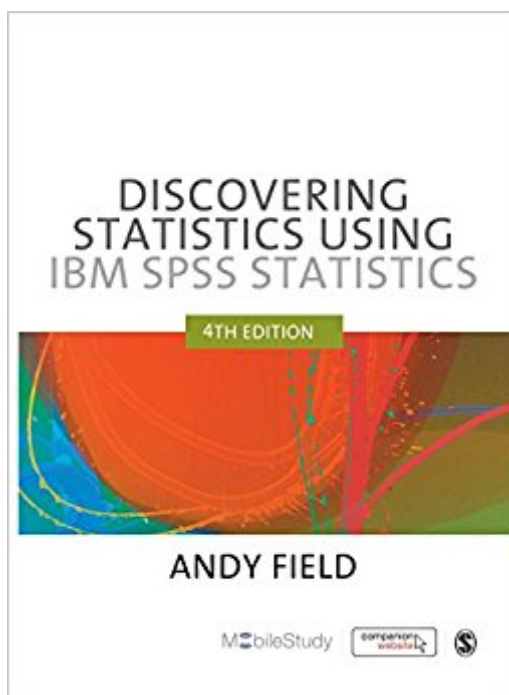


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# Discovering Statistics Using IBM SPSS Statistics, 4th Edition



## Synopsis

Unrivalled in the way it makes the teaching of statistics compelling and accessible to even the most anxious of students, the only statistics textbook you and your students will ever need just got better! Andy Field's comprehensive and bestselling *Discovering Statistics Using SPSS* 4th Edition takes students from introductory statistical concepts through very advanced concepts, incorporating SPSS throughout. The Fourth Edition focuses on providing essential content updates, better accessibility to key features, more instructor resources, and more content specific to select disciplines. It also incorporates powerful new digital developments on the textbook's companion website.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I think this is a really good starting point for teaching stats - from assuming students knows nothing about and taking them gradually to a more advanced understanding. The book is - very helpfully- full of interesting examples and engaging style of writing. I like it that the book has several 'levels of difficulty' and engages both with practical stats and theory. The book I believe is targeted at UG students mainly, but some chapters can be recommended to MA students on research methods courses provided that they know nothing about statistics - the book is written in a very accessible manner which means that it can satisfy the need of international students in terms of level of difficulty and language (and business programmes normally have a lot of international students at MA level). The explanations are logically organized and explained in a lucid and clear manner. Little

features like 'faces' I believe would make the book more attractive to UG students. I think self-test questions and the tasks at the end of chapter are very helpful, as well as the real world data and (often humorous) examples. My course is MA so I am not adopting this book for a course as a main text, but I may recommend it to students who are completely unfamiliar with statistics. --Maria Karepova

Andy Field has done it again. The fourth edition of Discovering Statistics will transform students who approach statistics with fear and loathing into adroit statistics users who understand key statistical concepts. Field's book is a practical 'how to' guide for conducting and understanding basic and advanced statistical analyses using IBM SPSS Statistics. The book is geared toward behavioural and social sciences researchers at all levels - from undergraduates taking their very first statistics course, to postgraduates. --JoNell Strough "Psychology Learning and Teaching "

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This is the first book review I have ever given, largely because I don't usually have the time to write a thoughtful review that I think would benefit readers. This book, however, warranted taking the time to try. I practice applied statistics and teach introductory and advanced statistics classes at a university, and I can say hands down this is the best text I have ever used for introductory to intermediate topics. It is the book I would have loved to write if I were smarter and wanted no life for several years -- I thank Andy Field for doing that for us instead. This single work could replace a dozen other quality statistics books I have because of its comprehensiveness. It is almost an anthology of statistics, but you should not let the size of the book scare you off; it is easy to read and even enjoyable. Examples have been carefully compiled and will certainly keep your interest. Even students who say they have found some examples to be a bit crass have also remarked that they don't forget the examples because they are certainly novel. I have to strongly disagree with the few reviews stating the book is a how-to for SPSS. This is absolutely not a point and click guide. I am a firm believer that students need to know the fundamental mathematics behind statistical tests, or serious mistakes will occur, including violations of assumptions and use of the wrong tests entirely. I have seen it as a journal reviewer, and as an instructor. Field covers basic to advanced analyses with great foundational detail, but he does it in a way that does not leave readers feeling overwhelmed by the math (though it is all there). He occasionally leaves the complicated math to his additional web material, but you will find 99% of what you and/or your students need to know in the text. Even though I have been in the field for many years, I keep his book on my desk to double check procedures. I firmly believe that students and/or faculty could use this book as their single reference to walk them through their own dissertation and peer-reviewed journal quality research on almost all of the topics covered. The only statistic where that is not true in my opinion is the chapter on multilevel models. However, as people in the field know, that topic is incredibly complicated and esoteric. You will not be an expert in multilevel models from that chapter, but you will have an excellent foundation for understanding them, and even the best complete texts on the topic do not do as good of a job as this book at introducing the concepts. Whether you're scared of statistics or use them nearly every day, get this book. It is a remarkable resource!

I'm impressed that the author has dedicated so much of his professional career to writing this book and updates it every four (I think he said four) years. We are told not to worry if the publication date of the book is a few years behind or ahead of the version of SPSS that you are using as each year the updates are not that significant. When SPSS first came out, it was its own company and I only recently learned that it was bought out by IBM. It was so cost prohibitive to buy, the only way I could

have access to it was at school or work. There was a student version but it limited you to the number of cases you could enter into the software. Now it is so cheap to buy, I don't know why anyone would want to do statistics on Excell. SPSS is a really easy software program to use if you understand statistics. (I had to learn it in the old days when there was no Windows interface and had to learn coding to do my data runs!). Back in the day before IBM bought it, the software came with a ton of manuals. There was a whole cottage industry of people who would offer seminars that would cost up to \$1,000.00 to teach you how to use the software that came with manuals and disks with practice exercises. I'm pretty sure this book probably put that whole industry out of business. I could only afford to take those classes if my company paid for it and I almost always had to fly to some other location to get the classes I needed that covered stuff I didn't learn in college. So compared to ten years ago, being able to have access to a book like this is unbelievably awesome! It saves you time and money and its very well written and you have to be able to trust the fact that its published by SAGE which publishes a large series of handbooks on a large number of statistical methods which were considered the gold standard but written in a very technical language. The biggest problem I have with the book is that its just too wordy. There is a lot of story telling in this book which is very time consuming to get through. Eventually you just learn how to skim over the long winded stories and start highlighting the areas where the author gets to the main point. Also, I know he is trying to be funny and appeal to college kids but I really don't think mentioning a study on the use of coke as a spermicide was something that added any value to the book. So if you are a student just learning how to use SPSS, consider yourself lucky to own this but if you are a busy working professional, this might not be your best option. There are online videos now at a website called Lynda that can walk you through the software and get you up to speed very quickly but you won't get the rich details found in the book.

I am NOT a math person by any means. I despise it most of the time (to the point of tears). However, this book has given me a connection and a new appreciation for math (in statistics form, anyway). The book is easily navigated and exceptionally written. It teaches you how to use SPSS in a fun, exciting, and witty way. I highly recommend this book to anyone who may need it to learn how to use SPSS. I had to have it for my grad school class, and I honestly fell in love with this book a bit. It's wonderful. Again, coming from a nonmath person. It made me laugh while teaching me what I needed to know. Please buy this over other books.

Who thought statistics could be funny? This is a VERY thorough book -about 1000 pages of closely

spaced very small text. But there are lots of examples, comic type characters sprinkled throughout and funny stories about the author. I started reading this weekend and only made it through about a chapter, so my review might change later on, There are also lots of resources on the companion website.

I decided to purchase this text after tutoring students from two different universities who were using this text. This is geared toward researchers who need to learn to use statistical software, but who probably don't have the math background of someone entering a graduate statistics program. I found this to be more comprehensive than the texts used in my own program. The only reason I give it four stars instead of five is the frequent use of examples involving sexually related material. I've tutored students from religious universities. If I were teaching in such a place, this text would probably not be appropriate for the setting. That would be unfortunate given how clearly the material is explained and the usefulness of the text for applied researchers.

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