

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS ON
1970 AERA PRESESSION
APPLIED LINEAR REGRESSION ANALYSIS
IN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH

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Planning

It is suggested that both the announcement of the Presessions and the application forms be published in the first AERA Researcher to be distributed after 1 September. The application forms should be submitted by 1 December so that the applicants could know at an early time whether or not they have been accepted. Budget planning is important to many people. An early application and acceptance would allow Presession directors to consider advanced mailing of study materials so that more efficient use could be made of the time at the AERA Presession.

A total of 50 applications were received. All applicants were accepted. Of the 50 applicants who were accepted 4 of them notified the director that they would not be able to attend. The remaining 46 attended the Presession.

The Leamington Hotel was most cooperative in providing good lighting and other arrangements for the meeting rooms. The arrangements for the 46 participants were just right; however, if sixty participants would have attended, the room would have been crowded.

The Presession

The main feature of the 1970 Presession was the complete elimination of computer runs during the five-day session. All computer outputs were

copies for distribution to the participants. The emphasis was on the formulation of models with the elimination of the many details involved in manipulating card decks and worrying about meeting computer deadlines. Much more time was available for the participants to engage in learning activities related to the main emphasis of the course. Most of the participants will be able to obtain the computer program and put it into operation after they return to their own organization. Evening sessions were conducted for those people who were computer specialists and who wanted to get the immediate details for implementing the computer program. The elimination of actual computer runs was the result of our previous experiences and the suggestions of previous participants.

The elimination of computer details provided more time for learning activities by the participants. Additional learning exercises were provided to give the participants practice in applying the concepts.

Comments on Evaluation

The Presession can be called "successful" as a result of analysis of the comments supplied at the end of the five days. Most of the comments were quite favorable and the participants seemed to indicate that the availability of copies of the transparencies and the computer print-out were very helpful. The transparencies were distributed to all participants as a result of suggestions from the previous presession.

Our effort to send the major publication in advance to the Presession participants was well-received and we will continue to send advance materials in future years.

Many of the participants attended the meeting of the AERA Multiple Regression Special Interest Group. This group was larger than previous

years and its growth has been largely due to the efforts of Dr. John Williams of the University of North Dakota. Dr. Williams has distributed a newsletter to increase communications among the members of the Special Interest Group.

Future Possibilities

There seems to be continued interest in having a second type of instructional program--one for those people who have finished their first pre-session. There are many participants and alumni of previous pre-sessions who have indicated an interest in a follow-up course. In order to satisfy this need, Dr. John Schmid of Colorado State College at Greeley, Colorado, has submitted proposals to USOE Division of Research Training. It is hoped that at some future time it will be possible to have an instructional program for persons who are already familiar with the fundamentals. This will provide practice in the formulating models appropriate to practical questions.