

## What is a SAS library---and how do I use it?

Libraries seem to cause the most confusion for the SAS novice. First, remember that there are two kinds of datasets: (1) the kind you want to keep forever and (2) the kind you don't mind ditching. The first kind is kept in a permanent SAS library that you store on your hard drive, floppy, jump drive, etc. The second kind are kept in temporary SAS library called "work" that is stored in the deep insides of your hard drive-the data in this type of library goes away when you close out SAS or turn off you computer.

Here is the code to create a permanent library called "AAA" on your harddrive.

```
libname AAA 'C:\';
```

Perhaps you have a folder that you want to store only your work related to a particular class:

```
libname AAA 'C:\Homework\StatClass\';
```

The path needs to be clear: don't point SAS to a location that doesn't exist. In other words, if you say that you want your library to be located in a folder on the hard drive called 'StatClass' then it better be there.

Here is how it looks in an input statement:

```
data AAA.one;  
infile 'C:\raw data\da4534.dat';  
input <your variables>; run;
```

This will result in a permanent dataset being stored in your AAA library. If you don't want to keep this dataset, then you would write the following:

```
data one;  
infile 'C:\raw data\da4534.dat';  
input <your variables>; run;
```

This will result in a temporary dataset that is stored in a library called 'work'. It will not be there when you shut off your machine.