

Introduction to the Social Science Data Lab

The networked terminals of the SSDL operate under the UNIX operating system. While we will refer to open windows in this system, we are not talking about Microsoft's Windows OS. There are some subtle but key differences. Two to remember:

- Unix is case-sensitive. It matters whether you type a letter in upper case or lower case.
- For most operations, one click is all that is necessary, not two. Clicking twice will cause something to happen twice and usually slows down your computer because it's trying to do two things at once.

Logging on to "Sobek"

Username: _____ (Enter)
Password: _____ (Enter)

Sobek will open with a Main Window labeled "sobek", a small second "concole" window, and a button bar at the bottom of the screen. Each open window is represented by a small button at the top left corner of your screen. Four large buttons are found on the button bar at the bottom of the screen. These are New Window, Netscape, Pine (e-mail), and Logoff.

NETSCAPE

To start, click on the Netscape button on the bottom row. Click only once! Do not click again or you'll only slow down the process as Netscape will attempt to open another window.

The first time you run Netscape you will have to accept their license agreement.

Netscape will open on its own home page.

Move to the Social Science Data Lab by typing "socsci.colorado.edu" (without the

quotation marks) in the white "Location" box near the top of the Netscape window. Most web addresses are prefixed by "http://" but this is unnecessary. By the way, "http" stands for HyperText Transmission Protocol and it is an addressing system for movement between webpages that are written in a language known as "html" or HyperText Markup Language.

Once this window is open, add this location to your list of favorite bookmarks. Click on the "bookmark" button and then "add bookmark".

Netscape operations. Every once and a while Netscape will appear to be doing something but the screen remains frozen. Hit the stop button - the stoplight icon in the upper right of the screen - and try again.

Now let's move to the class webpage. Go to

`"socsci.colorado.edu/~mciverj/1111_idx.html"`

Now that you're there, save this bookmark too so you can point and click to get back here next time. (Next time you're looking for the class web page, just click on "bookmarks" and move your cursor to "psci-index".)

This page is the opening page for the class. Navigation buttons for the syllabus are on the left edge of each page associated with this class.

- Information (Books/Tests/Grades)
- Instructor
- Teaching Assistant
- Syllabus
- Assignments
- Resources

Note that these pages represent a work in progress. They will change. Be sure to come back here regularly to keep up with any changes.

You can print these pages by clicking on the Netscape Print button. A "Netscape:Print" pop-up window will open. Make sure the print command line says "lp" and click print. This will print your page in Ketchum Hall room 3. A small second window verifying that your print request has been accepted will also open.

Just click "OK".

By the way, you might start getting involved with on-line textbook. Read Chapter 1 of HyperStat OnLine. While you're reading it, be sure to check out some of the links to other introductory online textbooks.

Ending Netscape

There is a right way and a wrong way.

To Exit: Click "File" and then click "Exit"

Do Not Click on the "X". This is standard Microsoft Windows practice but like double clicking this act doesn't do what you want it to do.

SPSS - Statistical Package for the Social Sciences

Looking at the original sobek window. Click on the blue background. A popup memo labeled "Root Menu" will appear. Move your cursor to "Lab Software and you will see an extended menu of email programs, statistical software, text editors and even Netscape (which you could also start this way).

Move the cursor to "SPSS" and click to start the program. (Or you can slide the cursor from Root to Lab Software to SPSS in one motion and release.)

SPSS will open two windows, the second directly on top of the first so you see only one. The one you see will be labeled "New Data" which is on top of the "Output" window.

Pull "New Data" toward the center of the screen so you can see both windows simultaneously. This will facilitate your ability to jump back and forth between windows once you begin your analysis. To move this window, click and hold the bar at the top of the New Data window and pull the mouse down and to your right.

Opening a Data File

In the New Data window, click "File" and then "Open" sliding the mouse so the cursor moves to "Data" and then release. A pop-up window will ask you for the location of your data file. In the Filter, type in `"/home/projects/datamgr/MCIVER/*"` (without the quotation marks). Capitalization is critical. Remember, Unix is case sensitive.

Any file you see in the small window inside the pop-up that ends in ".sav" is a SPSS data file.

Click on a file name and then click on "OK" at the bottom of the pop-up window. The data will now appear in the Window previously labeled New Data. (The window will now be labeled with the name of the open data file.) What you see will be a "matrix" of numbers organized by row and column identifiers. In the survey data we will usually be examining, each row represents the responses of a single individual to a series of questions represented by the columns.

You can find out more about the data file you have opened using the Utilities Menu.

Once you have a file open you can begin your analysis. The available options are found in the pull-down menus inside the Data Window. WE will primarily focus on the Transform, Statistics, and Graphs menus as we learn more about SPSS.

Printing your results

Results appear in the Output Window. You may save them to print later or print them directly.

The first time you print you will need to set up/identify a printer to which you will print your results. Go to setup. Type “lp” in lower case letters and click “continue”. You can then click “OK” in the “Print:Output” window.

You can exit SPSS from any of its open Output or Data windows. Click on “File” and then “Exit” at the bottom of the file menu.

Ending your Session on Sobek

Before you log off, please close down all of the programs you have opened during your session.

To Logoff:

Hit the logoff button at the bottom (It's labeled with a "Bomb" icon.)