TEACHING SAS IN COLOR

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One facet of working in User Services is the necessity to produce and present short courses which acquaint users with a variety of topics. Often times, these courses must be prepared with a minimum amount of time and expense. Utilizing the color graphics capability of a Compucolor II microcomputer and a 35 mm slide camera expedites this process both in terms of effort and expenditures.

The Compucolor II, utilized in a local terminal mode, permits the production of multicolor screens by persons with little or no programming knowledge. The screens are saved on 5-1/4" floppy discs which allows immediate recall to photograph all screens which have been prepared during the session. Recall at a later date for modification of information or design (and subsequent rephotographing) is also possible.

During short course teaching, it has been found that color slides enhance the transfer of information. While the slides are currently utilized as support for instructor taught short courses, plans are underway to prepare cassette driven presentations. Thus, users will have an opportunity to receive fundamental information without requiring additional staff support. Also, users will be able to view and review material as their needs dictate rather than only during scheduled short courses.

Short courses utilizing the color graphics slides have been assembled covering such topics as: keypunching, Job Control Language (JCL), SAS, SPSS, Harris VULCAN, and Introduction to the Computer Center.