

UCI ADRC - Instructions for reading ADRC SAS files with embedded formats

All UCI ADRC research files stored in SAS format are created with embedded formats to help researchers easily identify data file contents and variable labels. In order to gain access to the formats perform the following steps:

1. Download the relevant format file, eg. formats.sas7bcat, and place it into a directory on your harddrive, eg. C:/ADRC/SAS/Formats.
2. In SAS, at the beginning of your program assign a libname to the directory where you placed the formats as follows:

```
libname fmtsdir "C:/ADRC/SAS/Formats";
```

3. Immediately after the above libname statement type the following:

```
options fmtsearch = (fmtsdir);
```

The above options statement specifies the search path where SAS can locate the format catalog formats.sas7bcat.

4. At this point you should see all defined formats when viewing or tabulating data contained in the ADRC research files.

If you wish to access an ADRC research file without using the predefined formats you (perhaps because you do not have them available) you can specify that SAS omit format errors with the following options command type at the beginning of your program:

```
options nofmterr;
```