Computer Anxiety Measurement

In designing the "Attitude Toward Computers" scale to assess anxiety, Raub (1981) developed three questions about computer anxiety in college students: What attitudes and beliefs do students have about computers that cause them to feel anxious, what are the correlates of computer anxiety, and to what extent does hands-on computer experience reduce computer fear? A questionnaire consisting of 40 items was utilized to assess what attitudes and beliefs students have about computers that cause them to feel anxious. A "Computer Usage Checklist" composed of adjectives selected from Zuckerman Affect Adjective Check List was used to select students who were computer anxious. Students determined to be computer anxious were interviewed about their feelings of anxiety. In determining to what extent hands-on computer experience reduces computer fear, Raub (1981) utilized the State Trait Anxiety Inventory developed by Spielberger and the Mathematics Anxiety Scale.

Rohner and Simonson (1981) developed an instrument to measure computer anxiety directly with computer anxiety being defined as "the mixture of fear, apprehension, and hope that people feel when planning to interact or when actually interacting with a computer" (p. 551). Utilizing a Likert-type response, 63 statements were developed: 21 cognitive in nature, 22 affective, and 20 behavioral. Thirty-two students of mixed age and gender who were all part of an educational media class at Iowa State University took part in the pilot study of this test. After analyzing the items, 10 of the statements were selected to compose the Computer Anxiety Index (CAIN), with 20 of the other statements from the first set being randomly included as distractors. No