**Notes on Using PSPP**

Most of the instructional exercises were originally written for SPSS. However, some colleges, including many community colleges, do not have a site license for SPSS. The cost of SPSS is often prohibitive, so we rewrote some of the exercises to run in PSPP, which is free statistical software sponsored by the Free Software Foundation. For more information on PSPP, go to <http://www.gnu.org/software/pspp/>. Their website says that “GNU PSPP is a program for statistical analysis of sampled data. It is a Free replacement for the proprietary program SPSS, and appears very similar to it with a few exceptions.”

The easiest way to download PSPP is to go to <http://pspp.awardspace.info/> and look for the “Downloads” box. Then download the latest version (10.1 as of this writing) in either 32-bit or 64-bit format. If you’re not sure which version to download, go to the control panel and click on “System” and look for your system type. Then follow the instructions to download.

One nice feature of PSPP is that it will run your SPSS data (.sav and .por) files. You can also run SPSS syntax (.sps) files in PSPP. To open the data file in PSPP, click on “File” and then on “Open.” Navigate to where the data file is located on your computer. Then double click on the file name and it should open in PSPP.

Some PSPP commands do not have the full capabilities of their corresponding SPSS commands. For example, you can run a three-variable table in SPSS but not from the graphical interface in PSPP. You can use SELECT CASES in PSPP but it’s not as user friendly as SPSS. (See the document on “Differences between PSPP and SPSS.) However, you can paste the SPSS commands to select particular cases into a PSPP syntax file and then run the commands in PSPP.

PSPP will list the variables and you can select those variables you want to use. PSPP lists the variables using the variable labels. However, it’s much easier to find the variables if they are listed by variable names. You can change the way PSPP lists the variables by right clicking anywhere on the list of variables and selecting “Prefer variable labels” and that will list the variables by name. You can also click on "Sort by Name" and the variables will be arranged in alphabetical order.

You can build the commands you want to run by clicking on “Analyze” in the menu bar and then pointing at the type of analysis you want to carry out. For example, to run a frequency distribution point at “Descriptive Statistics” and then click on “Frequencies.” There are some commands that must be run from a syntax file.