MHG*ARCLIB Help   Table of Contents

Archive Library Database

Filename	Where Located	Date	Size	Time	
JORDAN.ZIP	C:\WORDPRO\WORK	1990-05-09	15680	9:45p	
MHG00010.ZIP	E:\MHGARLIB	1993-05-28	712926	6:28a	
PAK.ZIP	C:\UTILITY\ZIP\PAK	1992-07-09	94635	6:19a	

Library Order | FileName/Date | **Volumes: 2 Files: 98**

1 →

The library database entries (1) can be accessed with these controls.
Use Extract/View (2) to look inside the hi-lited library entry.

ZIP Processes
Using PKZIP.EXE

2 → **Extract / View**

Access ANY File

Use Library Re-Order (3) to change the sequence of the library entries.

3 → **Library Re-Order**

4

You can move up and down the list with the arrow keys Pg-Up and Pg-Dn as well as the 4 'paging buttons shown (4)
Search for a library entry with (5)
Delete the hi-lited entry with (6)

Library Processes
ADD new entries
5 → **FIND an entry**
6 → **DELETE an entry**

First Record
Last Record
Page Up
Page Down

MHG*ARCLIB Help - How To...

One of things that I find is missing from most shareware help is a series of topics on how to do things.   What follows is a list of the How To's for MHG*ARCLIB .
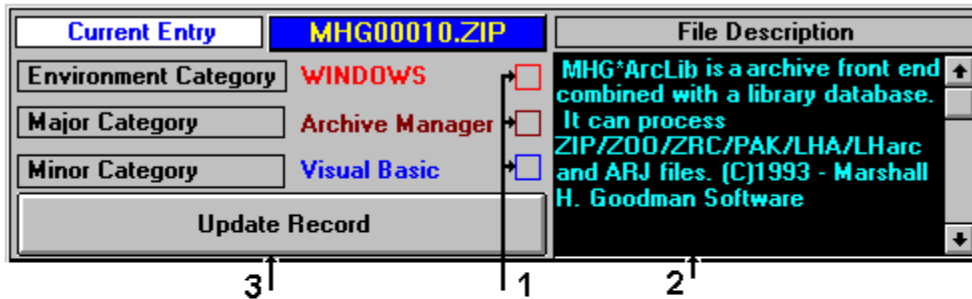
How to: 						(OR How to start these processes)

Update a library entry's information
Change your archiver utility
Change MHG*ARCLIB's configuration
Create a new archive
Extract or view the contents of an archive
Add entries to the library
Register MHG*ARCLIB
Change the library sort order or index
Search for entries in the library
Process an archive on any drive

How to update an entry's details

   With this panel, you can change the file description for a library entry
as well as assign 'categories' to it.   You should assign category information
to make it easier to group similar types of entries together.

Current Entry	MHG00010.ZIP	File Description
Environment Category	WINDOWS ☐	MHG*ArcLib is a archive front end
Major Category	Archive Manager ☐	combined with a library database. It can process
Minor Category	Visual Basic ☐	ZIP/ZOO/ZRC/PAK/LHA/LHarc and ARJ files. (C)1993 - Marshall
Update Record		H. Goodman Software

3   1   2

1) Click on the check box to change the 'environment', 'major' or 'minor'
     category and a pull-down list of available choices will appear
2) Move the mouse pointer into the 'file description' area and you can
     change the descriptive entry for the library entry
3) After you have made your changes, press the 'update record' button
     to make the changes permanent

Additional Help:
     Main Screen

How to change the default archive utility

   With this panel, you can change the archive utility that MHG*ARCLIB will use for extracting, viewing or creating an archive.If you are running a shareware version of MHG*ARCLIB, you will only be able assign PKZip (versions 1.10 and 2.04).   Registration enables the use of other archiver programs.
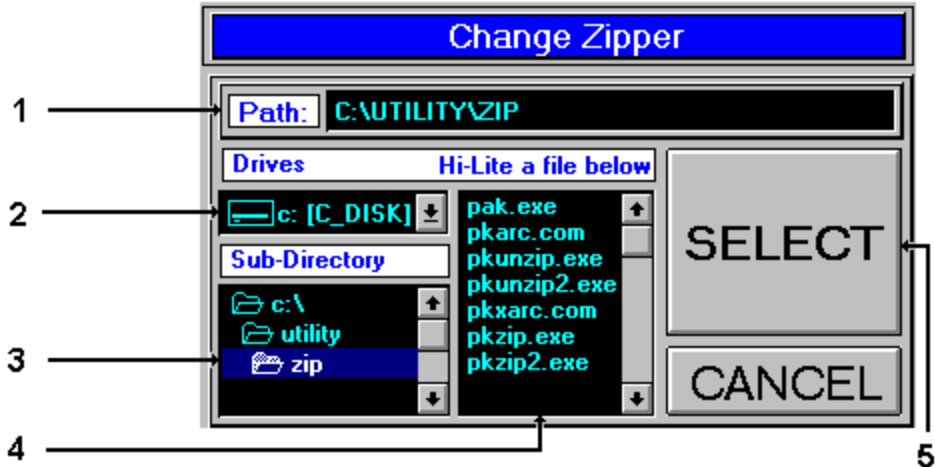
1) You can enter the drive and sub-directory path followed by the archiver
or
2) Click on the drive where the archive utility program is stored
3) Change the sub-directory path to the one where the archiver is
4) Hi-lite the archiver program
5) Click on the 'Select' button to change the archiver

Additional Help:

How to create a new archive
How to extract or view the contents of an archive
How to change MHG*ARCLIB's configuration

How to change the default sub-directory paths

   With this panel, you can change the default paths that MHG*ARCLIB will use for locating working directories, as well as the default archiver utility.
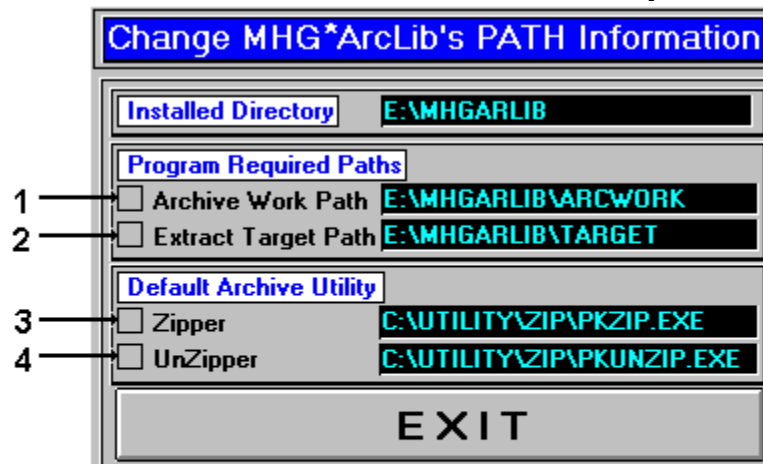
1) Change the working directory by clicking on this checkbox
2) Change the 'target' directory (where all extracted files end up)
3) Change the default archive utility used to create archives
4) Change the default archive utility used to extract files from archives

## Additional Help:
   How to change your archiver utility
   How to start changing the configuration

How to create a new archive

   With this panel, you can collect files from different sub-directories and create a new archive.   If you are running a shareware version of MHG*ARCLIB, you will only be able use PKZip (versions 1.10 and 2.04).   Registration enables the use of other archiver programs.
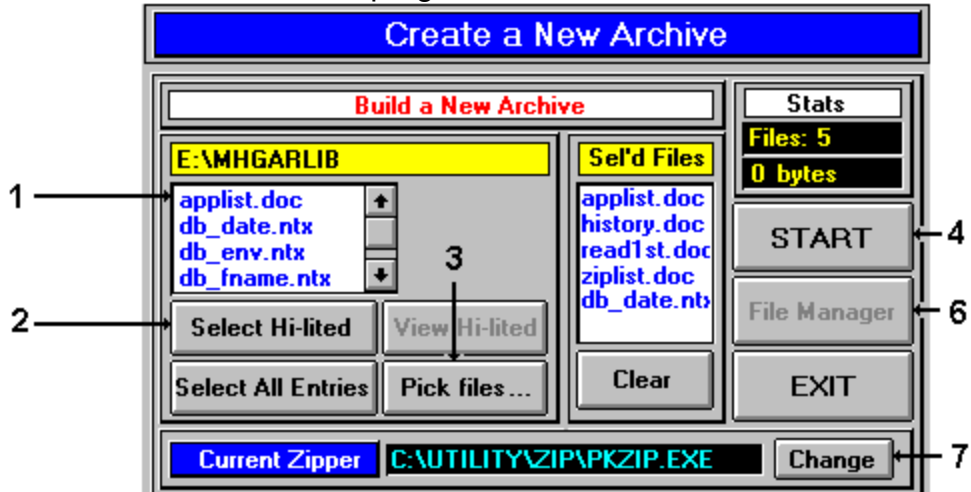
1) Click on the file you want to add to a new archive(or double-click the entry)
2) Or press the 'Select Hi-lited' button to select a file to add to a new archive
3) To select files from other directories, click on the 'Pick files..' button
4) The 'Start' button starts the create process
5) To delete a single entry in the 'selected' list, click on it then press Ctrl-D
6) Once the file has been created, you can start Windows File Manager
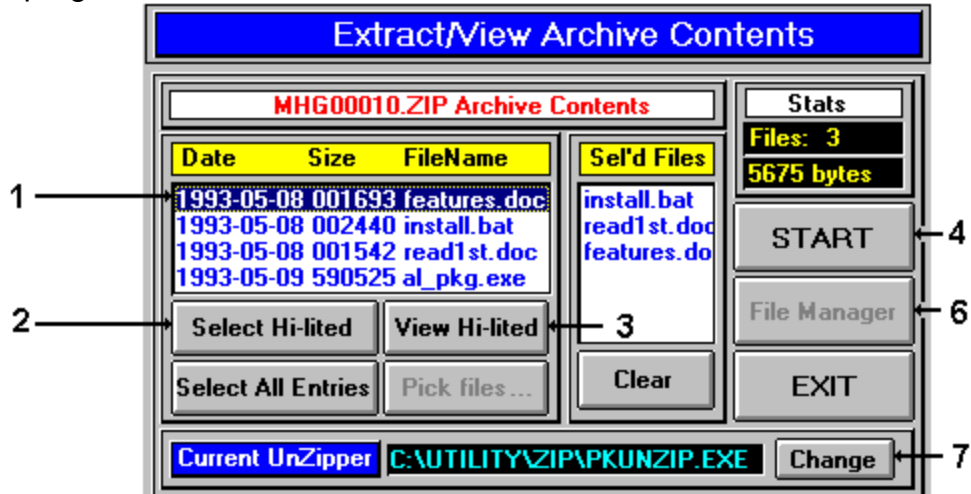7) Change your archiver utility

Additional Help:
   How to start creating a new archive
   How to extract or view the contents of an archive

How to extract or view the contents of an archive

   With this panel, you can process (view or extract) the contents of an archive file.   If you are running a shareware version of MHG*ARCLIB, you will only be able use PKZip (versions 1.10 and 2.04).   Registration enables the use of other archiver programs.

Extract/View Archive Contents

MHG00010.ZIP Archive Contents

Stats
Files: 3
5675 bytes

Date	Size	FileName
1993-05-08	001693	features.doc
1993-05-08	002440	install.bat
1993-05-08	001542	read1st.doc
1993-05-09	590525	al_pkg.exe

Sel'd Files
install.bat
read1st.doc
features.do

1 →
2 →

Select Hi-lited | View Hi-lited ← 3

Select All Entries | Pick files...

Clear

START ← 4

File Manager ← 6

EXIT

Current UnZipper | C:\UTILITY\ZIP\PKUNZIP.EXE | Change ← 7

1) Click on the file you want to extract or view (or double-click the entry)
2) To select a file for extract, press the 'Select Hi-lited' button
3) To view a file immediately, click it then press the 'View Hi-lited' button
4) The 'Start' button starts the extract process (not used for viewing a file)
5) To delete a single entry in the 'selected' list, click it then press Ctrl-D
6) Once the file has been extracted, you can start Windows File Manager
7) Change your archiver utility

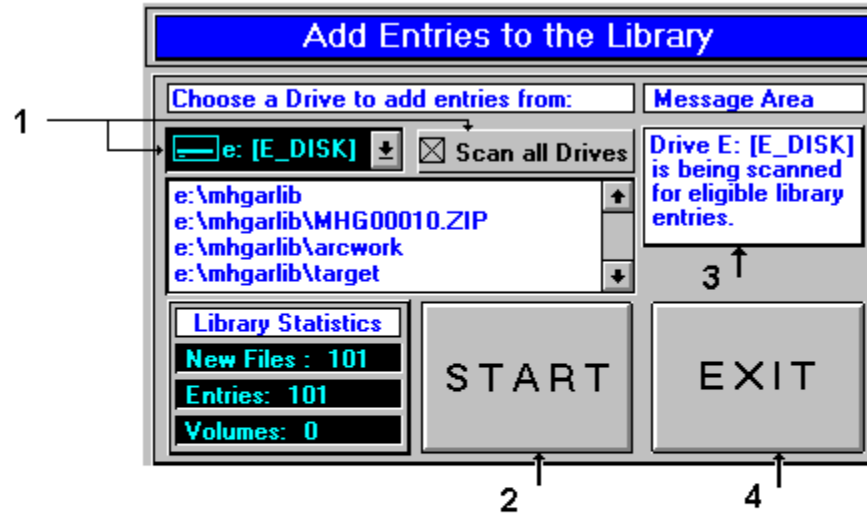**Additional Help:**
     How to start extracting or viewing the contents of an archive
     How to create a new archive

How to add entries to the library

With this panel, you can start the process of adding entries to the library.

1) Choose a drive to add entries from, or scan all the drives on the disk
2) Start the process
3) Monitor the load process messages
4) Exit from this process

How To Register MHG*ARCLIB

With this panel, you can enter the registration information from the letter you received from me.

1) Enter your name from the letter received from M.H.G. Software Ltd.
2) Enter your serial number from the letter
3) Enter your registration number from the letter
4) Press the enter key or click on the 'Save and EXIT' button

So, how do you get a registration number?   Well, send me a letter at the address below and include a cheque for $25.   Make sure you include your return address.   I'll send you a registration letter by return mail with further instructions.

Send your letter and cheque to:

Thank you for using MHG*ARCLIB .

Additional Help:
How to start registering MHG*ARCLIB

How to change the library sort order or index

   With this panel you can change the order that entries are displayed in the library list.   If you are running a shareware version of MHG*ARCLIB, only the Filename/Date order is enabled.   Registration brings access to all the sequences available on this panel.
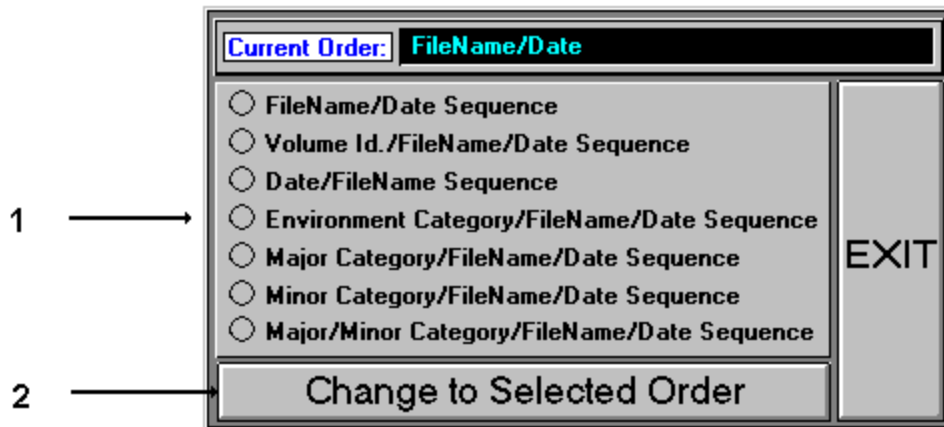
1) Choose the new library order by clicking in one of the circles
2) Click on the 'Change to Selected..' button to actually change the order

Additional Help:
How to start changing the library sort order or index

How to search the library for entries

   With this panel you can search the entries in the library by filename or search a string of text in the entry descriptions.

1) Enter the characters you want to search
   for in the filename or description

Search For:

2) Click on the 'Find File' or 'Find Text'
   button to start searching

Find File

Find Text

3) When you are done, click on 'Exit Search'

Exit Search

Additional Help:

   How to start searching the library

How to process an archive on any drive

   With this panel you can view or extract the contents of an archive located anywhere on your hard drive or on a floppy diskette.   These archives do not need to be entries in the library in order to be processed.
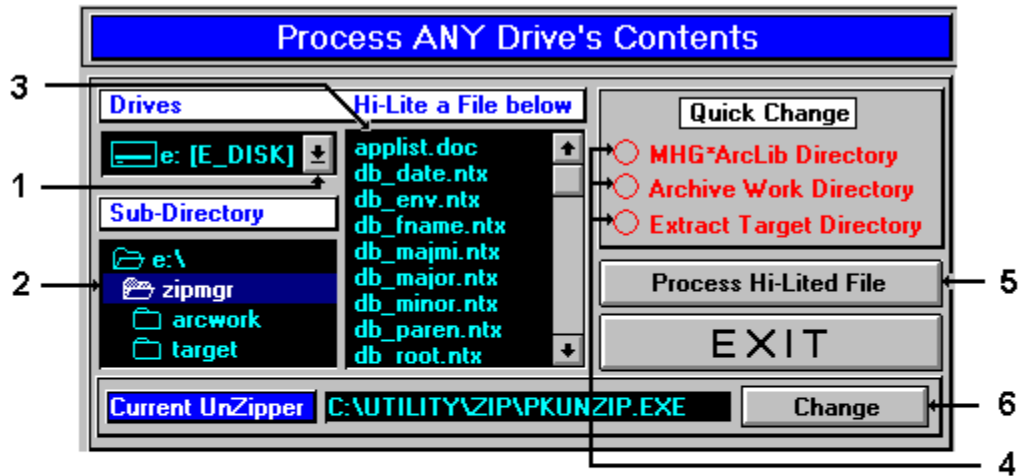
1) To choose a different drive, click on the Drives arrow and select a drive
2) To choose a different sub-directory, click on the Sub-Directory list
3) Then choose a file from the file list by clicking on it (which hi-lites it)
4) Click on a red circle under 'Quick Change' and you're there
5) Process the hi-lited file
6) Change the current archiver utility

Additional Help:
        How to start processing an archive on any drive
        How to extract or view the contents of an archive
        How to create a new archive
        How to change your archiver utility

MHG*ARCLIB Help - How To Start...

How to start changing MHG*ARCLIB's startup options
How to start changing MHG*ARCLIB's configuration
How to start creating a new archive
How to start extracting or viewing the contents of an archive
How to start adding entries to the library
How to start registering MHG*ARCLIB
How to start changing the library sort order or index
How to start searching for entries in the library
How to start processing an archive on any drive

How to Start... Changing the Start-Up Configuration
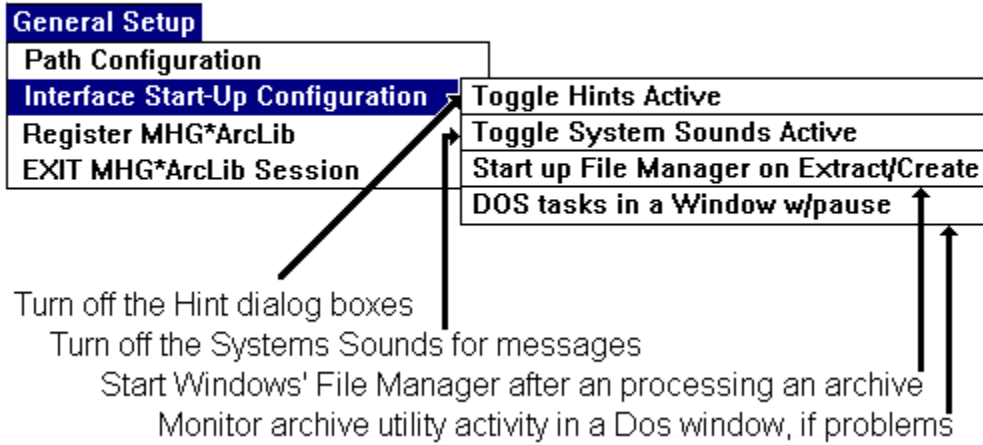
General Setup
Path Configuration
Interface Start-Up Configuration
Register MHG*ArcLib
EXIT MHG*ArcLib Session

Toggle Hints Active
Toggle System Sounds Active
Start up File Manager on Extract/Create
DOS tasks in a Window w/pause

Turn off the Hint dialog boxes
Turn off the Systems Sounds for messages
Start Windows' File Manager after an processing an archive
Monitor archive utility activity in a Dos window, if problems

Additional Help:
How to start changing MHG*ARCLIB's configuration

How To Start... Changing the program paths

General Setup

Path Configuration

Interface Start-Up Configuration ▶

Register MHG*ArcLib

EXIT MHG*ArcLib Session

ZIP Processes

Using PKZIP.EXE
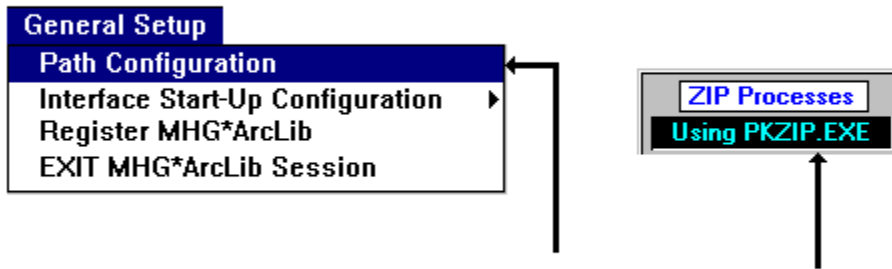
Pull down the menu and click on 'Path Configuration' or double click
on the 'Using..' label. You can also change the default archive utility.

Additional Help:

How to change MHG*ARCLIB's configuration

How to start changing MHG*ARCLIB's startup options

Process a File/Entry
Process Archives files on ANY Drive
Extract/View the hi-lited Library entry
Create a New Archive

Click on the 'Create a New Archive' selection
from the Process a File/Entry Menu

Additional Help:
How to create a new archive
How to start extracting or viewing the contents of an archive

How to Start... Processing the hilited Library Entry

Process a File/Entry
Process Archives files on ANY Drive
Extract/View the hi-lited Library entry
Create a New Archive

Extract / View

Click on the 'Extract/View...' selection from the 'Process a File/Entry' Menu

OR

Click the 'Extract / View' button
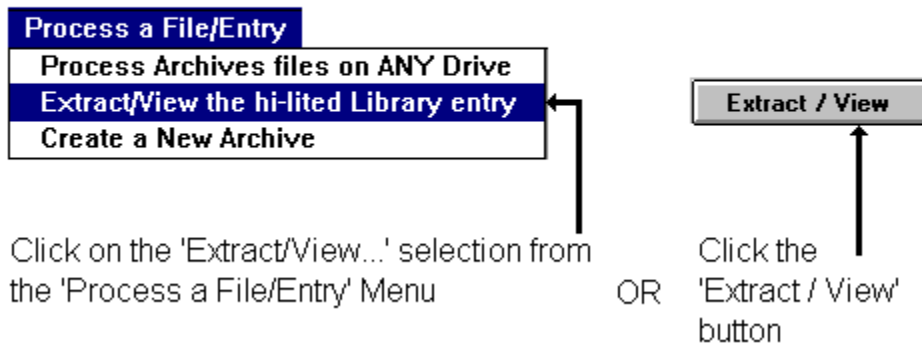
Additional Help:

How to extract or view the contents of an archive

How to start creating a new archive

How to Start... Adding entries to the Library

Library Functions
Add Entries to the Library
Search the Library
Change the Library Order

Choose 'Add Entries to the Library
from the Library Functions Menu

OR

ADD new entries

Click on the 'Add new
entries button
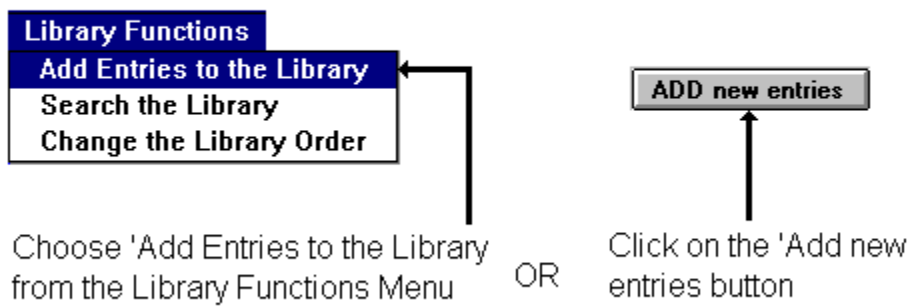
Additional Help:
How to add entries to the library

How to Start... Registering ZIPMGR

General Setup	
Path Configuration	
Interface Start-Up Configuration	▶
Register MHG*ArcLib	
EXIT MHG*ArcLib Session	

Click on the 'Register MHG*ArcLib'
selection from the 'General Setup'
Menu

OR

Register

Click on
the 'Register'
button
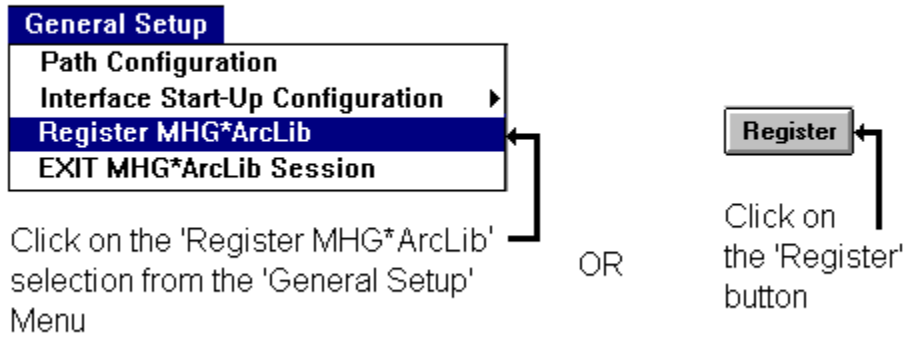
Additional Help:
How to register MHG*ARCLIB

How to Start... Changing the order of the Library
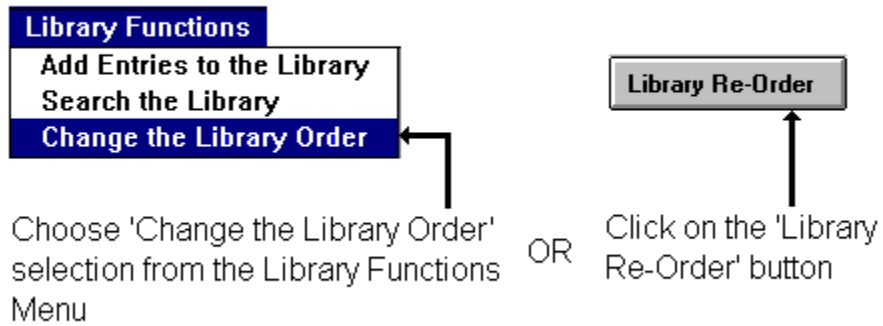
Library Functions
Add Entries to the Library
Search the Library
Change the Library Order

Library Re-Order

Choose 'Change the Library Order' selection from the Library Functions Menu

OR

Click on the 'Library Re-Order' button

Additional Help:
How to change the library sort order or index

How to Start... Searching the Library

Library Functions
- Add Entries to the Library
- **Search the Library**
- Change the Library Order

FIND an entry

Click on the 'Search the Library' selection from the Library Functions Menu

OR

Click on the 'Find an entry' button
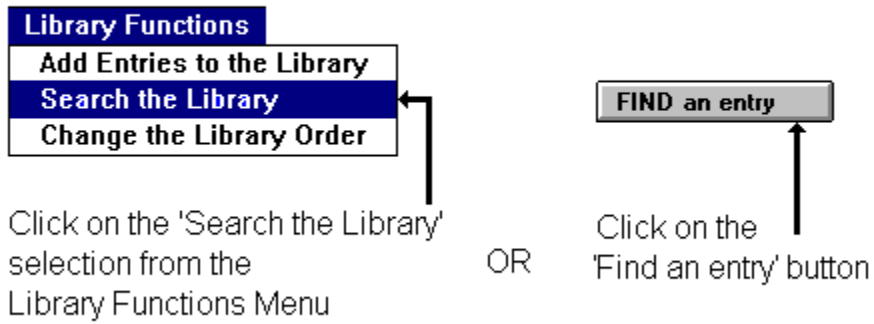
Additional Help:
How to search for entries in the library

How to Start... Processing an archive on any drive

Process a File/Entry
Process Archives files on ANY Drive
Extract/View the hi-lited Library entry
Create a New Archive

Click on the 'Process Archive files on ANY Drive' selection from the 'Process a File/Entry' Menu

OR

Access ANY File

Click on the 'Access ANY File button
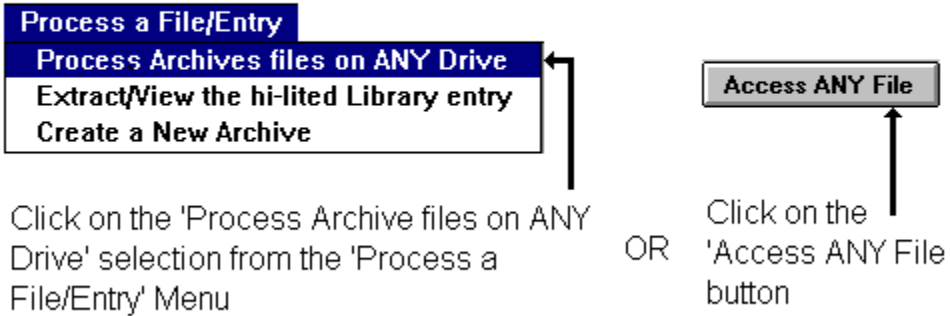
Additional Help:
How to process an archive on any drive
How to start extracting or viewing the contents of an archive

MHG*ARCLIB Introduction

Hi, my name is Marshall and I am a professional programmer.   I've been working with 'BASIC' programming of one flavour or another for over 15 years now.   I discovered Visual Basic in 1990 and the program you are trying out is the result.

MHG*ARCLIB is an attempt to deliver a practical way to process down-loaded files and access off-loaded archive files in a Microsoft Windows environment.   Anyone who needs to find an off-loaded file fast, then explore and use that archive's contents should consider this program.

If you are unfamiliar with these concepts and would like more information, click on this sentence.

If you want to look at a list of features of MHG*ARCLIB and then proceed to using the program, click on this sentence.

Why I wrote this program...

       If you're here, then you want to know more about the processes that MHG*ARCLIB will help you to deal with.

       I do a lot of bulletin board work, including <u>scanning file directories</u> and viewing the <u>file upload list</u>, selecting <u>shareware</u> files to down-load and retrieving messages from the different 'message bases' or conferences.   I have acquired a lot of archive files of different types.   I find that I have to off-load my hard-drive onto diskettes from time to time, to free up hard-disk space.   I spend a substantial amount of time in my 'archive work' sub-directory, viewing archive documentation then extracting the programs and trying them out.

       I'm a Windows user and I needed a Windows program or programs that would let me quickly find that 'off-loaded' archive file or allow me to process its' contents while in Windows, without shelling out to DOS.

Scanning File Directories

When you belong to a Bulletin Board System (BBS), you have access to archive files of programs, games, utilities etc., that are grouped by some common element, say they're all 'IBM' compatible.   This main grouping can be called a conference, where you can usually also create and retrieve messages, called mail.   Once you've joined a conference, you can locate archive files, usually grouped again, into directories each assigned a directory number.   File searches   usually allow you to limit a search based on a range of directory numbers.

File Upload List

When a file is received by a BBS in a process called uploading, the BBS system operator or sysop usually maintains an automatic system where the file is logged in, scanned for viruses and then assigned to a file directory in a conference.   The log file the sysop maintains can be used to create a new file upload list. When you dial in to the BBS to download your mail, some sysops include this list in the mail packet that you receive.   It can be used to determine if there are any programs or files that you want to down-load to your computer from that particular BBS.

Shareware

Shareware is a way of distributing a program to potential users in a try before you buy approach. A program author will distribute his program by uploading his file to a local bulletin board or a big commercial BBS like Compuserve.   The file description that is associated with the file when you see it in the new upload file list is usually entered by the shareware author as part of the upload process.   If a person downloads the file and trys it out, then he can register the program with the author and receive a benefit.   This could be the unlocking of features in the program or being informed of version updates and being given a reduced price for the upgrade.

Archives

Archive files are files whose contents is a compressed library of associated files.   They can be the components of a shareware program, the pages of a large document, a collection of gif files or pretty well anything.   The archive's compression type is determined by the archive utility used to create it.   The contents of these archive files is available using the same archive utility to extract the files.   The main reason to use archiver utilities is that they make the archive file smaller in size than the all the files that make it up, so when you: transmit the file to a BBS, it takes less time; to store the file for backup, it takes less space on a storage device.

Shelling Out to DOS

Most archiver utilities run in the DOS environment.   When you invoke an archiver in a DOS window under Microsoft Windows, the process is called shelling out to DOS.   What happens is that Windows creates a DOS environment window and gives control there to the program that you want to run.   The program executes and if the process is well written, it will issue an 'exit' command which closes the window.   Control usually passes back to Windows' Program Manager.

Conferences

Most BBS's organize interest areas by computer type, as well as industry specific areas such as construction or education.   You access a conference by 'joining it'.

What is an 'Archive Manager' Front-End.... Next

There are many different archive types, such as ZIP, ZOO, ARC, PAK, ARJ, and LZH, to name a few.   When you start working with the archive utilities to process these archives, you need to remember the different commands and options for each one.   An 'archive manager front-end' allows you to deal with these different archives in a easy way, without having to remember all the commands and options.
What you need to know, to process an archive, is the following:

What you want to do with the archive (Extract, View, or Create)
Where the archive is located or where the files to make a new archive are located;
Where to put the result of what you do;
A good archive manager front-end hides the complexity of dealing with so many different archive formats and lets you work with any archive easily.

Library Database

A 'Library Database' is a mechanism that allows you to quickly store and retrieve information about archived files, stored as entries in the library. The most important information is where the archive file can be found.   If you have off-loaded archive files to diskettes and listed the files on the outside label or piece of paper in the diskette sleeve, then you have a manual archive library.

If you have an additional list with each archive's description on it, then you can answer the next important question: what archives do I have that can ...? With your list, you can scan the archive descriptions for the answer.

A computer-based library can answer these questions and more: Show me all the entries for Windows resource utilities...   and   Find all entries that have 'extract' and 'zip' in their file description for example.   It can also load this data from your diskettes automatically and lets you access it in an easy way.

MHG*ARCLIB Features

. All facilities available from button controls or pull-down menus.
. Contextual help via the Microsoft Help Engine.
. Windows Database Engine (vxBase) for Visual Basic from Terry Orletsky,
   whose address is: #488, 9707-110th Street,
          Edmonton, Alberta,
          CANADA, T5K 2L9
          phone: (403) 488-8100.
. Custom designed backgrounds using Windows Paint.
. Easy library loading process from any drive.
. Easily make or assign the expected sub-directory paths.
. MHG*ARCLIB handles 6 different formats when registered.
     Only ZIP format is supported in shareware version.
. Archive file headers are extracted without shelling to DOS.
. Shells out to DOS for extracting files from archives or creating archives.
. Different archive utilities can be assiged for extraction and creation.
. Selective extraction of files in an archive.
. MHG*ARCLIB indexed on 6 different field combinations when registered.
     Indexed   on Filename/Date only in shareware version.
. Unlimited entries in the database when registered.
     Limited to 20 different volume-ids in the shareware version.
. Environment and Catagory assignment in the database is made easy with
  pull-down   list boxes whose contents can be modified.
. File descriptions easily added or modified using a scrollable text box.

One last thing...

In order for MHG*ARCLIB to operate correctly, you should set up the default archive utility.

Doing this right away will let you start using MHG*ARCLIB without any further adjustments.

Help on Path Configuration   Alt-F4 exits to MHG*ARCLIB

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22 Sycamore Drive, Thornhill Ontario
L3T 5V5 CANADA   *ShareWare Fee $25.00*