Submit Request" button. This request is optional; your responses have already been recorded. Thank you.

Name:	<input type="text"/>
E-mail address:	<input type="text"/>
Telephone:	<input type="text"/>

Done

SOURCE: NISS-produced prototype.

Technical Details

The above screens are static HTML prototypes. There are at least two paths to create the software for a full-blown implementation.

The first of these is commercial tools for web surveys. The extent to which commercial products support functionality such as confidentiality-preserving nonresponse follow-up is not clear. They may also involve significant hardware and software overheads that are really not necessary in the setting of this chapter.

The second path is to create CGI or Java or Visual Basic scripts that

- Allow movement from each screen to the next, including dynamic generation of all screens other than the initial one in screen 1; and
- Record responses (see additional discussion below).

Implementation of these scripts, together with appropriate security and support, would be a straightforward programming task.

The screens and scripts would be customized with such items as

- The institution's name;
- Details of wording, with defaults provided that can be edited as necessary;
- The list of sports on screen 5; and
- The sport-dependent responses on screen 6.

Storage of responses is straightforward. Other than the free-form text response on screen 7, the instrument generates only a small number of data items for each respondent:

- Four items of demographic information from screen 2;
- One Yes/No global “no athletic interest, current participation, or interest in future participation” from screen 3;
- K Yes/No responses for each sport from screen 5, where K is the number of sports listed there; and
- At most $4K$ categorical responses from screen 6, one each for experience, current participation, interest in participation in the future, and ability.

The total number of items is $5K + 5$. To illustrate, for the 30 sports shown in the example in figure 5, the survey generates 155 items.

There are, of course, constraints on the item values. First, the instrument itself permits only predefined responses to all items (other than on screen 7). This guarantees that responses are interpretable and analyzable. Second, if the value of the global Yes/No response on screen 3 is “No,” then the remaining $5K$ responses are empty. Similarly if the screen 5 response for a sport is “No,” meaning that it is not listed on screen 6, then its four items associated with screen 6 are empty.

Finally, the software could store the data in a comma-separated-variable (CSV) file, with one (5K + 5) item line for each response. Since no identifying information is stored, confidentiality of responses is guaranteed. The CSV data file can then be read and manipulated by tools ranging from Microsoft Excel to more powerful statistical packages such as SAS, SPSS, STATA, or S-Plus.

The results from screen 8, the pop-up for students meeting the criteria of interest and ability, can be sent directly to a designated e-mail address without being stored in the CSV file, thereby insuring that the analytic file contains no personally identifiable information.

Once the data are collected, analysis is quite straightforward. The numbers are simply tabulated and compared to the levels of interest needed to field various varsity teams in particular sports. If the number is less than the minimum, no additional effort is necessary, and if the number is equal to or greater, then the institution must take additional steps that could lead to offering particular sports at the varsity level.

Additional Steps

The purpose of this guide is limited to providing guidance on conducting and interpreting an interest survey. However, institutions should be aware that although findings from a survey can indicate that there are unmet interests and there may be sufficient numbers and ability to field a new sport, additional steps would be necessary before such a sport could be offered. We provide here a brief example of what an institution might do next with survey results. For intercollegiate athletics, OCR enforcement of Title IX is generally related to interest, ability, and competitive opportunity with the institution's competitive region (or sports conference). Within this context, suppose an institution in which women were the underrepresented sex conducted a survey that disclosed that the number of women expressing both interest and ability to play lacrosse at the varsity level was greater than the number of women necessary to field a lacrosse team. If there is competitive opportunity for women's lacrosse by virtue of it being a varsity sport within the institution's conference, or failing that, a varsity sport at other colleges within the institution's competitive region, a next step might be for the institution to call a meeting of women students to see if there is enough interest to field a team. A desirable practice in obtaining attendance at the meeting would involve both direct contact with those women who had self-identified and provided contact information through the survey, as well as advertising the meeting through flyers or announcements in the campus paper. Given sufficient turnout, coaches could then conduct tryouts to evaluate the ability of prospective athletes. An evaluation of ability through a tryout would take precedence over a student's self-appraisal of ability on a survey. Details and authoritative guidance are provided in OCR's own policy guidelines that are distributed with this guide.