

Overview

Data

A remarkable event happened 5 or 10 or so years ago. You and I can now have some of the world's finest numerical data, bearing on the critical issues of our time, right on our desktops. We can have data of greater scope and better accuracy than presidents of countries had 20 years ago. Data that previously were only available to a select few are now available to us all, data on the environment, economics, demographics and health. Data are supplied on *Think For Yourself* in specially designed HyperCard® stacks called DataStacks™. DataStacks allow you to select out just the data of interest and then to analyze this selected data with your analysis program of choice. The DataStacks Users Manual is in the folder of that same name.

Data Analysis

PEMD Discovery data analysis program enables you to utilize this wealth of data without sophisticated mathematical training. All you need to know is how to interpret a line graph and use a Macintosh® computer. You will be able to investigate, explore, examine, and analyze data on global warming, atmospheric ozone depletion, economic trends, the spread of AIDS, population growth rate, and many, many, many more topics. You will be able to think for yourself about the critical issues of our time with some of the very same data used by scientists, economists, business people, and government planners throughout the world. Your insights, your discoveries and your conclusions will be based on some of the best and most accepted empirical evidence available.

Educational Materials

There are two types of educational materials: Learning Modules and Advanced Learning Modules.

The Learning Modules are 20 minute HyperCard® based tutorials on atmospheric ozone depletion, global warming, carbon dioxide emissions, petroleum usage, and AIDS. They introduce you to the factual basis of these topics using the finest data and the PEMD Discovery data analysis program.

The Advanced Learning Modules are text-based rigorous examinations of the factual basis of ozone depletion, global warming, and carbon dioxide emissions. They require 2-3 hours to complete and are analogous to chemistry workbooks. The advanced modules operate by asking a series of questions which you answer using the data and PEMD Discovery data analysis program. They take you step-by-step through the empirical basis of a phenomenon. During this journey you will gain an invaluable intimacy with the data and a genuine competency with the software.

Thinking For Yourself

Thinking for yourself is a delight and a joy, and a source of freedom and balance in a complex world. And yet, there is a price to pay; there is a rite of passage. You will have to tolerate uncertainty, as you examine, for example, conflicting sets of data. You will need the stamina not to close a question without sufficient evidence or thought. You will have to face a barrage of self-generated questions which far exceeds the current store of answers. Thinking for yourself requires an openness to other points of view, rather than a dogmatic assertion of one perspective. In other words, you will be engaged in the joy and challenge of inquiry. You will see that science is no black and white affair producing a tidy body of incontrovertible knowledge, but rather, a fully creative human activity requiring rigor, labor, and courage.

Begin by first doing the two PEMD Discovery Quick Starts and then do the DataStack Quick Start.