Extending accessibility of open-source statistical software to the masses: A shiny case study

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Abstract

Open-source statistical software (e.g. R packages) can at times, be difficult for many social science researchers to use. Limitations may include interacting with the command line, difficult to install dependencies, or simply complicated syntax. Good statistical software should be accessible to a wide audience and could include extensive examples, vignettes, white papers, tutorials, or simply well written documentation. A new interactive option is available for software written in R called Shiny. Shiny applications are deployed on a server (can also be run locally) and accessed via a browser where users can interact with the R package without knowing the R language. Two case studies will be shown, one that simulates and conducts power analysis for linear mixed models and another that can perform automated keyword searches within pdf files.

If you have questions about this seminar, contact Professor Mark Davison, mld@umn.edu.

To be notified about future seminars, contact sawye100@umn.edu.

The CanAm Online Symposium is a series of presentations on advanced measurement and research methods in education. It is sponsored by the Centre for Research in Applied Measurement and Evaluation, Department of Educational Psychology, University of Alberta; the Quantitative Foundations of Education Program, Department of Educational Psychology, University of Iowa; the Quantitative Methods in Education Track, Department of Educational Psychology, University of Minnesota; the Measurement, Statistics, and Evaluation Program, Department of Human Development and Quantitative Methods, University of Maryland; and the Quantitative, Qualitative, and Psychometric Methods Program, Department of Educational Psychology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In 2016-17, the Symposium will include four online seminars.