



## SPSS2SAS

by Katrien Declercq

### Academic

Have you ever wanted to use SPSS data with SAS? Well, here is how you can make it work. The first but very important prerequisite is that the SPSS data are saved in portable format. Each portable file will contain only one dataset. Next there are two options: you can use the SPSS engine on a libname statement or you can use PROC CONVERT to create a SAS dataset from the SPSS data.

```
LIBNAME mylib spss 'C:\temp\myspss.por' ;
```

In this form of the LIBNAME statement, mylib is a SAS libref, and 'C:\temp\myspss.por' is the SPSS physical filename. If the libref appears also as a fileref, you can omit the filename because the physical filename associated with the fileref is used.

Because SPSS/PC files do not have internal names (and because the library contains only one element) you can refer to them by any member name you like. (The example in this discussion uses `_FIRST_`.)

```
PROC PRINT DATA=mylib._first_;  
RUN;
```

The second option mentioned consists of using PROC CONVERT to create a SAS dataset from the SPSS data. This can be done as follows.

```
FILENAME spssfile 'C:\temp\myspss.por' ;  
  
PROC CONVERT SPSS=spssfile OUT=spss2sas;  
RUN;
```

The CONVERT procedure converts a (BMDP, OSIRIS or) SPSS data file to a SAS data set. It produces one output data set, but no printed output. SPSS variable names and variable labels become variable names and labels without change. SPSS alphabetic variables become SAS character variables. SPSS blank values are converted to SAS missing values. SPSS print formats become SAS formats, and the SPSS default precision of no decimal places becomes part of the variables' formats. SPSS value labels are not copied. DOCUMENT data are copied so that PROC CONTENTS can display them.