

excluding problems and requiring little reader activity, and in keeping the book so short as to preclude more than superficial analyses of complex techniques? By skimming over fundamentals, they do not prepare historians very well to go on to read the more advanced presentations of statistical methods in the literature. By keeping their introduction so simple, they do not equip the historian to use and understand multiple correlation and regression analysis to analyze election returns, or multidimensional scaling or factor analysis to study legislatures, to cite only examples from political history. Therefore, they force the unprepared student to wade into much more technical literature if he is to apply their gospel (quantify, if possible). The very simplicity which will no doubt make the *Guide* appealing to many readers thus diminishes its usefulness for those historians who need to master even moderately sophisticated methods.

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Historian's Guide to Statistics: Quantitative Analysis and Historical Research,

Charles M. Dollar and Richard J. Jensen. New York: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, Inc., 1971. ix+332 pp. \$7.50.

During the nineteen-sixties, more and more historians recognized the need to employ at least simple statistical techniques in their work. Naturally, in a discipline which straddles the humanities and the social sciences and prides itself on its writing style, lack of jargon, and attention to the subtle complexities of human life, there was opposition to the new wave. One prominent historian, for example, warned his colleagues "never to worship at the shrine of that Bitch-goddess, QUANTIFICATION."

Now Dollar and Jensen have published the first handbook specifically for historians desiring a peek into the mysteries of statistics. Statisticians will probably be displeased with the lack of sophistication of this "practical guide to the use of quantitative methods and computers in historical research," as the authors refer to the book. It requires of its readers no mathematics, teaches them no probability and scarcely any other theory, neither proves nor presents the fundamental theorems of statistics. It contains no problems and requires very little active participation on the part of the reader. For these reasons, the book will no doubt offer slight competition in the "beginning social science statistics textbook" market.

Nonetheless, the book fills a real need for historians who want to manipulate data in a fairly simple manner, or who are wondering what the coefficients in their colleagues' articles really signify. A more sophisticated and mathematical treatment, the authors implicitly assume, might scare off or needlessly confuse prospective quantitative historians.

The *Guide* presents a brief survey of the use of quantitative methods in historical scholarship and a terse discussion of statistics and research design, moves quickly into simple graphic presentation and measures of central tendency and dispersion, and then plunges into measures of association. There, the ecological fallacy, statistical significance, correlation and regression analysis, and methods of calculating numerous coefficients for summarizing contingency tables are crammed into fifty pages. Scaling and clustering techniques, measures of inequality, and time series analysis rate thirty pages. An introduction to the computer, leading examples of quantitative research of interest to historians, and a sixty-page bibliography with comments on some of the entries comprise the rest of the book's 297 pages of text.

On the whole, this is a useful, commonsensical introduction for the historian who does not need to master or fully understand the mechanics and statistical theory needed for complex data analysis. Since historians can learn a good deal by simply counting, rearranging, and comparing data, the *Guide* will no doubt be useful to a large group. But need the authors have been so timid in introducing statistical theory and mathematical proofs, in