DO MEN OR WOMEN CONSIDER IT MORE MANLY TO EAT INSTANT NOODLES?*

Teach statistics, don’t teach software; with SDA you can!

What Windows Media Player does for sound and video files, SDA does for numeric microdata, although it can also handle aggregate and time-series data.

*Answer: Women do. Can you find the table that tells you so?

SDA allows you to ‘read/play’, manipulate, analyse and visualise the content of numeric data, especially microdata.

SDA is a server-side application, accessed through any forms-capable web browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome etc).

SDA is best at:
- taking a raw file
- merging it with metadata
- providing variable-level documentation bundled with the data
- doing common types of statistical analysis (descriptive and inferential)
- downloading data and syntax files for further analysis in other statistical software

FOR THE TEACHER/RESEARCHER, SDA PROVIDES
- a source of data for exercises/assignments
- a facility with which to teach basic numeracy without having to teach software
- teach introductory and intermediate level statistics courses without having to teach software
- perform simple recodes, collapse categories, etc
- define dummy variables and interactions on-the-fly
- perform more complex variable recodes and computes and share them with others
- statistical functions such as (correlations, regressions (multiple, logit/probit), with robust statistical measures, such as chi-square, R², etc
- teach difference between simple random sample and complex sample designs and how they affect measures (ie design effects).
- distance education, with no software licensing issues
- share your own data with other researchers or with a class
- for sensitive data, SDA is FISMA-moderate compliant: we can embargo individual variables, variable combinations, minimum cell counts, etc

FOR THE USER, IT PROVIDES
- easy access to microdata, without a steep learning curve
- search for variables, within and among datasets in the collection
- standard descriptive statistics, univariate and multivariate
- standard statistical procedures for categorical and continuous variables: cross-tabulations, comparison of means, correlations, regressions
- context sensitive help
- output weighted by default (where applicable)
- download data files, including recoded/computed variables, for use in other software, eg SAS, SPSS, Stata, R, Excel
- basic data visualisation capabilities, can be saved as html
- a transferrable skill: SDA is also used as a data interface by other institutions such as ICPSR, the Roper Center, IPUMS, etc

SDA is available from the Data Library web page http://www.ed.ac.uk/sda or directly at http://stats.datalib.edina.ac.uk/sda/

To have your data files loaded into SDA, contact the Data Library datalib@ed.ac.uk

University of Edinburgh. Data Library and consultancy datalib@ed.ac.uk