

## Adding Files with SPSS<sup>1</sup>

There are times when you may have different cases with the same variables in different files, and you need to consolidate these into one file. The command to use in SPSS is "Add Files". Following two examples. The first shows a case for which there are no problems. The second shows a common problem and how to fix it.

Please note, SPSS has a limit in adding files of about 50. If you need to put more files together than that, you may add them in batches of less than 50, save each batch, and then add the saved batches together.

```
** Add_Files - a simple case .
** Input data from class taught by Mr. Smith .
DATA LIST FREE RECORDS = 1 /
  NAME (A10) grade * .
begin data .
Sandy      4
Debbie     3
Susan     2.3
end data.
save outfile = 'c:\trash\smith.sav' .

** Input data from class taught by Mr. Jones .
DATA LIST FREE RECORDS = 1 /
  NAME (A10) grade * .
begin data .
Fred       3.5
Cheri      3.7
Connie     1.8
end data.
save outfile = 'c:\trash\jones.sav' .

*** The code " / in = smith / " and
      " / in = jones / "
* is not required, but it creates variables for you which will allow you to .
* tell which file each case came from .
add files
  file = 'c:\trash\smith.sav' / in = smith /
  file = 'c:\trash\jones.sav' / in = jones .

list var = all .
```

NAME	grade	smith	jones
Sandy	4.00	1	0
Debbie	3.00	1	0
Susan	2.30	1	0
Fred	3.50	0	1
Cheri	3.70	0	1
Connie	1.80	0	1

Number of cases read: 6      Number of cases listed: 6

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<sup>1</sup>Prepared by Patty Glynn, University of Washington. 8/9/05 C:\all\help\helpnew\add\_files\_spss.wpd

```

** Add_Files with a problem.
** Input data from class taught by Mr. Smith .
** Note that I allowing 6 characters for the name field .
DATA LIST FREE RECORDS = 1 /
  NAME (A6) grade * .
begin data .
Sandy      4
Debbie     3
Susan     2.3
end data.
save outfile = 'c:\trash\smith.sav' .

** Input data from class taught by Mr. Jones .
** Note that I allowing 8 characters for the name field .
DATA LIST FREE RECORDS = 1 /
  NAME (A8) grade * .
begin data .
Fred       3.5
Cheri      3.7
Jennifer 1.8
end data.
save outfile = 'c:\trash\jones.sav' .

add files
  file = 'c:\trash\smith.sav' /
  file = 'c:\trash\jones.sav' .

```

#### Variable(s) with conflicting type:

	-----Input1-----		-----Input2-----	
Result	Type	Variable name	Type	Variable name
NAME	s6	NAME	s8	NAME

Codes: num = numeric; sn = string of length n

```

>Error # 5127
>Mismatched variable types on the input files.
>This command not executed.

```

This problem occurred because SPSS will not add files that have variables with the same name if they are not identical in type (including length for string variables). In this case, since I am inputting the variable in the file, I could simply change (A6) for Smith's class to (A8). But often files that have already been created need to be added. Following is one way to solve the problem.

```

** Add_Files with a problem and solution .

** Input data from class taught by Mr. Smith .
** Note that I allowing 6 characters for the name field .
DATA LIST FREE RECORDS = 1 /
  NAME (A6) grade * .
begin data .
Sandy      4
Debbie     3
Susan     2.3
end data.
save outfile = 'c:\trash\smith1.sav' / rename name = namex .
* I must change the size of the variable in order to add cases .
get file = 'c:\trash\smith1.sav' .
string name (a8) .
compute name = namex .
save outfile = 'c:\trash\smith2.sav' .

< Code for reading jones file skipped >

```

```
add files
  file = 'c:\trash\smith2.sav' /
  file = 'c:\trash\jones.sav' .
execute .
```

```
list var = all .
```

namex	grade	name
Sandy	4.00	Sandy
Debbie	3.00	Debbie
Susan	2.30	Susan
	3.50	Fred
	3.70	Cheri
	1.80	Jennifer

Number of cases read: 6      Number of cases listed: 6

Now we will look at the “Map” option. It asks SPSS to provide information about which file each variable came from. It shows that both of the variables “name” and “grade” are input from both files, but the variable “namex” is input from only file 1 (smith2). We could eliminate that problem by dropping “namex” when we save smith2.

```
add files
  file = 'c:\trash\smith2.sav' / in = smith /
  file = 'c:\trash\jones.sav' / in = jones / map .
```

Map of the result file

Result	Input1	Input2
-----	-----	-----
namex	namex	
grade	grade	grade
name	name	NAME
list var = all .		

namex	grade	name	smith	jones
Sandy	4.00	Sandy	1	0
Debbie	3.00	Debbie	1	0
Susan	2.30	Susan	1	0
	3.50	Fred	0	1
	3.70	Cheri	0	1
	1.80	Jennifer	0	1

Number of cases read: 6      Number of cases listed: 6