

Interpreting Educational Research Using Statistical Software

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The VET sector naturally produces a gold mine of data waiting to be retrieved, assimilated and interpreted into meaningful information. Senior staff need this information to make informed decisions to improve student outcomes and optimise scarce resources. There are a number of software products on the market that will assist VET staff and researchers in their quest for answers to complex questions. Providing the right question is asked (and even if it is not the right question to ask), the use of these software products can save hours of drudgery and the user does not have to be a statistician to find the answers.

This presentation will give a live demonstration on how a typical set of educational data can be examined using quantitative statistical software. A research question will be investigated by examining the data, and establishing if a relationship exists between two or more variables, such as hours of tutorial support and resulting grades.