New Publications for SAS® Software Users
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ABSTRACT

The SAS® System is the world’s premier information delivery system. As an integrated applications system, the SAS System gives you complete control over data access, management, analysis, and presentation. With the SAS System, you can perform data entry and retrieval, as well as report writing, graphics design, statistical and mathematical analysis, business forecasting, operations research, quality assurance, and applications development. Some people use many of the SAS System’s capabilities; others use only a few. But no other software gives you so many choices for meeting your organization’s information needs.

This paper summarizes some of the ways the Publications Division of SAS Institute Inc. is continuing to build its SAS documentation library, reviews new publications from the past year, and previews upcoming offerings. It also discusses the Institute’s Books By Users program.

INTRODUCTION

With Release 6.06 and Release 6.07, the SAS System offers you new ways of doing information management and delivery to make your organization more productive. Our goal in rounding out the SAS documentation library this year is to show you the kinds of productivity choices you have when using SAS software. We have developed new usage guides, complete with many, many examples, and written syntax guides to help you find information more quickly. We’ve added books that address the specialized needs of different groups of users. And, most of all, we’ve published books that describe ways you are already using SAS software—books by you!

New Publications from SAS Institute

Here’s a review of some of the major titles released in the past year.

For both experienced and inexperienced SAS System users who want to use the REPORT procedure to customize reports, we’ve published the SAS Guide to the REPORT Procedure: Usage and Reference, Version 6, First Edition. This guide contains tutorials to familiarize you with commonly used features of PROC REPORT in its windowing environment. In this book, you will also find reference material for using all capabilities of the procedure in both windowing and non-windowing environments.

Base SAS software long ago outgrew the reference card format as a quick reference tool for syntax. So we designed a compact, spiral-bound booklet with a readable page layout as a replacement for reference cards. In SAS Language and Procedures: Syntax, Version 6, First Edition, you’ll find complete syntax information for portable features of base SAS software in quick summary format. This is a book every SAS user will want on hand when working with the DATA step, macro programming, procedures, the SAS Display Manager System, system options, or the text editor.


For the experienced SAS/AF® and SAS/FSP® applications programmer, SAS Screen Control Language: Usage, Version 6, First Edition is a task-oriented, step-by-step book filled with examples of ways to use Screen Control Language (SCL). SAS Screen Control Language: Syntax, Version 6, First Edition is a quick and complete reference to the syntax for SCL.

For SAS/GRAPH® software users, we have a whole series of new choices to offer you.

SAS/GRAPH® Software: Usage, Version 6, First Edition takes you beyond the tasks in the introductory guide to show you how to do even more with SAS/GRAPH® software. In a step-by-step format, this book focuses primarily on the types of graphs available with SAS/GRAPH® software, giving examples for each type of graph beginning with the default appearance and enhancing the graph to a finished appearance.

We knew that SAS/GRAPH® users would find a syntax guide handy, especially more experienced users who occasionally need quick, summary information. So for experienced SAS/GRAPH® users, we have developed SAS/GRAPH® Software: Syntax, Version 6, First Edition. This guide provides a quick and complete reference to the syntax for SAS/GRAPH® software.

SAS/GRAPH® Software: Graphics Editor, Version 6, First Edition provides introductory, usage, and reference information about the graphics editor. The task-oriented usage section of this book shows you how to set up a simple editing session, create a new graph, and modify an existing graph. The reference section provides complete descriptions of all the functions and features of the graphics editor software available in the tools palette and the pull-down menus.

The series of books on using graphics devices with SAS/GRAPH® software currently offers SAS/GRAPH® Software: Using Graphics Devices in the MVS Environment, Version 6, First Edition, and SAS/GRAPH® Software: Using Graphics Devices in the CMS Environment, Version 6, First Edition is forthcoming. These guides describe how various graphics devices (terminals, printers, plotters, slide cameras) should be connected to the system, and how the system and SAS software should be configured to produce SAS/GRAPH® output on the devices. We will be adding books to this series covering various other operating systems.

New SAS/QC® software users now have a book written just for them. If you have minimal statistical background and no extensive computing or SAS software experience and are using SAS/QC® software, SAS/QC® Software: SQC Menu System, Version 6, First Edition is for you. This book introduces the SQC menu system for statistical quality control and improvement using a tutorial walk-through approach. This book includes an overview that lists the features and facilities of this menu system and worked-out examples illustrating the menu system’s use for control charting, capability analysis, and the creation of Pareto charts and Ishikawa diagrams.

For SAS users working on time series analysis, forecasting, financial analysis, and reporting, SAS/ETS® Software: Applications Guide 1, Version 6, First Edition is the right tool for learning new ways to use SAS/ETS® software. This task-oriented book, the first of a two-volume set, is currently available. The second volume of the set, still in progress, is devoted to modeling, simulation, and forecasting with econometric data.
If you use SAS/SHARE software to enable multiple users to have concurrent update access to the same SAS data library, we have SAS/SHARE: Usage and Reference, Version 6, First Edition for you. This book includes information on using and writing applications that access data in a shared environment as well as reference material on the SAS/SHARE software procedures.

Those of you with the SAS/ACCESS software interface to INGRES have a new book to help you: SAS/ACCESS Interface to INGRES: Usage and Reference, Version 6, First Edition. Similarly, users of the SAS/ACCESS software interface to IMS/DLI have SAS/ACCESS Interface to IMS/DLI: Usage and Reference, Version 6, First Edition. These books are designed for applications programmers who are familiar with their operating system but who may not be familiar with IMS/DLI or INGRES or the SAS System. Each of these books provides complete tutorial and reference material for the software and illustrates applications using the software.

Users of SAS/ACCESS software in the OS/2 environment will find good information in SAS/ACCESS Interface to OS/2: Database Products, Usage and Reference, Version 6, First Edition. This book describes the SAS/ACCESS interfaces to the Database Manager from IBM Lotus Corporation's Lotus 1-2-3, and Ashton-Tate Corporation's dBASE products running under OS/2. This book covers information similar to that in other SAS/ACCESS software books.

Two new publications complement SAS/PH-Clinical software, the menu-driven clinical data review system for clinicians, medical monitors, and clinical data processing professionals.

If you are a SAS/PH-Clinical user, SAS/PH-Clinical: Software User's Reference, Version 6, First Edition provides reference material for all the tasks you might want to perform including creating a patient group, browsing patient information, analyzing data, creating graphs, and producing tables and reports. This book also includes reference information for the product's library, where you can save any program, output, or graph generated by the product; edit and submit new or old programs; and make and save notes on work in progress.

If you are a SAS/PH-Clinical product administrator, SAS/PH-Clinical: Software Administrator's Reference, Version 6, First Edition describes administrative activities such as defining devices, users, and security groups; initializing batch processing; and building an interface to site-specific menu systems. The administrator's guide also includes information on defining study index fields and defining clinical trials to the product, optimizing clinical data structures for use with the product, and implementing the product with multiple administrators at a site.

For our spreadsheet users, we have Getting Started with SAS/CALC Spreadsheet Applications, Version 6, First Edition. This primer introduces you to SAS/CALC software and the process of developing, modifying, and managing spreadsheet applications using step-by-step instructions. You learn to create and modify a simple two-dimensional spreadsheet, produce reports and graphics, create more complex three-dimensional and linked spreadsheets, compute cell values with formulas and programs, and verify and manage links using the drilldown facility. Once you've become familiar with SAS/CALC software via Getting Started with SAS/CALC Spreadsheet Applications, SAS/CALC Software: Usage and Reference, Version 6, First Edition provides usage and reference material for developing simple or sophisticated spreadsheet applications.


Books in Progress from SAS Institute

In future months, the Institute will be publishing still more books to help you make the most of your SAS software tools. Coming up are more task-oriented how-to books designed to make building applications quick and easy. Here are some of the books you can look forward to.

Doing More with SAS/ASSIST Software, Version 6, First Edition builds on the concepts presented in Getting Started with the SAS System Using SAS/ASSIST Software, Version 6, First Edition and provides task-oriented instructions for using items in SAS/ASSIST software that were not previously documented. Some examples of items covered in this book include instructions on using SAS/ASSIST software to connect to a remote SAS session, combine data, convert files, use the FORMS subsystem, use the history file, submit batch jobs, and set up parameters. Also included is information to help you locate various items and procedures in SAS/ASSIST software and a section for frequently asked questions and answers to those questions.


Advanced SAS/GRAPH software users can "learn by example" using SAS/GRAPH Software: Examples, Version 6, First Edition. This book provides examples, using code rather than windows, that show how to use the SAS/GRAPH software and illustrate technically or visually advanced features. It is designed for experienced SAS/GRAPH users who learn best by example. You can examine the graphics output and the code in this book to produce the same effect with your own data.

For new users of SAS/PH-Clinical software, SAS/PH-Clinical Software: Your Clinical Data Review System, Version 6, First Edition will provide a basic introduction. It contains plenty of illustrations and simple text to introduce beginning users to the software.

Books by Users

The Institute's Books by Users program got off to a good start and is now in full swing. The following books written by users are currently available through SAS Institute.

SAS System for Statistical Graphics, First Edition, by Michael Friendly from York University, Toronto, Canada, shows how to apply SAS software to produce meaningful displays of statistical data. The emphasis is on displays that reveal aspects of data not easily captured in numerical summaries or tabular formats and on diagnostic displays that help you decide if assumptions of an analysis are met. Whether you have a basic to intermediate level of experience with SAS software and statistics, or you're an experienced SAS programmer who wants to refine your use of statistical graph-
ics, SAS System for Statistical Graphics can provide the information you need.

Written by Frank C. Dilorio, SAS Applications Programming: A Gentle Introduction presents the basics of the SAS System in a well-paced, structured, and comfortable manner for the beginner or intermediate user. Numerous practical and real-world examples come from the author's fifteen years of experience using SAS software. System- and release-independent, this book is geared to help you with any recent version of the SAS System. If you are a new user, you will find that complex topics are introduced at a reasonable rate, gradually bringing you to the point where you can manage multiple datasets, read complex raw data, perform complex calculations quickly and effectively, and write customized reports.

Professional SAS Programming Secrets, by Rick Aster and Rhena Seidman, offers hundreds of tips that make using Version 6 of the SAS System easier and more efficient. Aster and Seidman include their own ready-to-use code routines developed over years of hands-on programming on some of the nation's largest databases. Advanced users can plug these programs in and go to work right away. New users will appreciate the authors' simple, step-by-step approach to the essentials of SAS programming.

This year, the Institute also has some new editions of previously published books to offer you. The third edition of SAS System for Linear Models, by Dr. Rudolf J. Freund, Dr. Ramon C. Littell, and Dr. Phillip C. Spector, provides information about features and capabilities of the GLM, ANOVA, REG, MEANS, TTEST, and NESTED procedures. The second edition of SAS System for Regression, also completed this year by Freund and Littell, describes SAS procedures for performing regression analyses. Edition three of Applied Statistics and the SAS Programming Language, by Ronald P. Cody and Jeffrey K. Smith, is a leading guide for performing statistical analyses with Version 6 of the SAS System.

Books by Users In Progress

Books by users currently in progress include the following titles.

The Institute is pleased to be publishing the work of two authors, SherrJoyce King and Laurie Burch, SAS consultants and principals at Business Resource Group, Inc. In SAS Road Maps (working title), Burch and King take you on a tour of SAS software products through many applications and industries. They have interviewed SAS users in a wide variety of settings to find out how SAS software is used for information delivery in business, industry, government, and research. SAS Road Maps will show you plenty of sample applications to help you find new ways to put SAS software to work in your organization. SAS Road Maps is scheduled to be available in 1993.

Still another user-authored book is in the works. Tom Miron is a SAS consultant with years of experience in industry and government, designing and implementing SAS applications and training SAS users. His book SAS Software Solutions: Basic Data Processing (working title) is a series of example SAS programs categorized by task and accompanied by detailed annotation and usage notes in a format that allows information to be located easily. This book will be particularly useful for infrequent users who want to be able to modify the example programs presented in the book to fit their specific needs. Novice SAS users can use the book to learn how the SAS System solves data processing problems, while advanced SAS users can learn from examples that fall outside their normal range of expertise. This book is scheduled to be available early in 1993.

In addition, Kirk Laffer is working on a learner's guide to the SAS System's SQL procedure.

Observations: The Technical Journal for SAS Software Users

In the 1990 SASware Ballot, SAS users voted for a technical journal as their number one choice in the documentation section. We're pleased to tell you that the new technical journal, Observations, is in its fourth issue. Observations is published quarterly and is filled with articles covering a wide range of topics on SAS software. The content of the articles is technical and more in-depth than is possible in SAS Communications. There are articles of interest to users of all experience levels, for all operating systems, and for all SAS System products.

New Directions

We're striking out in new directions for 1992 and beyond to show you more of the choices you have in using the SAS System. We'll continue to expand the library of primary SAS documentation with how-to books, syntax guides, and of course, reference documentation. But we'll also expand our efforts in other areas, including a new line of books that are collections of examples. To do this, we'll listen to and work with SAS users. We're gathering your feedback on existing books through our user-review pool. We'll continue to listen to your ideas through the SASware Ballot, user groups, and letters. And we would like you to think about sharing your expertise through our Books by Users program.

CONCLUSION

We're excited about the new ways of using the SAS System that this year's books present and even more excited about what's ahead.

We want to keep your best interests in mind and work with you to ensure that our books are the tools you need and want. We'd like to hear from you — your ideas and suggestions are always welcome. Recently, we received top honors for a number of books in international and national competitions for software user documentation. We're very proud of those awards; we see them as testimony to the fact that we're doing a good job. But we'd like to do an even better job. So we will continue to listen to you and will continue to set the industry's standard for delivering information.

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