

American

GOVERNMENT

FOURTH EDITION

An
Introduction
Using
ExplorIt™



American

G O V E R N M E N T

F O U R T H E D I T I O N

An
Introduction
Using
ExplorIt[™]



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PREFACE

The purpose of *American Government: An Introduction Using ExplorIt* is to let you discover many basic aspects of the American government and political system for yourself. There is nothing make-believe or “only educational” about this package. You will have access to the highest-quality data files available to professional researchers. The “facts” you discover are not someone’s opinion—they accurately describe the real world.

You will browse the best and latest information available on questions such as:

- ◆ Who participates in politics? Who votes? Who gives money to candidates? Who wears political buttons, and what sorts of people express their political views on automobile bumpers?
- ◆ Do Americans really support civil rights and civil liberties compared with people in other nations? Who (and how many) wouldn’t vote for a woman running for president?
- ◆ How do parties function? How do Americans become party members? How are third parties handicapped in the United States in comparison with most other nations?
- ◆ How does federalism work, and why do people in some regions think it isn’t fair?
- ◆ What kinds of people are elected to Congress? Where do they get their money? How well do they reflect the racial, religious, and ethnic make-up of the nation?
- ◆ What are minority presidents and how do they get elected? Why have so many presidents come from Ohio?

Discovering answers to these questions won’t hurt a bit, even if you have never used a computer before in your life. The software is so easy to use that you will pick up everything you need to know in a few minutes.

What’s New in the Fourth Edition

As always the data sets are extensive, current, and from the best sources available. The members of the 105th Congress, elected in November 1996, are included in a data file. So are the electoral and popular votes for the 1996 presidential election.

Added to this edition is a very revealing data file based on 41 major nations, allowing for cross-national comparisons of such things as political participation or support for civil rights.

Also added was a data set including all 41 presidents and consisting of biographical data and aspects of their administrations.

In addition the software is entirely new, far easier to use, and more powerful. One very important enhancement is the *Historical Trends* task, which allows students to graph one or several variables across time and to impose other pertinent events and eras upon the graphic display. For example, a curve showing public confidence in Congress can be examined across presidential administrations or the business cycle. The *Auto-Analyzer* task is another powerful tool that has been added to the program. *Auto-Analyzer* allows quick, easy analysis of survey data, providing full-text summaries of each result. Exploratory analysis has never been this much fun.

GETTING STARTED

INTRODUCTION

Political science is an empirical science. The goal of this workbook is to help you learn how to use data to explore the world of political science and how to investigate new ideas and conduct research to test these ideas.

Each exercise in this workbook has two sections. The first section discusses a particular area of American government and demonstrates how data are used to support, augment, and test the ideas proposed. It is possible to read this section without using your computer. However, all of the graphics in the text can be created on your computer by following the ExplorIt Guide, which is described below. Ask your instructor whether you should follow along the first section of each exercise with a computer.

The worksheet section allows you to follow up on these ideas by doing your own research. You will use the student version of ExplorIt to complete these worksheets.

When you finish this workbook, you'll know what political scientists actually do!

USING EXPLORIT

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

IBM or compatible computer with 286 or better processor, 640K RAM, MS-DOS 3.1 or higher (or Windows), VGA-level graphics, and a mouse.

STARTING EXPLORIT

Place the diskette in the A drive. Then follow the appropriate instructions to start MicroCase ExplorIt.

MS-DOS:

Type A:EXPLORIT and press Enter.

Windows 95:

Click on [Start].

Click on Run.

Type A: EXPLORIT and click [OK].

Windows 3.1:

From the Program Manager click on File.

Click on Run.

Type A:EXPLORIT and click [OK].

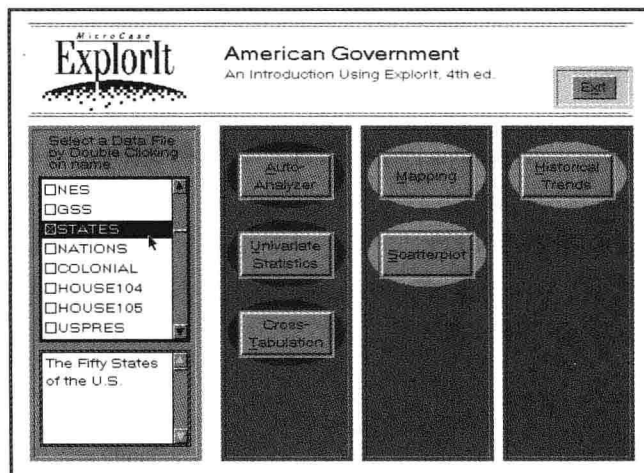
LICENSING

The first time you start ExplorIt, you will be asked to enter your name. It is important to type your name correctly, since it will appear on all printed output. Type your name and click [OK] or press Enter. If it is correct, simply click [OK] or press Enter in response to the next prompt. (If you wish to correct a mistake, click on [Cancel] to make a correction.)

Press the left mouse button or any key to continue to the main menu of the program. If you are using Windows 3.0 or 3.1 and the mouse arrow fails to appear or does not work properly, refer to Appendix B: ExplorIt Instructions.

MAIN MENU

ExplorIt is extremely easy to use. All you need to do is “point and click” your way through the program. If you find yourself somewhere you don’t want to be, first clear any pop-up window that may be showing on the screen by clicking on [OK]. Then click [Exit] until you return to the main menu, as shown below. To exit the program entirely, click the [Exit] button from the main menu.



EXPLORIT GUIDE

Throughout this workbook, an ExplorIt Guide will provide you with the information you need to execute the required task. Here is an example of an ExplorIt Guide:

- **Data File:** STATES
 - **Task:** Mapping
- **Primary Variable:** 7) RURAL USA
 - **View:** Map

Each line of this guide is actually an instruction:

Step 1: Select a Data File

Before you can select a task from the menu, you need to open a data file. The eight available data files are listed in the window at the left of the screen, and the description of the highlighted file is shown in the window beneath this list.

In this example, you should open the STATES data file. To select the STATES data file, place the mouse pointer over the name of this file and click your left mouse button once to highlight the name, and click it a second time to select the file. The mark in the box to the left of the name indicates that STATES is the open data file.

You won't need to repeat this step until you want to use a different data file.

Step 2: Select a Task

Once you have selected a data file, the next step is to select a program task from the main menu. There are five main program tasks: Auto-Analyzer, Univariate Statistics, Cross-Tabulation, Mapping, and Scatterplot. (Historical Trends is a special task described below.) Not all tasks are available with each data file. The available tasks for a selected data file are circled in yellow. In the ExplorIt Guide shown above, the second line indicates that the Mapping task should be selected. To select this task, place the mouse pointer over the large Mapping button and click your left mouse button.

Step 3: Select a Variable

After a task is selected, you are shown a list of the available variables for the open data file. Notice that the first variable is highlighted and a description of that variable is shown in the window at the lower right. You can move this highlight through the list of variables by using the up and down cursor keys (as well as the PgUp, PgDn, Home, and End keys), or by clicking once on a variable with the mouse.

Each task will require you to select one or more variables, and the ExplorIt Guide indicates which variables should be selected. This example indicates that you should select 7) RURAL USA as the primary variable. On the screen, there is a bold, black outline around the box labeled Primary Variable. This outline indicates the box is currently an active option. When you select a variable, it will be placed in this box. Before selecting a variable, be sure that this outline is around the appropriate box. This is important because in some tasks, the ExplorIt Guide will indicate that more than one variable must be selected.

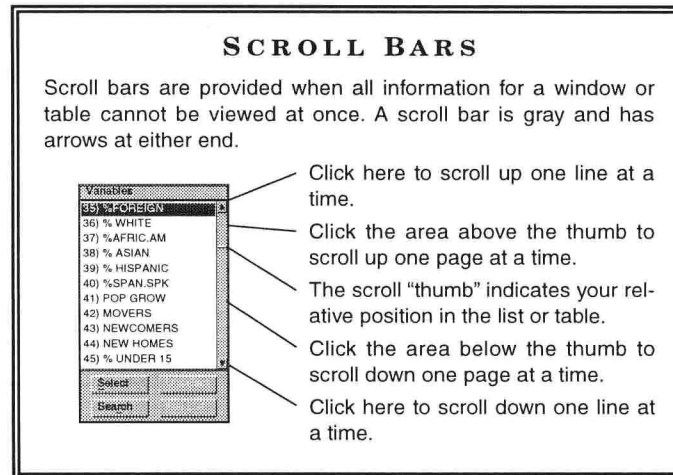
To select a variable, use one of the following methods:

Type in the **number** of the variable and press Enter. (If the name of a previously selected variable is in the box, use the delete or backspace key to remove it.)

Type in the **name** of the variable and press Enter. Actually you need to type only enough of the name to distinguish it from other variables in the data set—RUR would be sufficient for this example. (If the name of a previously selected variable is in the box, use the delete or backspace key to remove it.)

Click on the desired variable in the variable list window (which will highlight the variable), then click [Select]. Or you can simply double-click a variable—click the variable twice—to select it. (If the name of a previously selected variable is in the box, the newly selected variable will just replace it.)

Regardless of the method you use to select a variable, if the variable you want to select is not showing in the variable window, use the scroll bars located on the right side of the variable list window to move through the list. See the figure below.



Variable Search Feature

Sometimes you will be instructed to select a variable of your choice. In this situation, you may find it useful to search the variable list for certain words, phrases, or partial words that might appear in the description of the variable or the variable name itself. Perhaps, for example, you want to find a variable about income. Click the [Search] button. (If the [Search] button is grayed, click anywhere on the variable list box to activate the variable selection task.) Type in the word *income* and press Enter (or click [OK]). The variable list window now contains only those variables which have the word *income* in either the variable name or the variable description. You can then select a variable directly from this list in the same way as described above. To return to the full list of variables, click on [Full List].

Once you have selected the appropriate variables for the task you are using—in this example, 7) RURAL USA—click [OK].

Step 4: Select a View

The next screen that appears shows the final results of your analysis. In most cases, the screen that first appears matches the “view” indicated in the ExplorIt Guide. In this example, you are instructed to look at the Map view—that’s what is currently showing on the screen. In a few instances, however, you may need to make an additional selection to produce the desired screen.

(OPTIONAL) Step 5: Select a Subview

Some ExplorIt Guides will indicate that a “subview” should be selected. In this case, simply click on the button labeled with the name of the subview. For example, if you are using the Scatterplot task, and the ExplorIt Guide indicates that the subview is Reg. Line, click on the option with this label.

Continuing to the Next ExplorIt Guide

There will be many instances in which certain instructions from the ExplorIt Guide will be the same for at least two examples in a row. For instance, after you mapped the variable 7) RURAL USA in the example shown above, the following ExplorIt Guide might be listed:

Data File: **STATES**
Task: **Mapping**
➤ *Primary Variable:* **28) %FED LAND**
 ➤ *View:* **Map**

Notice that the first two lines in the ExplorIt Guide do not have the ➤ symbol located in front of the items. That's because you already have the data file STATES open and you have already selected the Mapping task.

As indicated, all you need to do now is select a new primary variable and view the new map. To do this, exit the 7) RURAL USA map by clicking [Exit] once, replace the primary variable with 28) %FED LAND, and click [OK] to view the new map. Again, you have to do only those items in the ExplorIt Guide that have the ➤ symbol in front of them. If you return to the main menu and start from the top of the list, you're simply wasting your time.

If the ExplorIt Guide instructs you to select an entirely new task or data file, you will need to return to the main menu. To do so, click [Exit] until the main menu appears. At this point, select the new data file and/or task that is indicated. To exit the program entirely, click [Exit] from the main menu.

SPECIAL TASK: HISTORICAL TRENDS

On the main menu, you'll see a special task named Historical Trends. This task is different from the others in that it doesn't require you to open a particular data file. In fact, you can access this task regardless of what data file you have open. Once you have selected the Historical Trends task, you are prompted to select a trend to be plotted. You select trends for this task in the same way that you select variables for other tasks.

Once the trend graph appears, an “events” list appears below the graph—the highlighted event is marked with a dotted vertical line on the trend graph. To look at other events, you may click on the year of interest on the “ruler” below the graph, or you may scroll the list of events using the scroll bar at the right of the window.

The list of events can be searched in the same way you search a list of variables. Simply click the [Search] option, then type in a word or phrase and click [OK]. For example, if you want to look only at presidential elections, search for events containing Pres.Elect. A list of events containing this word or phrase will appear—only this subset of events can now be accessed. To return to the entire list of events, click on [Full List].

ADDITIONAL SOFTWARE INSTRUCTIONS

If you are working through an exercise and are unsure how to accomplish one of the software tasks being requested of you, refer back to this *Getting Started* section. If that doesn't do the trick, go to Appendix B and review the instructions for the task you are using.

The following topics are covered in the appendix sections:

- Standard Operations (Exit, Print, Variables)
- Selecting a Subset
- Auto-Analyzer
- Univariate Statistics
- Cross-Tabulation
- Mapping
- Scatterplot
- Historical Trends

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Part I

FOUNDATIONS

Exercise 1 **“One Nation”: The History and Politics of Region**

Exercise 2 **Federalism: “A More Perfect Union”**

Exercise 3 **“Of the People”: An Interested and Informed Public**

America has always been a large and very diverse place—even before it became a nation.

In 1776, at the start of the American Revolution, the 13 colonies covered four times the area of France and seventeen times the area of England—of all European nations at that time, only Russia had a greater land area. And, although the total population of the 13 colonies was a bit less than 4 million, that was not a small population for the time. The population of England then was only slightly more than 7 million and was concentrated in an area about the size of Pennsylvania, while the American colonists were spread across an extremely diverse range of climates and terrains. Moreover, the American people themselves differed greatly from one place to another, from mountaineers and merchants to sailors and slaves.

Thus, from the very start, the physical and human features of the United States have posed political challenges. How can such a large and diverse society be governed fairly, effectively, and democratically? More than two centuries of efforts to solve these fundamental questions provide the foundations of the American government.

In the first three exercises you will explore aspects of these foundations.

