Appendix 1: How SPSS came to UK

1:   Tracking down the culprits (by searching the web for their names)

From: John Hall
To: Tony Coxon, David Muxworthy, Andrew Westlake
Cc: 17 others
Date: 25 May 2006

Re: **Study Group on Computers in Survey Analysis**[1] **1974**

Ferreting in the attic the other day I found some scribbled notes on scrap paper for secondary analysis of the Quality of Life in Britain surveys to test the Goldthorpe & Lockwood embourgoisement theory (convergence of consumption, divergence of values). On the back of the scrap paper I found this.

STUDY GROUP ON COMPUTERS IN SURVEY ANALYSIS – MEETINGS 1974

Except where stated otherwise, all meetings will be held at the London School of Economics at 6.30 pm. in Room C.023

NEXT MEETING

Thursday 10th Jan.	Tony Fielding: Lecturer "The Interpretation & Behaviour of the Automatic Interaction Detection (AID) and the Multiple Classification Analysis (MCA) Algorithms."	Dept. of Statistics, London School of Economics

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

Thursday 7th Feb.	"File design for complex data structures"	Andrew Westlake (Lond. Sch. of Hygiene & Trop. Medicine)
Thursday 7th March	"Analysis of Preference Grids"	Dr. Patrick Slater (Inst. of Psychiatry)
Monday & Tuesday 1st/2nd April	SPECIAL CONFERENCE "Social Science Data and the New SPSS" (New Boardroom L.S.E) Some places left, but you will have to book your own overnight accommodation	Colm O'Muircheartaigh (LSE) Sharon Sutherland (SSRC Survey Archive) Dr. Mark Franklin (Strathclyde) David Muxworthy (Edinburgh, RCC) Prof. Norman Nie (NORC. Chicago)
Monday 1st April – 7.15 pm (*New Boardroom LSE*)	"Social Theory, Social Change and Social Policy: Uses and Abuses of Sample Surveys"	Dr. Mark Abrams (Director: SSRC Survey Unit)
Thursday 9th May	"Privacy of Survey Data"	Roger Jowell (SCPR) Andrew McIntosh (IFF)
Thursday 6th June	Working Party Reports & AGM. (i) Software Register (ii) Terminology glossary (iii) Standardization (iv) logic of survey analysis	Tony Cowling (Taylor, Nelson) David Hitchin (Sussex Univ.) Clive Payne (Nuffield College) John Hall (SSRC)

Working Party Meetings – Thursday 7th March – Room 1104 State House, High Holborn

    3. pm Terminology Glossary

    4. pm Software Register (Phase 11 – questionnaire)

    5. pm Committee

All enquiries to Secretary: John Hall, SSRC Survey Unit, Hanover House, 2nd Floor, 73-74 High Holborn, London, W.C.1R 4EU, Telephone, 405-6492, Ext. 1278.

*[Pdf file of contents page of **Quantitative Sociology Newsletter No. 11** April 1974 announcing the SPSS design conference at LSE and papers by Mark Abrams, Tony Fielding, Colm O'Muircheartaigh and Andrew Westlake]*

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[1]   precursor of the Association for Survey Computing

A few names to conjure with, plus the solution to the original source of the Mark Abrams paper (which later appeared with a different title in Quantitative Sociology Newsletter, and is now posted on the SRA website: see www.the-sra.org.uk/mark_abrams.htm and its link Social Surveys, Social Theory and Social Policy *(pdf 31k)* to the paper).

For those of you who don't remember me, I'm the guy at the bottom of the page who also organised the SPSS conference at LSE and later set up the UK SPSS Users Group (a precursor of ASSESS). I worked at the SSRC Survey Unit until it closed in 1976 and then at the Polytechnic of North London (PNL) until I took early retirement in 1992. I came to live in France in 1994.

I retain an active interest in social research, being on the panel of judges for the **Mark Abrams Prize** which I set up in 1986 on the occasion of his 80th birthday and which has been awarded (almost) annually since then by the Social Research Association for the best piece of work linking survey research, social theory and/or social policy: this year is the centenary of Mark's birth.

(see http://www.the-sra.org.uk/documents/pdfs/mark_abrams_prize_flyer_2006.pdf - 401k). I've even agreed to do a turn in November for ASSESS (SPSS Users Group: see http://www.spssusers.co.uk/Events/2006/confprog.html) to push syntax versus point-and-click, and to demonstrate a few tricks that aren't in the manual.

I have also been busy on the computer and have not only been restoring data (retrieved from the UK Data Archive at Essex University) from many of my past surveys as SPSS portable files, but also converting and updating training materials from my PNL post-graduate hands-on course **Survey Analysis Workshop** (involving conversions of exercises, handouts and setup files from SPSS 4 for mainframe Vax to version 11 for Windows) for placement in the public domain. Three of these, **Introduction to Survey Analysis; Introduction to Tabulation; Naming conventions in SPSS** (only the naming one is specific to SPSS) are already posted on:

  http://www.marketresearchworld.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=category&sectionid=15&id=74&Itemid=60

but others await a more suitable home as they contain colour text, colour graphics and tabular formats which the site can't yet handle. They include:

SR501 Stage 1; SR501 Stage 2: (step-by-step process from completing a fun questionnaire, entering data and setting up first (data list) and second (variable labels, value labels, missing values) editions of saved files, containing screen dumps of each stage) **Derived variables 1a: count** (part 1 of a section on the use of count and compute to generate scores: example of attitudes to women from a survey of fifth formers) **The Use of Computers in Survey Analysis; Analysing two variables:** (general notes not specific to SPSS, but the tables in them are from various releases of SPSS)

SR501 Statistical notes 1-7 & 8-13 were specially written by (mostly) Jim Ring and myself for students on the course, as a supplement to the standard texts referred to in the notes. Jim also wrote the special front end to SPSS-X for students on the course, later extended from Ladbroke House to include other sites which made it much easier to use the Vax, edit and run (and correct) SPSS and to print results (and avoid exceeding disc quotas!) He is still there: j.ring@londonmet.ac.uk

 I also have the **syllabus** for the final version of the course 1991-92 (which includes a mock assessment) and a stack of handouts (eg on multiple response) and exercises which I am still working on to include output from SPSS11 for Windows

Pallant final review; Pallant additional notes are a review I did of Julie Pallant, **SPSS Survival Manual** for SRA News, the newsletter of the Social Research Association. The review appeared in Nov 2002 (http://66.102.9.104/search?q=cache:lXQlm9cTcn8J:www.the-sra.org.uk/documents/pdfs/sra_nov_2002.pdf+SRA+%2B+Pallant+%2B+Hall&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=2 p p 11-12), but the additional notes have yet to be posted on their website. I do not rate it for beginners, or for students in sociology and related subjects, so apologies to the psychometricians and

statisticians among you. It's biggest fault is the wretched use of point-and-click throughout, which is useless for those who, like me, are ardent syntax fans.

I also have a complete set of the Quality of Life in Britain surveys conducted by Mark Abrams and myself at the SSRC Survey Unit between 1971 and 1975 (see attached flysheet), together with several other surveys done by me or under my supervision as Director of the Survey Research Unit at PNL, all available as SPSS portable files. The quality of life in France is fine (see attached pic).

If any of you would like copies of any of the above (or information on other items not listed) I would be happy to forward them to you, especially if you can get feedback on ease of understanding and use. However, some of them won't be much use without access as a registered user to a licensed copy of SPSS.

Apologies if any of this duplicates stuff you have already had from me or elsewhere. One of these days I'll get a website together, but I'm fairly new to Windows, SPSS for Windows, MS-Word and mice.

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From: "David Muxworthy"
 To: "John Hall"
 Sent: Friday, May 26, 2006 11:34 AM
 Subject: Re: SGCSA meetings 1974

> > For those of you who don't remember me

Who could possibly forget the Scarborough dynamo and Jim Ring? Nice
to hear from you. I fear many of the people on your address list
will have retired or otherwise moved on. I remember Beverley Rowe,
Nona Newman (latterly known as Kathy Lang) and Anne Harrison, also
now living in France, being active in SGCSA and not on your list. I
can't remember if Tony Coxon was involved. He has retired to Islay
and we're going to a do there in September to celebrate his civil
partnership. You will no doubt be up to date on Roger Jowell's
former wife's shenanigans.

I retired in 2003 but still do a little work for Edinburgh University
so my e-mail address there is still live.

Congratulations on rescuing old information. I am doing a little of
the same thing on old Fortran manuals and the like. I had to discard
most of my material from the 1970s and 1980s when I retired - it was
quite painful.

Best wishes,

David

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From: "David Muxworthy"
 To: "John & Jenny Hall"
 Cc: "Ring Jim"
 Sent: Monday, May 29, 2006 1:18 PM
 Subject: Re: QSN correction

> >   Am I right in thinking you once said that, at ERCC, SPSS was called more times
        than the Fortran compiler?

 It might have been. I don't remember it but that is the sort of
 comparison I would make. Of course everything changed enormously
 when we got terminal access from our own desks instead of using
 punched cards.

> >   They're selling blank Hollerith cards for $3 each on e-bay, and I chucked
        thousands of them away when I left the Poly.
>
 That was wasteful. Blank cards (still) are very useful for shopping
 lists, to-do lists etc.

> >   I'm attaching the original review and the additional notes which will give you a
        good idea of how unsuitable the book is for most users.
>
 That was a pretty kind review. I still use SPSS 14, on the Edinburgh
 University licence, quite a bit but more for data manipulation than
 for sophisticated statistics. The data transformations and merge
 files facilities do exactly what I need on the data sets I am using.

> >   Tony Coxon may still have a connection with Essex

 Maybe. His address is tony@tighcargaman.com. It was Tony who put
 Edinburgh onto SPSS in 1970 - we were the first site in the UK.

 I hadn't realised Colm was at Chicago. When I was visiting Norman
 Nie et al in the 1970s I was told always to have $20 handy to give to
 the mugger. I suppose it's now at least $50.

Regards,

 David

 ****

John Hall to Tony Coxon 12 June 2006

Tony

*Tracked you down after all these years. I'm doing a turn for the SPSS
users' group ASSESS in York in November and want to stick a bit in at the
beginning about how SPSS got to UK. David Muxworthy says you brought it
over and it was first installed at Edinburgh in 1970.*

*I've been doing a bit of work here restoring old SPSS files from SSRC Survey
Unit days and teaching materials from PNL. Had to teach myself Windows,
Word and mouse from scratch when I offered to review Julie Pallant's SPSS
Survival Manual for the Social Research Association. Luckily I got SPSS to
let me have an evaluation copy of the Windows version and then they gave me
a free 5-year licence (expires Sep 2007).*

I can send you the review and other materials if you're interested.

Also found some old QSN material from 1974 and 1978. Interesting reading!

2:   SPSS arrives in Edinburgh, 1970

Tony Coxon to John Hall 12 June 2006-08-31

> *Excellent to hear from you, even though the route taken by the email was circuitous! In the signature below you will find a selection of addresses, though **** is the preferred one.*
> *I retired from Essex (with relief) in 2002 and moved here to the Isle of Islay (eight whisky distilleries ...)*
> *……………..*
>
> *Now to the subject matter of the email. As you (and David) rightly say* **'twas I that was responsible for bringing SPSS over to the UK** *... though I keep quiet about it .*
>
> *The background is in some ways more interesting than the mere fact. You especially will remember that the late '60s were characterised by governmental protection of home computer industries (EELM/ ICT/ICL of course) and it was virtually impossible for Universities to get their hands on an IBM. Indeed, it was only those with big natural-science clout that did -- Imperial, Newcastle, Edinburgh come to mind. Equally, you will remember that in those days all the interesting new social science software emanated from the US and Michigan in particular and that it a tedious expensive job to adapt for bloody non-IBM machines, so that those Universities with an IBM were in the privileged position to be able to implement/ run such software immediately.*
>
> *My involvement was that in 1968 I moved from Leeds and took a year as Visiting lecturer at MIT/Harvard Political Science, returning to take up a new post as Lecturer at Edinburgh (now you see the link?). During that time, the first interactive survey package was being developed at MIT (PI: Ithiel de Solla Pool), called ADMINS and also at Harvard, David Armor was developing a general package for the analysis of BOTH survey AND textual data called DATA-TEXT (see my comments at: http://www.qualitative-research.net/fqs-texte/2-05/05-2-40-e.htm). Armor was pissed off that the Chicago lot had pinched most of his structure and evacuated it of the qualitative component. He was not a happy bunny ... and of course "the Chicago lot" were SPSS!. However, I did take a copy of SPSS back with me from the US to Edinburgh.*
>
> *The story continues. Edinburgh University had a standing committee for creating a new Edinburgh all-singing, all-dancing Survey Package. Tom Burns sent the new poilitically-naive Tony Coxon as the departmental representative. I couldn't believe it ... Big departments with entrenched positions (Agriculture, Economics ...) were arguing furiously and were unprepared to give an inch. In desperation, I interjected with something like " In the mean time, would it be an idea to use an existing new package until the subtleties of the Edinburgh package are decided? ... it so happens I happen to have a tape with SPSS" ... and that was it. It was agreed, and PLU (with Marjory Barritt -- remember?!-- and David Mux.) ran with it. Nothing more was heard of the Edinburgh Package!*
>
> *So there you have it!*
>
> *Incidentally, I'm still persevering with MDSX -- now in a Windows incarnation. Have a look: www.newmdsx.com*
>
> *Tell me more about yourself and your developments.*

John Hall to Tony Coxon and David Muxworthy, 16 August 2006

> *I've got quite a long way with a draft presentation for the November ASSESS meeting in York. One paragraph reads as follows:*
>
> *SPSS was originally written in Fortran for an IBM by three postgraduate students. It came from Chicago to Edinburgh in 1970 via Tony Coxon and was implemented at ERCC (one of the few places with an IBM) by David Muxworthy and Marjorie Barritt (thereby scotching university plans to commission a survey processing facility at great expense from scratch) and when first installed was reputedly called more times than the Fortran compiler. Conversions to ICL followed later, but those with CDC and DEC machines got SPSS sooner.*
>
> *Is this accurate and complete? Please amend to suit and return to me.*

David Muxworthy to John Hall 16 and 19 Aug 2006:

As I understand it SPSS first appeared in 1968. The first UK installation was indeed at Edinburgh RCC in 1970, brought in on Tony Coxon's recommendation. I'm not sure about plans for commissioning something from scratch. I'll poke about in my loft to see if I've anything to jog the memory.

Norman Nie and Dale Bent were political science postgrads at Stanford in the late 1960s and, fed up with the 'put a 1 in column 72' type command language of the programs at the time, they devised a language that a political scientist would want to write to specify an analysis. They scraped together some funds and hired Tex Hull to help with coding the program, which was in Fortran IV for the 360. I think Tex must have been finishing his first degree at Yale or maybe a Masters at Stanford, but I'm not sure what he did at Stanford. Norman and Tex both moved to Chicago, Norman to the National Opinion Research Center, Tex to the Computing Center. (Norman was originally from St Louis, Tex from Minnesota). Dale went back to Alberta and, apart from having his name on some of the manuals, dropped out of SPSS.

People got to hear about the program, which was superior in user interface to much that was available at the time, and requested copies. This led to Patrick Bova, a librarian at NORC, being hired 25% of his time to act as distribution agent and Karin Steinbrenner being hired as full time programmer. When I visited Chicago in the summer of 1972 this was the total staff. I thought I was going to a large software house. It was surprising to find it not much bigger than a one man and a dog in a bedroom outfit (at that time at least). Tex acted largely as advisor but was busy as associate director of the computing center.

As I remember it, Jean Jenkins was hired as programmer later in 1972 or in 1973. She was certainly around at the SCSS planning meetings in the summer of 1973. The program was so successful that NORC became wary of losing their non-profit status and strongly encouraged Norman to form a company and move out. This happened sometime between 1974 (when I worked with them at NORC) and 1977 (when they had moved to an office block in downtown Chicago).

In Edinburgh the program grew to be so popular there were demands to move it to the ICL system 4 and later the ICL 2980, the IBM having been removed by higher authority. This led to PLU organising conversions to some other platforms in UK universities, notably the ICL 1900. SPSS themselves arranged conversions to other series, notably the CDC 6600 at Northwestern University, just up the road from Chicago.

(JFH: …..thereby scotching university plans to commission a survey processing facility at great expense from scratch.)

You were quite right. Attached are the relevant minutes of the Edinburgh committee looking into this. These appear to be the only references to SPSS - much of the committee time was spent on building up maths and engineering software. The names won't mean anything to you but will revive memories (good or bad) for Tony.

                                      Minutes of meeting of the
                                      Program Library Sub-Committee
                                      held on Friday 16th January
                                      1970 at 3.30 pm in the
                                      William Robertson Building.

PRESENT
Professor D,J. Finney (in the Chair)
Professor P. Vandome
Mr D.N. Allum
Mr R.E. Day
Dr J. Fulton
Mr D. Kershaw

Dr A.P.M. Coxon   (for item 3 only)
Mr W. Lutz   (for item 3 only)
Dr B. Woolf   (for item 3 only)

Mr D.T. Muxworthy (secretary)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Dr F.R. Himsworth

[snip]

3. FORMATION OF SURVEY ANALYSIS WORKING PARTY
It was agreed that the brief of any survey analysis working party that was
formed would be to define the facilities which were needed here in
Edinburgh and would not include evaluation of existing packages or
specifying methods of implementation. The invited participants then joined
the meeting and each made a short statement of their interest in and
experience of survey analysis. Mr Lutz had used the MVC and DJR programs as
well, as his own software, now on the 360. He thought that a general
program should be easy to use and need not have particularly sophisticated
facilities. Dr Coxon had found the BMD approach useful and had also used
other large American packages. The SPSS program from Stanford, to which
facilities could easily be added (or deleted) represented almost exactly
what a social scientist needed. Messrs Coxon and Lutz both agreed with the
aims of the proposed working party and agreed to serve on it. Dr Woolf felt
that it was wrong to have a general program and that instead there should
be a set of library routines which a user could combine into a program. The
way to decide which routines were needed was to program about six surveys
and note the requirements.

These points were finally agreed,.

1. That Messrs Coxon and Lutz would each write a list of required
facilities, possibly in consultation with colleagues with or without
programming experience that they would meet in about, four weeks' time with
a view to combining these lists and they would report back to this
committee after two months.

That Dr Woolf would in the same period provide a number of basic routines
and would work in close consultation with an ERCC programmer to be
nominated by Mr Day.

[snip]

=== ====
NOTE: The DJR program was a locally written partial survey program in Atlas
Autocode which required the user to complete it, still using Atlas Autocode.
===

9

Minutes of meeting of the
Program Library SubCommittee
held on Friday, 24th April
1970 at 3.30 p,m. in the
William Robertson Building.

PRESENT
Professor D.J. Finney, (in the Chair)
Professor P. Vandome
Mr R. E. Day
Dr J. Fulton
Mr D. Kershaw

Dr A.P.M. Coxon (for item 3 only)
Mr C.L. Jones   (for item 3 only)

Mr D.T. Muxworthy (secretary)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Dr F.R. Himsworth

[snip]

3. REPORT FROM SURVEY ANALYSIS WORKING PARTY
APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Mr W. Lutz Dr B. Woolf
Dr Coxon reported that he had met Messrs. Jones and Lutz several times since the
working party was set up and that Mr Lutz's notes, circulated to Members of the
Committee, incorporated some suggestions from, the other two. There had been broad
agreement between them and they had differed only on details. Messrs Coxon and
Jones had tended to think in terms of SPSS possibly augmented and with a
preprocessor for binary-punched data as the best solution.

It was reported that the Centre had bought a copy of the SPSS program and were very
pleased with it. The manual however was unsuitable for general use.

The Committee noted Dr Woolf's proposed open meeting of survey analysis users and
decided that Dr Woolf should be requested to make documentation available before
the meeting. Dr.Woolf's Mark I survey program should be generally available in
October.

The Committee thanked the working party: they had contributed to a major advance in
survey program facilities at the Centre. It remained for the Centre to prepare a
simpler manual and to consider transferability to the System 4 and for all users to
obtain working experience of SPSS. Requests for extra facilities should be referred
to Mr Muxworthy.

[snip]
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Note: The SPSS manual referred to predated the McGraw-Hill version and was a thick
loose leaf set of duplicated typescript sheets.
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