





 Creation of Statistical Resources from Real Datasets

**Statistics Workshop
for HE Staff**
held on 8th September 2005
at Coventry University





FDTL 4 Project STARS
 (<http://stars.ac.uk>)
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Context

- Funded by the Teaching Quality Enhancement Fund (TQEF) within Phase 4 of the Fund for the Development of Teaching and Learning (FDTL)
- 38 projects funded within Phase 4, with approximately £250,000 allocated to each
- Most started in October 2002 and expected to run for 3 years
- Most due to finish in September 2005, although STARS will now run until January 2006






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Impetus

At five regional LTSN Mathematics, Statistics and OR (MSOR) workshops in 2000 the stated needs of lecturers included:

- Material to improve teaching and learning, especially to make it more dynamic
- Web-based tutorial-type material
- Good practice in the use of remote access-type student learning and teaching
- Examples of case studies or projects, including the corresponding data, and use with packages such as MINITAB and Excel in service courses

cont ...












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Impetus (cont)

Needs of lecturers (cont):





- Sources of associated data
- Connection and involvement with the many teachers of statistics who are attached to non-mathematics and statistics departments
- Reaching out and helping service teaching
- Need for good service course examples, especially datasets with teaching tips








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STARS Materials – What are they?

- Discipline-specific (Business, Health and Psychology) scenarios and worksheets (making use of Excel, MINITAB, SPSS and, to a lesser extent, SAS) which will be in both pdf format (protected) and Word format (modifiable by staff for local use). All files will be of two types:
 - with empty answer boxes to be filled in
 - with the boxes filled in
- Individualised datasets, assignments and suggested "solutions", in an attempt to address the problem of copying/plagiarism. Access to these will be restricted.











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Scenarios and Worksheets

There will be around 200 worksheets, based on 15 datasets, up to 4 statistics packages and whichever statistics topics are relevant from

• Charts	• Descriptive Statistics
• Tests of Means	• Non-parametric Tests
• Tests of Association	• Correlation and Regression
• Further Regression	• Time Series

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Access to Scenarios, Data and Worksheets

The STARS website is both undergoing refurbishment and moving to a different server (and university) but the flavour of what's around the corner can be seen [here](#).

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Individualised Datasets, Questions and Answers

We are working on two versions of data, assignment and solution generators :

- One is based on Excel and allows your own dataset to be used as well as ours. This generator is being illustrated (twice) this afternoon.
- The other is not tied to any statistics package but uses specific datasets.

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Evaluation and Piloting

We (continue to) aim to

- see what does and doesn't work
- measure the impact of our materials
 - on staff
 - on students
- respond to feedback
- attempt to ensure our materials are used widely

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Assistance Please

If you or a colleague can answer YES to any of the following questions, we'd really like to hear from you.

- Would I like to evaluate some of the STARS materials?
If so, an evaluation questionnaire is both included in the pack and available electronically.
- Bearing in mind the £50 thank-you, would I like to pilot one or two of the STARS worksheets with my students?
If so, feel free to discuss what's involved later today.

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Contacts

Expressions of interest and offers of assistance can be made to any member of the project team:

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Further Information

Further information, and access to materials, is available from the project website <http://stars.ac.uk>.