Title

Notes1#1

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NOTES1#1

World Cultures Editors

This file contains notes on the use of World Cultures.

Keywords: *World Cultures*

1. MISSING DATA CODES

All of the *World Cultures* codes use the period (.) as a missing data code. This is acceptable in the MAPTAB and SYSTAT packages (see below), following the convention of the SAS mainframe package. If you use a statistical package that does not allow this missing data code, you may want to change this character to another with a global command on your word processor. If you use WordStar, be careful to use non-document mode when editing datafiles or page-marker symbols will be inserted in your text. If you change the missing data symbol to zero you will lose information. The zero is used as a category in some codes with a zero-point scale.

2. PROGRAMS

Volume 1 Number 3 provides readers with MAPTAB, a rapid retrieval system for viewing, mapping, recoding and tabulating Standard Sample data, and preparing selective datafiles for entry into other statistical programs. It is sufficient for students and beginning users of *World Cultures*. This issue also reviews microcomputer statistical packages. The SYSTAT package has many advantages for advanced cross-cultural analysis. It accepts raw or selective datafiles provided by the *World Cultures* journal. Issue 1#3 also reviews other microcomputer statistical packages which you may find useful.

3. UPDATES

Codebooks and datasets are periodically corrected as errors are found in the database, and reformatted as improvements are made towards integrating the information in the database. Subscribers may return their diskettes once, free of charge, for an update of an entire (yearly) volume. Thereafter, the charge for updates is $20 per year.

4. SOCIETIES AND CODEBOOKS

Each datafile in this issue contains 186 cases of the Standard Cross-Cultural Sample, defined by Murdock and White (*Ethnology* vol. 8:329-369). Names of the cases are found in the issue 1#1 diskette file: STDSAMPL.SOC standard sample societies, listed in order

The standard sample codebooks in this issue are: STDS1-8 .COD   master codebook, variables 1-148

Frequency data are on the rightmost column of the codebooks.

Each raw dataset (beginning with STDS.) is in free format (readable as .DAT files in SYSTAT) with single column variables separated by blanks.

5. DATA

Each raw dataset on this diskette has one record or row per society, and column variables separated by blanks. They are readable in free format by SYSTAT as raw data with .DAT file extensions.

The MAPTAB program reads compressed-format files in which (1) 1-column variables are condensed to 1 column codes, (2) 2-column variables are condensed to 1 column codes only for purposes of mapping, (3) 3- or more column codes are reduced to their first two significant integers, and then to l column codes for purposes of mapping, (4) the files are not blank separated, and (5) the data are written in a single row for rapid direct-access retrieval.

Most variables on this diskette are single digit or 1-column variables. The following are two-column, where coding categories 10 and higher are reassigned capital letter codes in the MAPTAB rapid-access files:

STDS01.DAT Var. 19: A B C D E (10-14)
STDS03.DAT Var. 65: A B C D E for last five codes (10-14)
STDS03.DAT Var. 68: A B C for last three codes (10-12)
STDS04.DAT Var. 86: A B C for last three codes (10-12)

One file has three and four column as well as two-column variables:

STDS08.DAT Vars. 179, 184-188, 190, 191, 194-199: double; 181, 192, 193: 3 columns; 183, 189: 4 columns

Each of the datasets in this issue will now be listed for you, to show their structure. There are no society or variable identifiers at the beginning of these files, as they are intended to be read directly by MAPTAB, SYSTAT, and other programs. (You can learn to make an equivalent datafile from the MAPTAB program which does have society and variable identifiers at the end of the datafile.)