Assessment in Occupational Therapy

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Man, through the use of his hands, as they are energized by mind and will, can influence the state of his own health. (Reilly, 1962)

In 2017, the 100th year since the advent of the occupational therapy profession, the authors believe it is important to historically review how this text has evolved and how it has affected the occupational therapy profession. When The Evaluative Process in Psychiatric Occupational Therapy (Hemphill, 1982) was first published, the author proposed a method for assessing patients. It was a structure for selecting assessments based on the ability of the therapist to identify patient dysfunction and progress. This structure allowed the therapist to select and use assessments from a broad repertoire to achieve an integrative view of patients with emotional disorders.

In stepping back, one must consider how business was conducted in the 1970s and 1980s; there was no email, so networking occurred at professional conferences. Contracts were initially typed using a manual typewriter and then typed using an electronic typewriter; the U.S. Postal System was used to send and receive legal documents. Fast forward to 2017, and contracts are created via word processing software on a computer, sent to authors for their signatures, scanned, and returned—all electronically. For this edition of the text, the authors worked collaboratively with contributors from around the globe, often electronically, sharing the same computer screen to edit the work contained within this text.