

# MacLex

for

## **Lexicon Management & Reversal**

by Bruce Waters  
SIL  
Papua New Guinea  
1991

This documentation reflects version 2.1 of May 1992,  
and incorporates the documentation of MacSort,  
-the latter is now no longer a supported product.

© SIL and Bruce Waters, June 1991

1. What is MacLex?
2. Disclaimer

## Part A Sorting capability

3. Introduction
4. Lexicon organisation
5. The sort dialog
  - 5.1 The Input... button
  - 5.2 The Start Sorting button
  - 5.3 Other parts of the Sort dialog
    - 5.3.1 Ignore Data in ( parentheses )
    - 5.3.2 Special Sorting Order:
    - 5.3.3 Ascending Order / Descending Order
    - 5.3.4 Ignore these characters when sorting:
6. Defining a special sorting order
7. The editor
  - 7.1 Editing functions
  - 7.2 Editor constraints
  - 7.3 Formatting and printing your dictionary with Microsoft Word
8. Using MacLex
  - 8.1 To sort a file in normal (English) alphabetical order
  - 8.2 To sort a folder of files
  - 8.3 To ignore specified characters when sorting
  - 8.4 To specify a special sorting order

## Part B Lexicon handling capabilities

9. Basic data structures.
10. Preparing your lexicon files, and resizing files.
11. Lexicon mode
12. Lexicon display
  - 12.1 The Divisions buttons
  - 12.2 The Command Bar
  - 12.3 The Preferences menu item
  - 12.4 Recovering Deletions
13. Reversing your lexicon
14. The **Define Reversed Records...** button.
15. **Concepts**
16. The primary instruction builder.
17. **Obligatory** versus **Optional** fields.
18. **Repeatable** versus **Unrepeatable** fields
19. The static field instruction builder
20. The command buttons
21. The **Save Definitions...** button.

- 22. The **Get Definitions...** button
- 23. The **Preview...** button
- 24. Searching and Replacing in your lexicon
- 25. Exporting data
- 26. Semantic category functions
  - 26.1 Category table format
  - 26.2 Loading the category table
  - 26.3 Category lists and their windows
  - 26.4 Inserting categories in records.
  - 26.5 The Semantic Category Options dialog
  - 26.6 Converting from one category form to another
  - 26.7 Searching for semantic categories
  - 26.8 Reusing old category choices, or abandoning your last choices
  - 26.9 Summary of the semantic category dialogs and menu items
- 27. MacLex limits
- 28. Other functions planned.
  - 28.1 Scanning a text file for unentered lexical items.
  - 28.2 Merge
  - 28.3 Token checking
  - 28.4 Combining and Uncombining records
  - 28.5 Formatted display & print options

## 1. What is MacLex?

MacLex is a tool for maintaining a lexicon in continuously updated form, and for performing useful operations on it such as reversals. It allows the user a variety of ways to navigate through the lexicon's records, to edit records, add new ones, or delete records. MacLex has no save button; like HyperCard it immediately saves any changes to disk, keeping your files up to date at all times. User-defined fonts are supported also, in various sizes. MacLex works almost entirely with "text-only" files; all lexicon files, both input and output, are of this type, and so too are most control files. One of MacLex's nice features is that its speed is almost independent of your lexicon's size.

MacLex can be used in conjunction with MultiFinder, but is not at present able to perform background processing. (Note: do not use MacLex and the debugger Macsbug together under MultiFinder.)

MacLex will eventually be able to give sophisticated printed output, but in the meantime other tools are available for doing that. A useful one is Michael Hore's "Word Format" application which allows the user to build a consistent changes table via a dialog, taking input files of the type that MacLex manipulates (ie. tagged fields) and converting them to formatted (plus style support) Microsoft Word-format documents. The latest version of Word Format is included, it is free, is System-7 smart, and no longer crashes on machines running a non-68000 processor. You can then fill out the styles in Microsoft Word to get professional quality documents.

MacLex does, however, include a simple word processor which can be used for editing files, or preparing control files (eg. your special collating sequence).

MacLex is an extension of my earlier MacSort application, and incorporates all the functions of the latter. MacSort's documentation is now included within MacLex's documentation, starting at section 3.

## 2. Disclaimer

MacLex is not yet a finished product. I have many features yet to add to it. I expect that what is included in it will perform well for you, and I have tested it fairly comprehensively, but bugs may yet remain.

Your comments and suggestions for improvements will be welcomed. I can make no promises, however, to implement any of them. This is a part time 'hobby' project for me.

This product is not for sale or profit. It may be used freely by anyone, and distributed to anyone provided the documentation, and MacLex's documentation, are distributed along with it. WordFormat and its documentation should also be distributed with it. If I am asked to supply it by mail, some charges for handling, postage, etc. will be necessary.