

Books by Users

Ottawa Area SAS Users Group
Spring meeting June 9th, 2010.

The book reviewed:

Output Delivery System: the Basics and Beyond

by Lauren E. Haworth,
Cynthia L. Zender, Michele M. Burlew

Reviewer: Peter Timusk,

B.Math (Statistics), B.A. (Legal Studies), Graduate
Certificate (Systems Sciences)

Project Manager, Statistics Canada, Business Special
Surveys Technology Statistics Division, Table Production
Unit

This review

- Describes my experiences using the book after reading the first two sections and then using the book as a reference.

Purpose of the book

- This book explains the basics of ODS and then goes further to allow the reader to learn more about detailed control over the appearance of output.

The author's qualifications

- Two authors are previous SAS Press authors.
- The other author Cynthia L. Zender is a SAS employee and SAS instructor with over 25 years of experience with SAS.
- Lauren E. Haworth is also the author of a popular book on Proc Tabulate.

Strengths and Weaknesses of the book

- The book is easy to read with each left page containing a lesson and the right page showing the results.
- The book does not need to be read cover to cover and I use the later sections as reference.
- The beginning sections are fairly simply and straight forward.
- The book refers to colour output yet it is not in colour. This is confusing and show bad proof reading on the part of SAS press.

Recommended readers

- Beginners if motivated will pick up some very useful tools early on in their SAS careers without reading a lot.
- Experienced SAS programmers will be able to use SAS to produce higher quality output documents with more style control.

What I Learned

- Two chapters helped me at work recently
- Chapter 6 Exploring ODS Output: This allowed me to explore the ODS trace function which allows a piece by piece look at the output of different SAS Procedures.
- Chapter 7 Output Datasets: This allowed me to turn my knowledge of procedures like PROC FREQ into an ability to handle an output dataset from PROC FREQ.

An example:

Directing output to an Excel table.

```
libname in 'C:\Users\Peter\Documents\school\Global Knowledge loss';  
ods html file= 'C:\Users\Peter\Documents\school\Global Knowledge  
loss\tablepoppast.xls';  
proc tabulate data =in.Age_pyramid_final_recode;  
class Year ;  
where year < 2007 and country ne 'WORLD' and Age_band ne 'Total, all ages';  
var Both_Genders Male Female;  
table Year, ( Both_Genders Male Female)*f=comma20.0 ;  
run;  
ods html close;
```

The one new thing I Learned.

ODS Trace applied to our example.

```
ODS Trace on;  
ods html close;  
ods html file= 'C:\Users\Peter\Documents\school\Global Knowledge  
loss\tablepoppast.xls';  
proc tabulate data =in.Age_pyramid_final_recode;  
class Year ;  
where year < 2007 and country ne 'WORLD' and Age_band ne 'Total, all ages';  
var Both_Genders Male Female;  
table Year, ( Both_Genders Male Female)*f=comma20.0 ;  
run;  
ods html close;  
ODS Trace off;
```

Other books with similar content

- The first edition “Output Delivery System: The Basics by Lauren E. Haworth” covers the same material in less but sufficient depth.

Thank you

Future Book Reviews

- <http://support.sas.com/publishing/>
- Indicate that you are interested on the evaluation form.
- Contact Josée Blackburn at jblackburn@ohri.ca.