The latest statistics show that over 65% of all major corporations have implemented Information Centers in one form or another. By the end of 1984, it is estimated that this figure will rise to over 85%. With this in mind, it is becoming increasingly important to recognize the many uses of SAS and how they relate to the Information Resource Center.

Traditional methods of teaching and using SAS must be modified when in the IRC environment. When using SAS the non-data processing user does not want to be bothered with JCL, TSO CLIST's or IMS EXEC's.

Because of its versatility and "user friendliness", SAS has become a widely used reporting language at SDDPC. Also, because of SAS/FScalc and SAS/Graph, many users have learned SAS so they can use the graphics and spreadsheet features.

The IRC staff recognized early that the way SAS had been taught and used would not work. The user who came to the IRC usually came with a pressing problem. They wanted to know how they could take information and process it into their desired results.

Users often had little time in which to learn to use the data processing tools needed (SAS) to solve their problems, and they only wanted to learn enough to solve their particular problem.

In order to solve these problems, the IRC staff, working with the system staff made use of dialog manager, TSO/SPF SAS Interface to produce menus (a check-a-box system). Using these panels, the IRC staff teaches a half day SAS Introduction Course, covering the minimum a user has to learn to be productive.

After taking the SAS Introduction Course, users are encouraged to contact the IRC staff on a one-on-one basis to receive additional help starting their projects in the form of follow-up training. Once a user has taken the SAS Introduction Course, the follow-up training and user projects become easy.

The purpose of this paper is to show that users do not have to be "programmers" to define a dataset, create reports, produce graphics, and modify panel generated SAS code.

Data Set Definition/Entry

-- Select option 1 for SAS --

** Select option 1 for SAS **

** Select 0 to define data **

---
Utilities

*** Select 3 for SAS utilities ***

SELECT OPTION = 3

D DISPLAY - SAS DATA DEFINITION AND DATA ENTRY (EDIT)
D EDIT - SAS PRINTABLE EDIT (W/POD) AND MONITOR ON SCREEN OR Printer (ALTERNATIVE TO INTERACTIVE SAS ON IBM CCTV/SCRIPT)
D EXECUTE - SAS CHAIN AND EXECUTE OF SAS SCRIPTS
D REPORT - SAS REPORT GENERATION
D REPORT - SAS REPORTS FOR PROGRAMMING
D UTILITIES - SAS UTILITIES

On the utility panel, users are able to display their library, dataset, or select any of the following options which allow the manipulation of the SAS dataset.

*** Press Enter to continue ***
Graphics

** Select option "G" for Graphics. **

** Select option "G" for Graphics. **

** Select option "G" for Graphics. **

** Select "G" again to create a vertical bar chart. **

** Press PF1 to continue. **

** Press PF1 to continue. **

** Press PF1 to continue. **

** Press PF1 to continue. **

** Press PF1 to continue. **

** Press PF1 to continue. **
The panels presented here were designed to eliminate the problems that so often arise when non-data processing professionals are introduced to data processing systems (packages).

Using the 'check-a-box' system users are able to define a data set, enter data, produce reports & graphics, and then save the actual code required to do all this, and even execute the code at any time without learning the programming language itself.

All there lives people have been asked to fill out forms before they receive anything. To me this makes the 'check-a-box' method a natural.

For further information contact:

THOMAS F. HARWOOD
San Diego Data Processing Corporation
5975 Santa Fe Street
San Diego, CA 92109

(619) 236-5960