

Personal References Stack

Starting off

Double-click on the RefStack 1.5.1 icon. When it asks you to open a references file, click 'Cancel', and choose 'New references file' from the 'File' menu.

Needs:

Colour

- yes I know - a HyperCard stack shouldn't need colour, but some of the Help screens are pretty unreadable without an 8 bit deep screen. I shall remedy this in a later release.

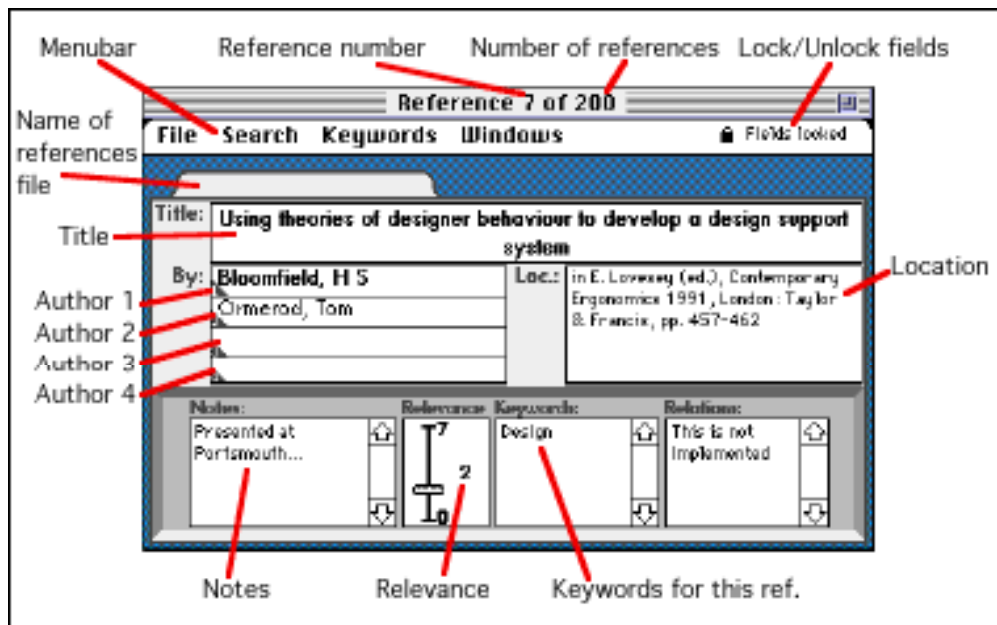
Memory

Alas, use of colour means that you need to assign quite a bit of memory (maybe 2000K) to HyperCard. ("Get Info..." on HyperCard in the Finder, and change the amount of memory it's given). The stack will not attempt to use colour if there's not enough memory though, so it'll still work.

Big Screen

A screen at least 640 pixels wide. This is the width of the "Index" window. If you've got a smaller screen, and are keen you could hack into the script and change this - not too difficult if you know a bit about scripting.

The screen



(note that this may not print out very well - Oh yes, also this screen describes an earlier version of the stack than the current release).

Tools

Menubar

The four menus here contain all the commands you need to manipulate and use your references - they are explained in detail later.

Lock/Unlock fields

Clicking on this highlights it, and allows the text fields (Author 1-4, Title, Location, Notes) to be edited.

Information fields

Reference number

The number of this reference - references are organised alphabetically according to the name of the first author

Number of references

The total number of references in this file

Location

Where (i.e in what journal/ book etc) this reference is to be found or was copied from

Keywords for this ref.

The list of keywords for this reference. Note that at the moment keywords can only be added to this list - you cannot deassign a keyword from a reference.

Date

The date of the reference.

Relevance

How relevant you find this reference (This is why it's called a "Personal" references stack!). This is, it has to be said, a bit of a gimmick.

Notes

Notes/ comments on this reference. This field can be displayed in a windoid (see the section on the Windows menu), but can only be edited in the field, not the windoid.

Authors 1-4

The names of the first four authors of the reference. It's bad news if there are more than four authors...

Title

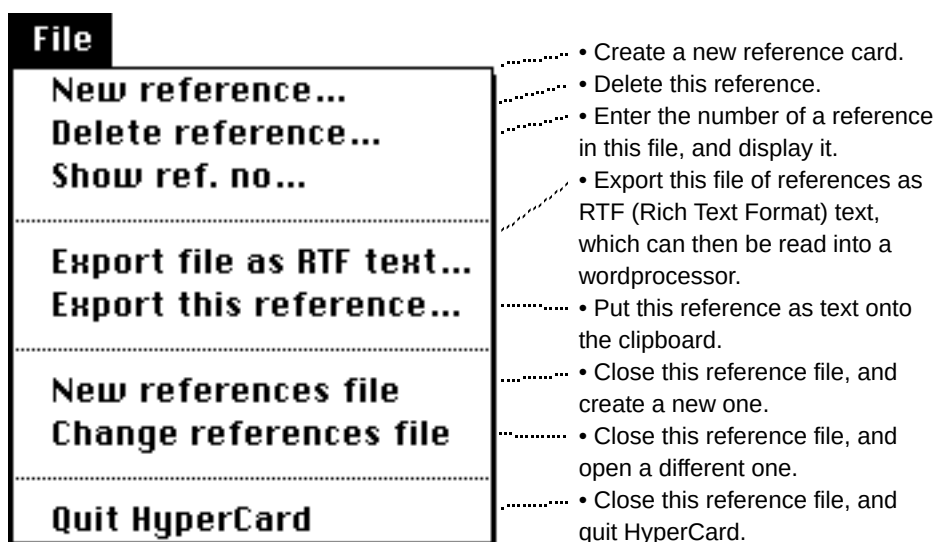
The title, obviously.

Name of References file

The name of this file of references. See the section on the File menu for how to switch files.

The MenuBar

The file menu



• 1. The File menu •

New reference...

Choosing "New reference..." will give you this screen:

The screenshot shows the 'New Reference' dialog box in RefStack 1.4. The dialog has a title bar with 'RefStack 1.4' and a standard window icon. The main title is 'New Reference' in a large, bold font. To the right of the title are 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons. Below the title, there are three main input areas: 'Title:' with a single-line text field, 'By:' with a list box containing four entries (1, 2, 3, 4), and 'Loc.:' with a multi-line text field. At the bottom, there are four sections: 'Notes:', 'Relevance:', 'Keywords:', and 'Relations:'. Each section has a text area and a vertical scrollbar. The 'Notes:' section contains the text 'To enter notes about this ref., press HERE'. The 'Relevance:' section shows a value of 7. The 'Keywords:' section contains the text 'To choose keywords for this ref., press HERE. For multiple,'. The 'Relations:' section is empty.

Delete reference...

Delete the current reference. You will be asked to confirm this irreversible action.

Show ref. no...

Enter a reference's number, and have it displayed.

Export file as RTF text...

This will format each record as text, in the manner of a reference at the end of an academic paper, then convert it into RTF (Rich Text Format)¹, and save it as a file. You should be warned that this is quite slow The RTF text can then be read into most word processors², and then printed out. I have found that it looks good good if you format it with 2 columns per sheet of A4.

A typical reference will look like this:

(25)

Chaffin, Roger; Herrman, Douglas J; **Relation Element Theory: A New Account of the Representation and Processing of Semantic Relations**; D Gorgeim and R Hoffman (eds): Learning and Memory: The Ebbinghaus Centennial Conference. Hillsdale, N.J: Erlbaum. pp.220-245;

Keywords:

«*Semantic networks*»«*Information retrieval*»

(Relevance: 5/7)

Export this reference...

Whereas the precious command exported the whole file of references, this command exports only the 'current' reference, and puts it as plain text on the clipboard.

¹A widely-used interchange format between word processors. As well as transferring text, this allows the transfer of formatting attributes, such as bold, underlined, italic, etc.

²If you try to open an RTF file in Microsoft® Word™, for example, it will ask you something like "Interpret RTF text?" with 'Yes' and 'No' responses - respond with 'Yes'...

New references file

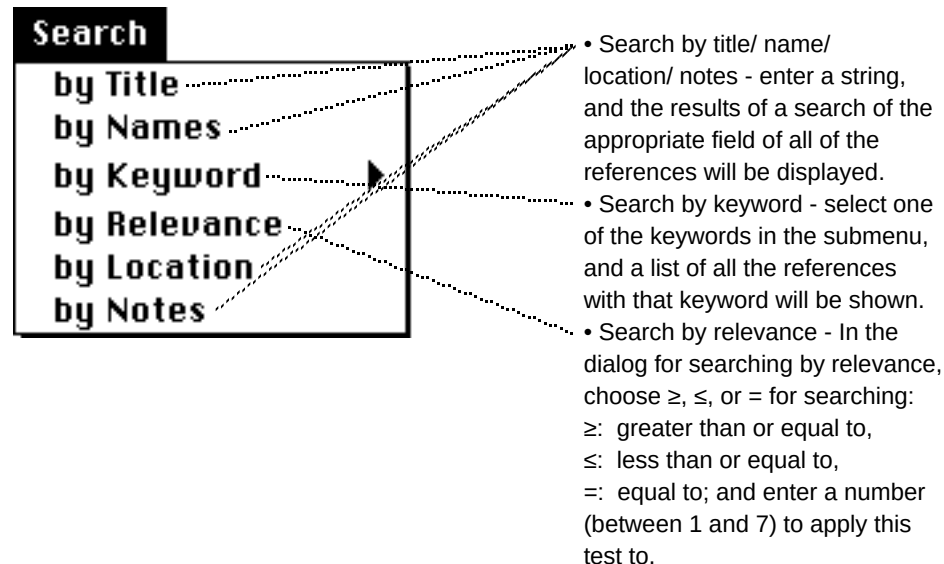
Create a new references file. You'll have to do this the first time you use the stack, and then again if you ever want a supplementary file to your main one, for example.

Change references file

Stop using the current file, and start using another one.

Quit HyperCard

Quit HyperCard - does exactly the same as the "Quit HyperCard" in the main HyperCard menu, except that it asks you to confirm the action first.



• 2. The Search menu •

by Title, Names, Location, Notes

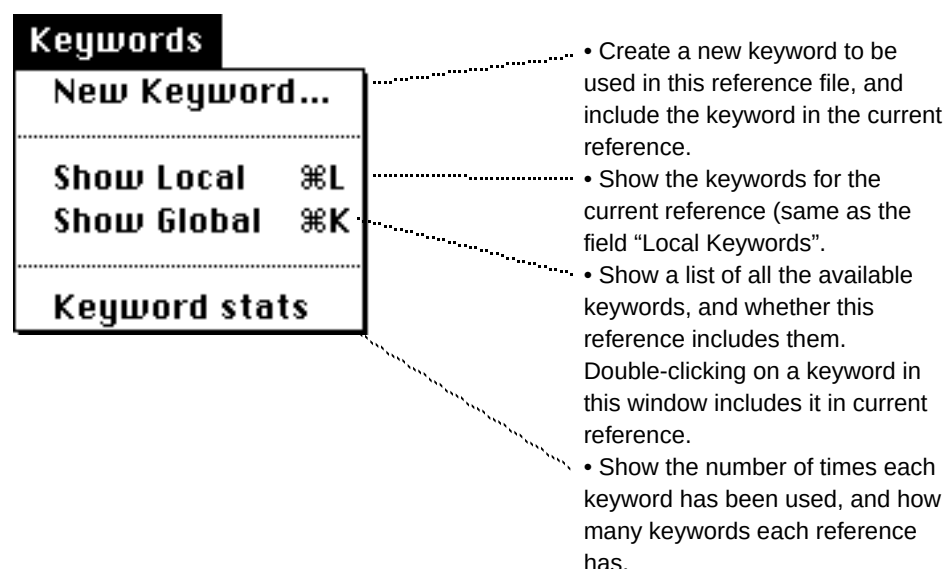
Type in a string, and it'll search for that string in the field you chose.

by Keyword

Choose a keyword, and it'll search for references with that keyword assigned.

by Relevance

Enter an expression for relevance (e.g ">4"), and it'll search for references which have a relevance corresponding to that expression.



• 3. The Keyword menu •

New Keyword...

Allows you to add a new keyword, which will be added also to the current reference.

Show Local

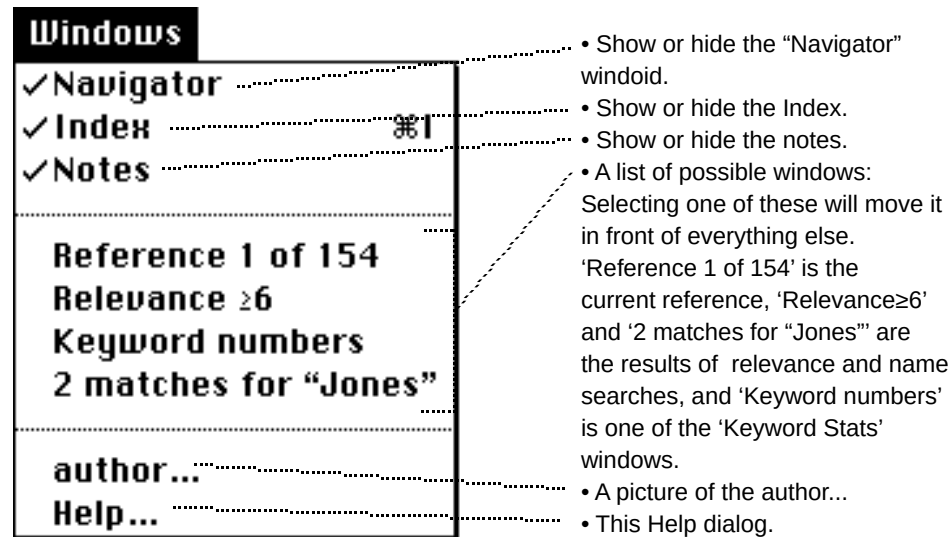
Displays a windoid with the keywords assigned to the current reference

Show Global

Displays a windoid with all the keywords, noting which ones are assigned to the current reference.

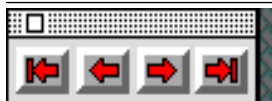
Keyword stats

Displays a few fascinating numbers.



• 4. The Windows menu •

Navigator



Index

Shows/ hides the index.

Notes

Shows/ hides the notes window.

author...

Shows/ hides me.

Help...

Shows a few brief help pages.