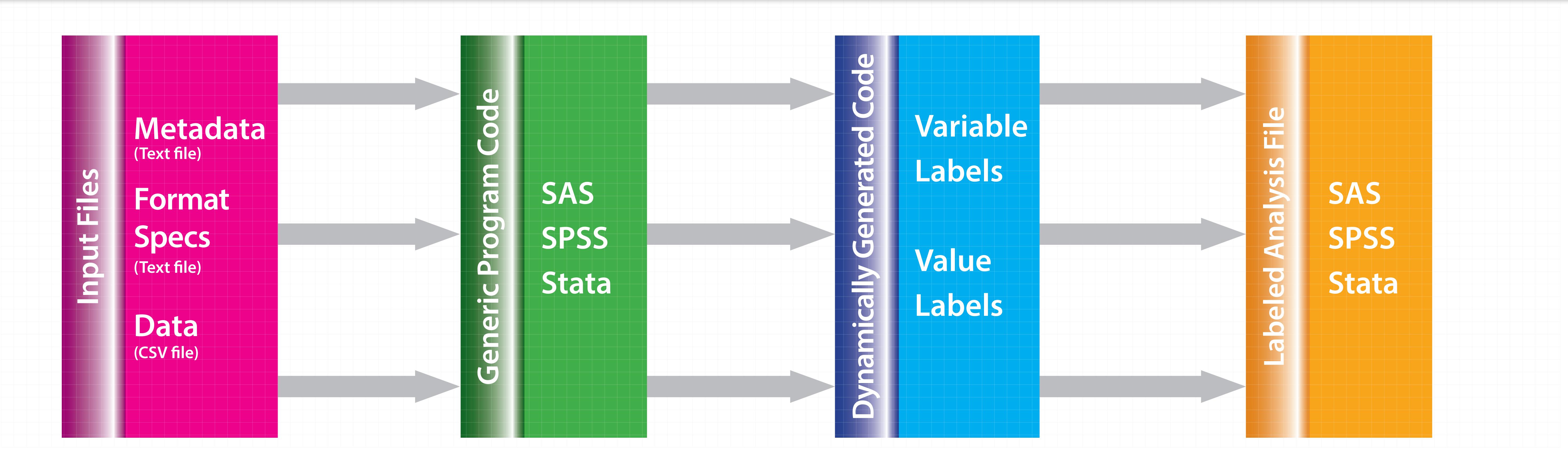
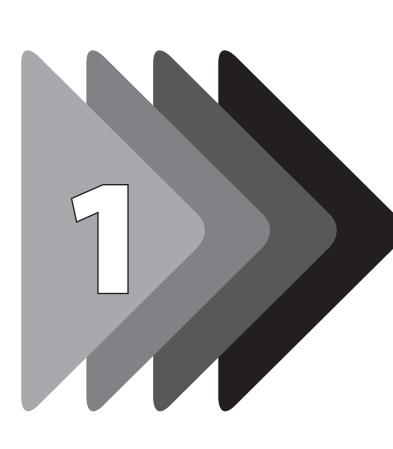
Automated Process for Fully-labeled Statistical Data Files Presentation by Terence Lew, RTI International

SAS, SPSS and Stata system files can be created automatically by associating metadata and a CSV file. The metadata text files contain variable and value labels, and the CSV file contains the data. Generic SAS, SPSS and Stata programs use these input files to produce fully labeled system files. The user can easily create files for analysis by modifying the SAS, SPSS and Stata program files with the name of the CSV file and the folder in which this and the text files reside, and the system files will be written to the same folder. This process was created as part of an NCES study for the NCES Longitudinal Studies Branch within the Sample Surveys Division.



Process Steps



Users licensed to use National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) restricted use files are provided with data as comma-separated values (CSV), and a metadata file and format file in text format. Shown below is an example of the metadata and format file. The user also receives generic statistical programing code (SAS, SPSS and Stata) to read the metadata and data file to produce a fully-labeled statistical data file for analysis.

metadata

0|N|id|Analysis ID|0

O|N|pellseqno|A number uniquely identifying a specific grant|O

0|N|pdate1|Enrollment Date|0

0|S|plbr1|Reporting Campus School Branch Code|0

0|S|plbr2|Attending Campus School Branch Code|0

0|S|plschl1|Reporting Campus School Code|0
0|S|plschl2|Attending Campus School Code|0

0|N|disdt|Date Award was Disbursed|0

0|N|plamtp1|Amount Paid to Date|0

0|N|plamtsch|Scheduled Federal Pell Grant Amount|0

O|N|plyear|School year for which a Pell Grant is to be used|O

0|S|pgm|Grant Category Type|0
2|S0|pgm|Federal Pell Grant|PE

2|S|pgm|Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant|SE

2|S|pgm|Suppremental Educational Opportunity Grant| 2|S|nam|State Student Incentive Grant|SS

2|S|pgm|State Student Incentive Grant|SS 2|S|pgm|Academic Competitiveness Grant|AG

2|S|pgm|National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent

Grant|SG

2|S|pgm|Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education

2|S1|pgm|Iraq/Afghanistan Service Grant|IA

ID|F6|12

PELLSEQNO | F2 | 12

PDATE1|F8|12

PLBR1 | A2 | 12

PLBR2 | A2 | 12

PLSCHL1|A6|12

PLSCHL2 A6 12

PLAMTP1|F4|12

PLYEAR | F4 | 12

PLAMTSCH|F4|12

DISDT|F8|12

The statistical program (SAS code is shown below) is designed to minimize the amount of editing needed to run. The user only needs to specify the name of the data and the folder location. The program parses the metadata and format file, and dynamically writes code to apply variable and value labels to the data. Shown below is an excerpt of the SAS program that reads the metadata file, and the code that is generated as a result.

proc datasets library=work nolist

label id = "Analysis ID";

label pdate1 = "Enrollment Date";

label pellseqno = "A number uniquely identifying a specific gran

label plyear = "School year for which a Pell Grant is to be used

label plbr1 = "Reporting Campus School Branch Code";

label plbr2 = "Attending Campus School Branch Code";

label plamtsch = "Scheduled Federal Pell Grant Amount";

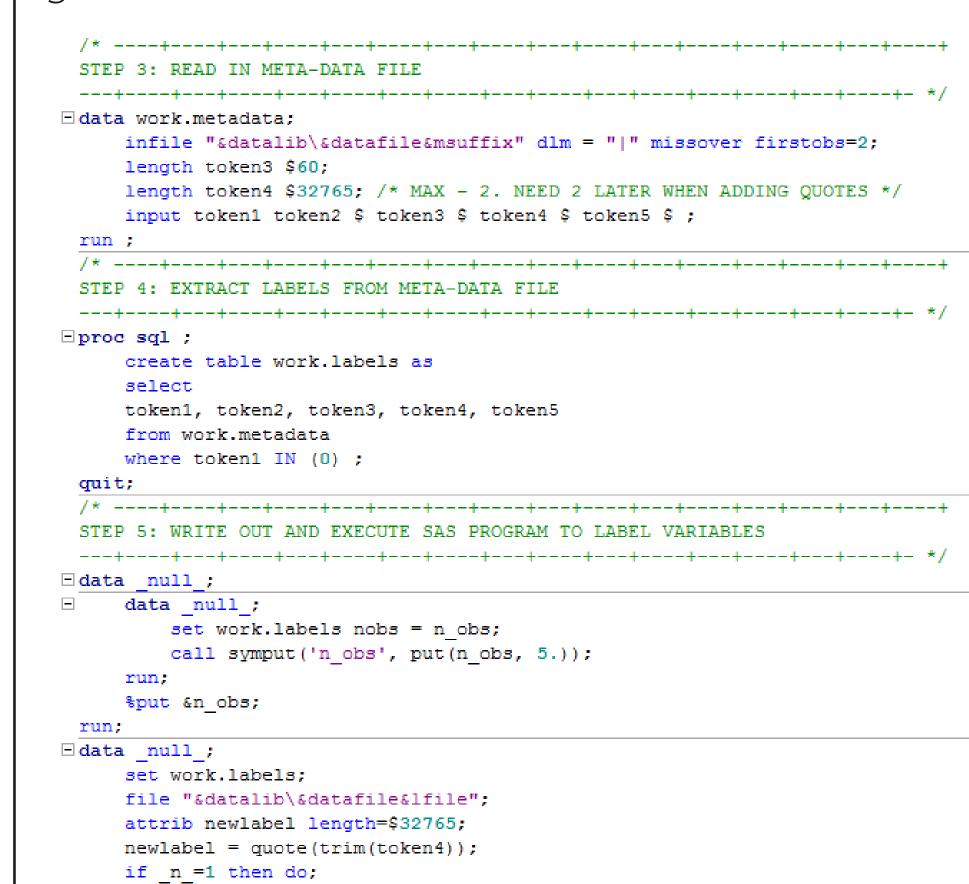
label plschl1 = "Reporting Campus School Code";

label plschl2 = "Attending Campus School Code";

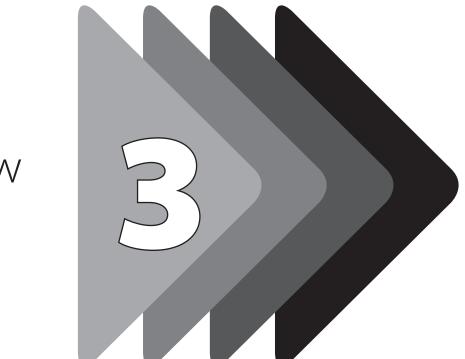
label disdt = "Date Award was Disbursed";

label plamtp1 = "Amount Paid to Date";

label pgm = "Grant Category Type";



put "proc datasets library=work nolist;" /



The program then runs the dynamically written code to create the data file including variable and value labels. Below are results of a SAS Proc Contents statement at the end of the SAS program showing the variable labels.

Alphabetic List of Variables and Attributes				
#	Variable	Туре	Len	Label
8	DISDT	Num	8	Date Award was Disbursed
1	ID	Num	8	Analysis ID
3	PDATE1	Num	8	Enrollment Date
2	PELLSEQNO	Num	8	A number uniquely identifying a specific grant
12	PGM	Char	2	Grant Category Type
9	PLAMTP1	Num	8	Amount Paid to Date
10	PLAMTSCH	Num	8	Scheduled Federal Pell Grant Amount
4	PLBR1	Char	2	Reporting Campus School Branch Code
5	PLBR2	Char	2	Attending Campus School Branch Code
6	PLSCHL1	Char	6	Reporting Campus School Code
7	PLSCHL2	Char	6	Attending Campus School Code
11	PLYEAR	Num	8	School year for which a Pell Grant is to be used

