

Decision Support News

Spring Quarter 2007

Items in this Newsletter:

- DSS Mission Statement
- Statistics book now online
- Upgrades to database and server coming soon
- Institutional Research tools spotlight
- New staff member in DSS
- New website coming soon
- NRC update and Stanford accreditation

BUSINESS OBJECTS TRAINING CLASSES COMING UP

Kathy and Anita will be teaching "Intro to Business Objects" on:

April 26, 2007
8:30 - 12:30

May 15, 2007
8:30 - 12:30

Both classes are located in Redwood Hall in the POST training room.

The classes are currently full, but users can be added to a waiting list.

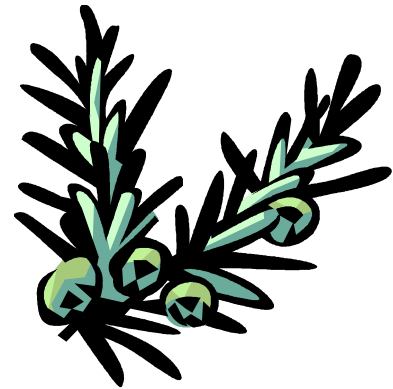
Contact DSS to request a small custom group class.

DSS Adopts New Mission Statement and Name

In response to developing technology and organizational change, DSS has adopted a new mission statement, and has changed its name. While we will still be known as DSS, the acronym now stands for Decision Support *Services* (previously, the last S was for Systems). This reflects our growing emphasis on providing analytical services, facilitating access to data, and serving management by supplying reports and analysis to aid decision making. Our full mission statement appears on page 3 of this newsletter.

We recognize that there has been confusion between DSS and ReportMart3, as some of the functions and features of the two reporting portals overlap. However, DSS is much more than a reporting portal. As many of you know, we also provide the expertise and data knowledge to create new ad hoc analyses and combine data in new ways across administrative systems.

Our emphasis has always been on serving a smaller group of people who need management information, not day-to-day



Juniper, where we do our work.

reporting. Now that RM3 has completed its conversion to the EDW and daily updates of the reporting tables, DSS plans to get back to emphasizing management reporting by having only monthly updates of data (like the old SUFIN days), and spend more time working on cross-functional data and improved tools for accessing data.

Please read our new mission statement, and contact Rana Glasgal if you have comments or questions.

Statistics Book Now Online

There is now a ReportMart1 version of the Stats book. The report is called "Stanford University Statistics" (DSS_STATS001) and is in the DSS folder of the ReportMart1 portal. The report includes all of the tables that are in the Stats book hardcopy. Unlike the hardcopy, which is limited to the ten most recent years of data, the report includes all of the years for which data are available.

The EIS page of the report is used to specify the range of years you want to see, as well as which tables. You can get output that looks just like the Stats Book pages, or get output that is better suited for exporting into Excel.

The current version of the hardcopy Stats book is "Stanford University Statistics for

(Continued on page 4)

DSS Works to Upgrade Servers and Tools

Anita and Kathy are working hard on several upcoming upgrades.

First, we are transitioning from our old Sybase database to our new Oracle database. This is in response to the data warehouse, now called the EDW (Enterprise Data Warehouse), existing in an Oracle environment, as do most of our current administrative systems. We are migrating all of the old “legacy” data, as well as our current feeds from Oracle Financials, SPIDERS, and PeopleSoft.

Second, we are upgrading our Web Intelligence servers. This should help us take on more users and improve response time.

Third, we are upgrading to Business Objects version 6.5. This will bring us up to date with the current ReportMart3 version.

Fourth, we recently completed an upgrade of the Master Data Management (Razza) tool. While this is primarily a back-office tool that users don’t see, it will enable us to operate more efficiently and introduce new hierarchies or changes to hierarchies more easily.

Fifth, we are rewriting our Oracle Financials universes to use the EDW Copy instead of the old UDW Star. Just as some reports in RM3 are being retired, so will our old universes. However, the new universes will be the same as the old ones and you will not notice a difference, except that now the data will be refreshed *monthly* instead of weekly.

Most of these upgrades will be transparent and require no action on the part of users. If we require action on your part, we will let you know.

Institutional Research Tools Spotlight

Don’t forget that DSS publishes several reports in ReportMart 1. These *cross-functional* reports are keyed off the student or the faculty member, thereby showing data that might fall outside your school if you searched only by PTA or by your school’s org code. Also, most of these reports span legacy data (NSI) and current data (PeopleSoft).

1. Grad Student Aid: DSS_XF001—provides student aid for all students in a department regardless of the aid source
2. Grad Student Advising: DSS_XF002—shows all advising by faculty in a school, including the type of advising,

even if the student is outside your school

3. Sponsored Project Awards: DSS_XF003—shows all awards for the faculty in your school
4. Sponsored Project Proposals: DSS_XF004—shows all sponsored proposals for the faculty in your school
5. Research Expenditures: DSS_XF005—shows all research expenditures for the faculty in your school even if the expenditure is outside your school

If you have any questions, contact Rana at rana@stanford.edu or 5-1327.

DSS Welcomes New Analyst

DSS is pleased to announce that Lisa Kramer has joined the team as a Survey Research Analyst.

Lisa will be working with survey data, to help decision makers glean information from the various surveys conducted on campus each year. She will also serve a vital role in improving the quality of our



Lisa will be working with survey data.

surveys, and coordinating surveys across campus to avoid over-surveying. She will also collect comparative peer data for benchmarking purposes.

Lisa has an M.S. in Psychology and a Ph.D. in Sociology. Prior to joining Stanford, she performed policy analysis for the Department of Defense as a Project Manager. She looks forward to meeting more of her new Stanford colleagues.

Decision Support Services Mission Statement

Mission and Scope of Decision Support Services

DSS (Decision Support Systems) was formed in the early 1990's to collect, consolidate, integrate, and analyze data from Stanford's diverse administrative systems and to provide ad hoc and cross-functional reporting tools to users. In addition, DSS has provided training and consulting services in the use of its tools and in the general understanding of the data. As Stanford's environment, organization, and use of technology changes, it is important to clarify DSS's mission going forward.

DSS's mission is to provide a context for institutional decision making at Stanford by:

- Providing analytical support and facilitating access to data
- Conducting policy analysis and social science research
- Publishing reports that provide insight into the performance of the institution

DSS accesses, utilizes, analyzes, and reports on data from all of the major administrative systems at Stanford, including student, faculty, course, research, and financial data. DSS specializes in creating useful collections of data, performing and facilitating complex analyses, working with central Stanford offices (particularly those in the Provost's realm), collaborating with other universities to provide comparative data, and the proactive publication of widely-needed management reports.

DSS's skills and expertise include:

- Knowledge of the University's organization and business processes
- Extensive experience with the myriad sources of University data and how to consolidate and present this data in reports and other vehicles most useful to decision makers
- Technical expertise in data gathering and reporting tools
- Analytical capabilities in statistics, survey research, and data mining
- University-wide perspective on current issues within the context of higher education
- Familiarity with and access to peer data via participation in data sharing consortia

DSS is the combination of two mutually supportive functions: Institutional Research and what has historically been called Decision Support Systems. To reflect the focus on analytical and reporting services for managers and support for the Provost's central offices (UBO, R&DE, Procurement), going forward the DSS group will be named Decision Support Services. This change in name illustrates the group's growing emphasis on providing customized analytical services to clients and our decreasing emphasis on traditional data warehousing and operational reporting, which are the province of Data Management and Reporting in Administrative Systems. DSS will concentrate on creating data collections and universes to aid management in answering complex questions, and on providing analytical support for both one-time and ongoing decision making. Examples of this include point-in-time reporting for continually changing data, teaching load analysis and reporting, trustee data summaries, customizable natural account hierarchies, and departmental profiles that include all types of administrative data along with appropriate management ratios.

"DSS's mission is to provide a context for institutional decision making at Stanford."

DECISION SUPPORT SERVICES

Decision Support Services
215D Panama Street
Juniper Modular, MC 4132
Stanford, CA 94305

*Decision Support Services:*

Rana Glasgal: 5-1327, rana@stanford.edu
Associate Vice-Provost for Institutional Research
and Decision Support

Anita Craig: 5-4648 anita.craig@stanford.edu
Decision Support Analyst

Melissa (Missy) Wolff Damon: 3-8445
mjwolff@stanford.edu
Institutional Research Analyst

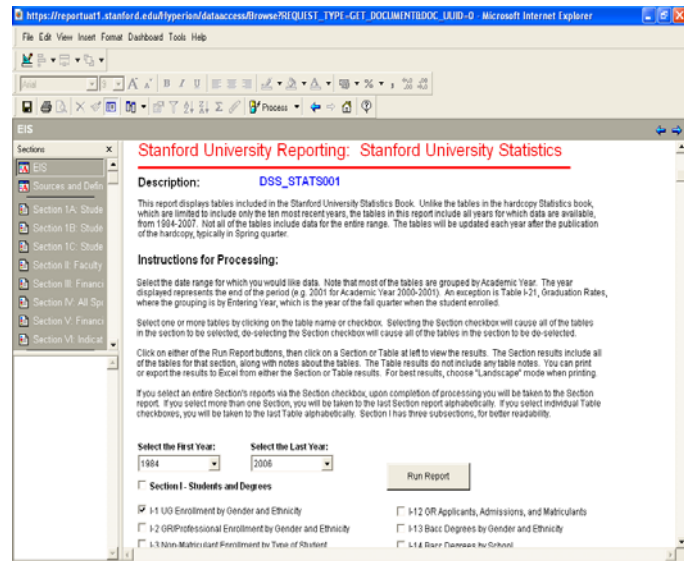
Lisa Kramer: 6-8192 kramerla@stanford.edu
Survey Research Analyst

Kathy Mahler: 5-7548 kmahler@stanford.edu
Decision Support Analyst

(Continued from page 1)

Statistics Book Now Online

2005-06". The new version for 2006-07 should be available by the end of April, 2007. The ReportMart1 report will be updated to include the new data and new table additions once the Stats book has been published. For questions and details, contact Missy Wolff Damon at mjwolff@stanford, or 3-8445.



Here's what the EIS page for DSS_STATS001 looks like in ReportMart1.

New, Improved Website Coming Soon (well, eventually)

DSS has begun work on its new website. The new website will have the look and feel of other Stanford websites and provide more information to users.

Some things will look familiar: user guides to choosing a universe, training materials, downloads, and stats book tables from the most recent version of the hardcopy book.

But we plan to add more! The website will be where you go to see what cross-functional reports are published in ReportMart1 and how to use them, how to contact the new Survey Coordinating Committee, what survey reports are available, as well as descriptions of other Institutional Research products and reports.

We will keep you posted on the evolution of the website and let you know when new content becomes available.

NRC Survey Update, and Accreditation

Perhaps you participated in the massive data-gathering effort that was the NRC assessment of research doctoral programs, or perhaps you just heard about it from an exasperated colleague. But either way you'll be glad to know that the NRC Survey has wrapped up almost all of its tasks. What remains now is that randomly-selected faculty will be asked to rate other schools' programs, and doctoral students in seven departments will receive a student questionnaire.

In the summer of 2008, the NRC will publish its findings. Hopefully, we will find that all of Stanford's wonderful doctoral programs will come out on the top of their fields, but more realistically, we can't expect to be #1 in everything! As more information becomes available regarding the NRC's number crunching and rankings exercise, I will let our NRC School Coordinators know. If you don't know who your School Coordinator is, please ask.

Now that the NRC effort is wrapping up, the next big effort is Accreditation. We are just in the beginning stages of the process, but stay tuned...this will require a lot of work, cooperation, and cultural change.