

The *describe* Function

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1 Introduction

The `describe` function serves two purposes:

1. to give correct citation information for the Zelig model
2. to declare the type of data-sets that can be processed by the Zelig model

The developer can accomplish these two things simply by writing the `describe` function for their model.

2 Form of a describe Function

The `describe` function should - in almost all cases - simply return a list or character-vector specifying the author, year or publication, and description of the developed model. That is,

3 Example of a describe Function

```
describe.logit <- function(zelig.obj)
  list(
    author   = c("Kosuke Imai", "Gary King"),
    year     = 2008,
    describe = "Logistic Regression for Dichotomous Dependent Variables"
  )
```

4 Resulting Citation from the Above Example

How to cite this model in Zelig:

```
Kosuke Imai, Gary King, and Olivia Lau. 2008.
"logit: Logistic Regression for Dichotomous Dependent Variables"
in Kosuke Imai, Gary King, and Olivia Lau,
"Zelig: Everyone's Statistical Software,"
http://gking.harvard.edu/zelig
```

5 Explanation of the Above Example

The above example is an actual copy of the `describe` function for the “logit” model in Zelig’s core package. It specifies the author, the year of publication, and the description text in a clear and concise manner. All Zelig models can have citation information generated for the exact same fashion that the logit model does.