The Alberta Language Function Assessment Battery (ALFAB) is an aphasia battery. It is unique in several ways: The tester can pause in mid-test without affecting the timing of responses already gathered or waiting to be gathered.

v.) The ALFAB uses color-coded animated movies during the sentence production tasks, in order to elicit different syntactical constructions. The ALFAB includes a clock for timing production tasks as well.

vi.) The ALFAB presents stimuli and records responses using modern media. The ALFAB uses CD-quality sound both for presenting auditory stimuli and for recording individual responses from our subjects. Each spoken item's response is saved to its own sound file so that error types can be scored off-line. Images used in naming and recognition tasks are full color photographs. The ALFAB uses color-coded animated movies during the sentence production tasks, in order to elicit different syntactical constructions. The ALFAB includes a clock for timing production tasks such as word fluency, which is fully integrated into the testing environment.

vii.) The ALFAB uses software that is custom-designed for addressing the potential frustrations that can arise when administering computerized batteries. Because it has been specifically designed for assessment of the elderly and brain-damaged, rather than being jury-rigged experimental software, the ALFAB software includes special features that are often needed with elderly and clinical populations:

- A log file is kept for every subject, showing tests completed and aborted, making it easy to track multi-session assessments.
- Stimuli can be repeated with a single key press; it is possible to return several stimuli back.
- Testing can be paused in mid-test without affecting the timing of responses already gathered or waiting to be gathered.
- Tests can be aborted with a single key press.
- Note-taking functionality is built-in so that the administrator can quickly and easily make notes about special circumstances, clinically-relevant observations, or anything else.
- The full computerization of the aphasia battery, and the enabling of off-line scoring of some of the production data, makes it possible for the battery to be administered in a wholly standardized fashion by non-experts.

viii.) We will score the ALFAB results for you. We invite qualified researchers who administer the entire battery in its canonical form to contribute their anonymous aphasia dataset to a database of ALFAB results that we are developing. In return for data from a full administration of the ALFAB to aphasic participants, we will automatically score the results for you. We have developed software in parallel with the ALFAB which uses a rule-based system for scoring the subtests of the ALFAB. At the current time, our scoring program produces a complete standardized (z-scored) scoring of over 350 individual measures (factors and select pair-wise factor crosses) from the ALFAB. We are presently developing a set of production rules that will do much more than simply score the results; it will present and interpret them by producing a structured, human-readable assessment report that will include results of statistical tests of differences and will present between-subject comparisons on all factors that are manipulated between tests. We will provide such a report for any complete data set we receive, in return for allowing us to include the dataset in our result database. At present ALFAB result files must be mailed in on a CD; however, if there is sufficient interest in this automated scoring service we will quickly develop a web-based interface for submission of datasets.

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