

SNOWBALL Reference Notes 2.1 is a Hypercard tool designed to help students and other researchers keep track of the notes that accumulate during a large writing project such as a thesis or dissertation. This tool is designed to facilitate flexible reorganization and selective sharing of reference notes with others. It is an update to versions 1.7 and 2.0.

Enclosed in this archive you should find:

1. "SNOWBALL Ref. Notes 2.1" which contains the latest release of the SNOWBALL Reference Notes tool (2.1).
2. "SNOWBALL Base" which must be available if stacks containing SNOWBALL Reference Notes cards are to function correctly.

In addition to the information contained in the help file accessible from each SNOWBALL Reference Notes card, there are a few things you will want to know:

1. SNOWBALL Reference Notes requires HyperCard 2.0 or later.
2. In order to work properly, each SNOWBALL Reference Notes card must be able to locate the "SNOWBALL Base" stack included with this package. One good place to put "SNOWBALL Base" would be in the same folder as your HyperCard application. Also, make sure that the SNOWBALL Base stack is always named "SNOWBALL Base." Note that this particular version of SNOWBALL Base only supports SNOWBALL Reference Notes 2.1. If you are using other SNOWBALL tools, you will need to replace this stack with the full-featured SNOWBALL Base stack (which is not currently available to the public).
3. SNOWBALL keeps track of the cards visited in each session, the amount of time spent on each card, the navigation choice used to leave each card, etc. This information is automatically saved in text files in the folder that contains HyperCard. Creation of these text files can be suppressed by unchecking the "Save Trace Information to a Text File" option on the second card of the "SNOWBALL Base" stack. The tracing capabilities have been integrated into SNOWBALL to support my research goals in the areas of hypertext and knowledge acquisition. Please contact me if you would like more information about tracing in SNOWBALL.
4. Some of you may have reference notes that you have been keeping using SNOWBALL Reference Notes 1.7 or 2.0. You can move these notes to version 2.1 by using the Export Cards button from these backgrounds. Note: Experienced scripters may wish to use the 2.1 Export Cards scripts in their old stacks because this will allow text formatting information to be preserved in the update.
5. As with the last release, I am not requesting a shareware fee for the use of SNOWBALL Reference Notes. Instead I am asking for some information about your reference notekeeping habits, ideas, etc. Please support this "responseware" strategy by responding to the questions on the last four cards of the "SNOWBALL Ref. Notes 2.1" stack. Please send this information to me at one of the following addresses:

US Mail: 740 South 50 East
Orem, UT 84058

Internet: fordj@yvax.byu.edu
Bitnet: fordj@byuvax.bitnet

If the difference between the small number of responses I have received and the large number of archive downloads is any indication, many of you are not responding to this request. I know that you are busy, but if SNOWBALL is saving you any time, please use some of it to help me out. This will assist me in my research and justify the time I spend developing SNOWBALL.

Thanks to the rest of you for your responses. Some of the improvements to this version are the result of helpful feedback from users. I hope that this tool will be as useful to you as many of the public domain stackware offerings I have found are to me. Enjoy!

John M. Ford

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