

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.

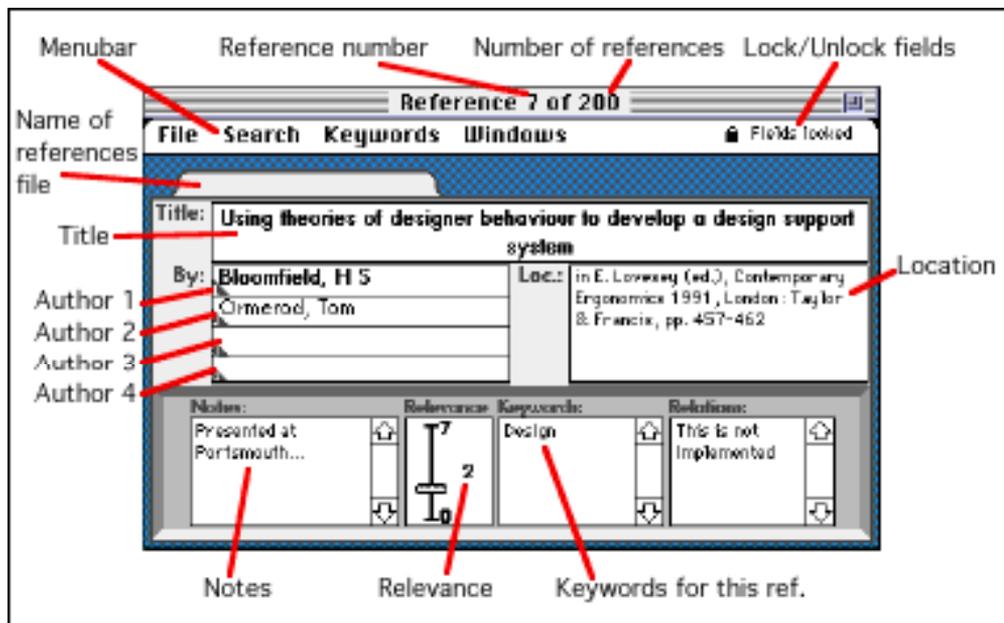
Memory

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 window (see the section on the Windows menu), but can only be edited in the field, not the window.

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

The image shows a screenshot of the 'File' menu in a software application. The menu items are listed on the left, and callouts on the right explain their functions. The menu items are: 'New reference...', 'Delete reference...', 'Show ref. no...', 'Export file as RTF text...', 'Export this reference...', 'New references file', 'Change references file', and 'Quit HyperCard'. The callouts provide detailed instructions for each item, such as 'Create a new reference card.', 'Delete this reference.', 'Enter the number of a reference in this file, and display it.', 'Export this file of references as RTF (Rich Text Format) text, which can then be read into a wordprocessor.', 'Put this reference as text onto the clipboard.', 'Close this reference file, and create a new one.', 'Close this reference file, and open a different one.', and 'Close this reference file, and quit HyperCard.'

Menu Item	Description
New reference...	• Create a new reference card.
Delete reference...	• Delete this reference.
Show ref. no...	• Enter the number of a reference in this file, and display it.
Export file as RTF text...	• Export this file of references as RTF (Rich Text Format) text, which can then be read into a wordprocessor.
Export this reference...	• Put this reference as text onto the clipboard.
New references file	• Close this reference file, and create a new one.
Change references file	• Close this reference file, and open a different one.
Quit HyperCard	• Close this reference file, and quit HyperCard.

• 1. The File menu •

New reference...

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

The screenshot shows a window titled "RefStack 1.4" with a "New Reference" dialog box. The dialog has "OK" and "Cancel" buttons. It contains the following fields and sections:

- Title:** A single-line text input field.
- By:** A multi-line text input field.
- Loc.:** A multi-line text input field.
- Notes:** A text area with a scrollbar. Text: "To enter notes about this ref., press HERE".
- Relevance:** A vertical spinner control showing the value "7".
- Keywords:** A text area with a scrollbar. Text: "To choose keywords for this ref., press HERE. For multiple,".
- Relations:** A text area with a scrollbar.

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 previous 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

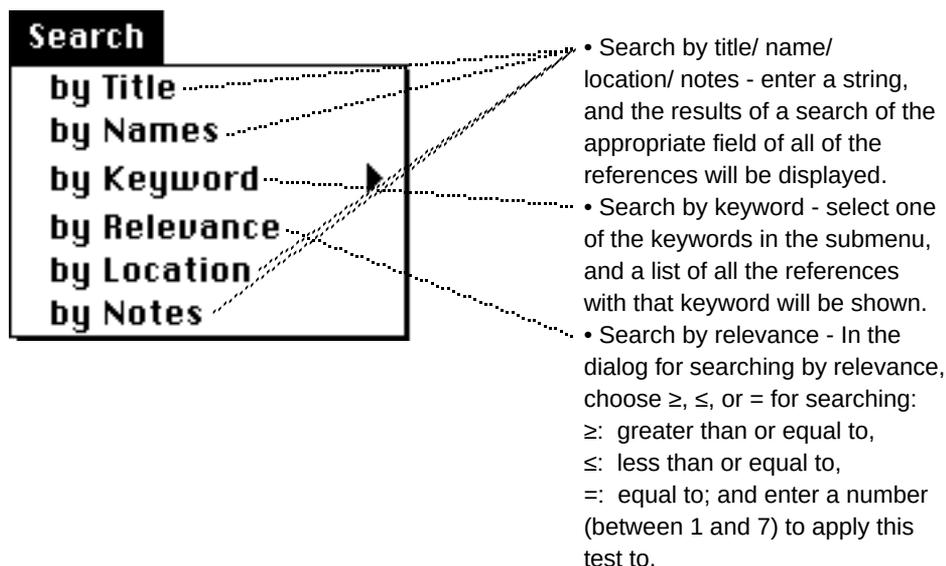
Create a new references file. You'll have to do this the first time you use the stack, and then again if you ever want a supplementary file to your main one, for example.

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.



Search

- by Title
- by Names
- by Keyword
- by Relevance
- by Location
- by Notes

- Search by title/ name/ location/ notes - enter a string, and the results of a search of the appropriate field of all of the references will be displayed.
- Search by keyword - select one of the keywords in the submenu, and a list of all the references with that keyword will be shown.
- Search by relevance - In the dialog for searching by relevance, choose \geq , \leq , or $=$ for searching:
 \geq : greater than or equal to,
 \leq : less than or equal to,
 $=$: equal to; and enter a number (between 1 and 7) to apply this test to.

• 2. The Search menu •

by Title, Names, Location, Notes

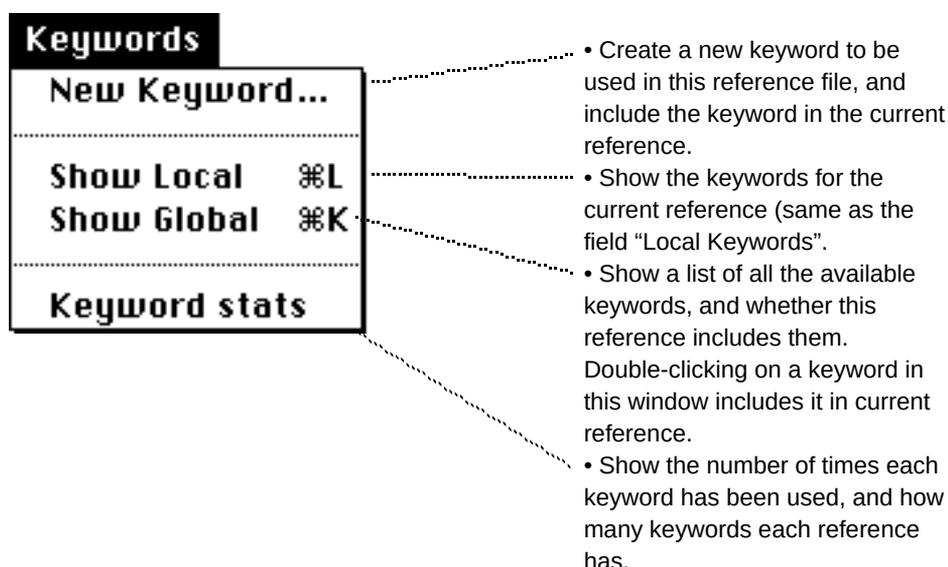
Type in a string, and it'll search for that string in the field you chose.

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.



Keywords

- New Keyword...
- Show Local ⌘L
- Show Global ⌘K
- Keyword stats

- Create a new keyword to be used in this reference file, and include the keyword in the current reference.
- Show the keywords for the current reference (same as the field "Local Keywords").
- Show a list of all the available keywords, and whether this reference includes them. Double-clicking on a keyword in this window includes it in current reference.
- Show the number of times each keyword has been used, and how many keywords each reference has.

• 3. The Keyword menu •

New Keyword...

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

Show Local

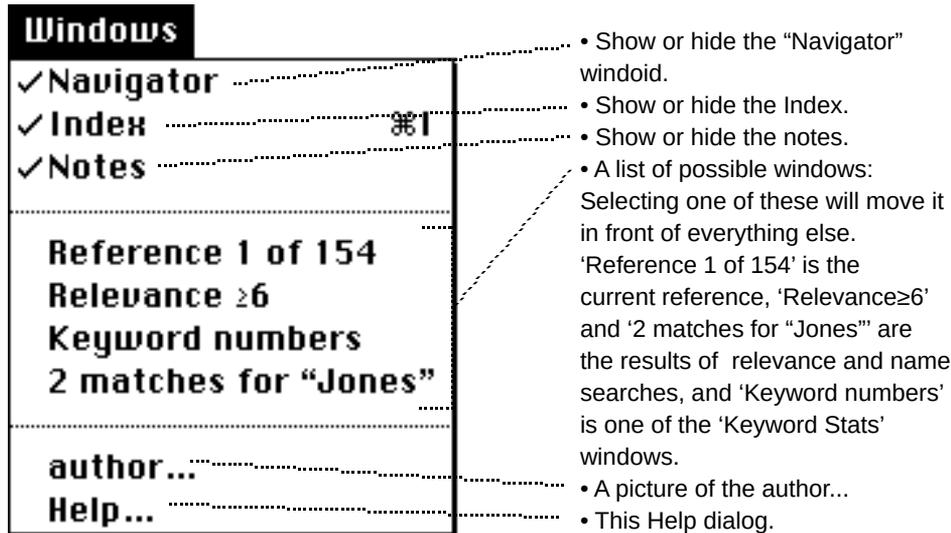
Displays a windoid with the keywords assigned to the current reference

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.



The screenshot shows the 'Windows' menu with the following items:

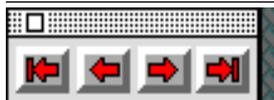
- ✓ Navigator
- ✓ Index
- ✓ Notes
- Reference 1 of 154
- Relevance ≥6
- Keyword numbers
- 2 matches for "Jones"
- author...
- Help...

Callouts explain the items:

- Show or hide the "Navigator" windoid.
- Show or hide the Index.
- Show or hide the notes.
- A list of possible windows: Selecting one of these will move it in front of everything else. 'Reference 1 of 154' is the current reference, 'Relevance ≥6' and '2 matches for "Jones"' are the results of relevance and name searches, and 'Keyword numbers' is one of the 'Keyword Stats' windows.
- A picture of the author...
- This Help dialog.

• 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.