

Model Documentation Types by RAND Corp.

RAND Corporation uses a standard of three types of documentation, which accommodate different levels of users:

(1) **Executive summary**

Describes the computer program in non technical terms. It is a concise description to help policymakers and planners understand how the model can be used for policy analysis.

(2) **Users' manual**

Gives complete instructions for collecting data and operating the program. It also presents the mathematical details underlying the model's calculations.

(3) **Program description**

A manual primarily for computer programmers. It includes file specifications, installation instructions, etc.

RAND's series of reports on the Patrol Car Allocation Model illustrates these three types of documentation:

- Executive Summary, Chaiken and Walker 1985 (21 pages):
<http://www.rand.org/pubs/reports/R3087z1.html>
- Users' Manual, Chaiken and Walker 1985 (133 pages):
<http://www.rand.org/pubs/reports/R3087z2.html>
- Program Description, Chaiken, Walker and Dormont 1985 (233 pages):
<http://www.rand.org/pubs/reports/R3087z3.html>

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