

Book review

Willis Jackie, Data Analysis and Presentation Skills: An Introduction for the Life and Medical Sciences, John Wiley & Sons, Ltd., Hoboken, NJ, 2004, 195 pp., US \$ 35.00, (paperback), ISBN 0-470-85273-9.

While the second part of the title of this book might raise questions as to why it has been reviewed in the *Journal of Hazardous Materials*, this review focuses on the first part of the title to answer: data analysis is a key component of environmental analysis and reporting.

The book's author states in the preface: "The approach taken in this book is to show how statistics may be applied and, by using the easily accessible functions in Excel, perform statistical analyses and explain the results that have been obtained".

The book has the following chapters:

1. Working in the Windows environment.
2. Researching and planning scientific investigations.
3. Presenting scientific data.
4. Preliminary data analysis.
5. Statistical analysis.
6. Presentation skills.

The writing is straightforward and the explanations provided by the author clearly illustrate with liberal inclusion of examples and computer printouts the material discussed. Exercise assignments for the student are found throughout the book in "boxed" sections. Additionally, Willis has provided a website that contains complete support for the material contained in the book. "Here the reader will be able to look at worked examples of problems, view PowerPoint presentations and find lists of useful links to other sites. The website will be regularly updated so there should always be something new to find to reinforce material in the book".

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