

This article was downloaded by:

On: 24 January 2011

Access details: *Access Details: Free Access*

Publisher *Taylor & Francis*

Informa Ltd Registered in England and Wales Registered Number: 1072954 Registered office: Mortimer House, 37-41 Mortimer Street, London W1T 3JH, UK



Journal of Liquid Chromatography & Related Technologies

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713597273>

PAPYRUS, Version 7.0, Research Software Design Corp., 2718 SW Kelly Street, Portland, OR 97201, Price: \$99.00.

To cite this Article (1996) 'PAPYRUS, Version 7.0, Research Software Design Corp., 2718 SW Kelly Street, Portland, OR 97201, Price: \$99.00.', *Journal of Liquid Chromatography & Related Technologies*, 19: 1, 161 – 162

To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1080/10826079608006296

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10826079608006296>

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR ARTICLE

Full terms and conditions of use: <http://www.informaworld.com/terms-and-conditions-of-access.pdf>

This article may be used for research, teaching and private study purposes. Any substantial or systematic reproduction, re-distribution, re-selling, loan or sub-licensing, systematic supply or distribution in any form to anyone is expressly forbidden.

The publisher does not give any warranty express or implied or make any representation that the contents will be complete or accurate or up to date. The accuracy of any instructions, formulae and drug doses should be independently verified with primary sources. The publisher shall not be liable for any loss, actions, claims, proceedings, demand or costs or damages whatsoever or howsoever caused arising directly or indirectly in connection with or arising out of the use of this material.

SOFTWARE REVIEW

PAPYRUS, Version 7.0, Research Software Design Corp., 2718 SW Kelly Street, Portland, OR 97201, Price: \$99.00.

Every scientist knows the difficulties involved in building and maintaining a reference file. Papyrus is a bibliographic database specifically designed to help in this task. The purpose of Papyrus is to allow the user to build a database of literature references easily and to manipulate that database, including the possibility of outputting selected citations in accordance with the requirements of any journal.

The program is a DOS-based program, but it can also be installed and operated within Windows. The installation process is fairly simple, straightforward and fast. The manuals (a reference and a tutorial) are very user-friendly and easy to follow. As a result, learning to use the database is quite simple, although some of the data manipulation can become complicated; e.g., the creation of an output format to a required layout. I found Papyrus to be intuitive and I was able to set up a reference database effortlessly and quickly.

For entering references, the software provides a large number of input templates: for journal articles, books, chapters, patents, maps, these, etc. Each input template has two levels of fields. The most common fields, such as year of publication, title, etc., are always visible. The less-used fields (at least according to Papyrus' way of thinking), such as author affiliation or address, are hidden, but can be made visible at will. The user can develop a keyword dictionary which will allow him to do intelligent searches later on. He can enter an abstract and attach unlimited "note cards" to each reference. Each field can be up to 8K characters long, which should be sufficient for virtually all situations. However, the verbose user can use the unlimited note cards feature to enter further comments.

The references in the database can be manipulated in the standard way. The user can search the database either according to specific fields or globally. Logical operations AND, OR and NOT are allowed in the searches. Lists can be built (either alphabetical or numerical) and outputted to the screen, printer or to a file. References can be grouped into sub-libraries according to several criteria. Housekeeping chores, such as maintaining the journal list, or the keyword list, is relatively straightforward.

Papyrus has some nice features which make it easier to build and maintain the library. For example, once a particular keyword has been defined, all the user needs to do is type any reasonable abbreviation of the keyword, and Papyrus will fill in the rest. The same holds true for journal names. Another nice feature is the possibility of seeing all of the previous items in a field and choosing an item from that list to be inserted into the field.

The program has some limitations. The fact that it is DOS-based makes it very difficult to interact with other programs. For example, putting a citation directly into a word processor (especially a Windows-based program) manuscript is awkward. Also, since the working screens in Papyrus are text screens, it is impossible to add figures to references or to use unusual characters such as sub- and superscripts (although Papyrus does allow you to print sub- and superscripts using special control characters).

Another limitation is that there is no Back Screen option. If you make a mistake and wish to go back to correct the error, you are "out of luck." Your only recourse is to hit the ESC key, which takes you back all the way to relevant main sub-menu.

These shortcomings notwithstanding, I found Papyrus to be a very useful package. Its low cost, ease of use, friendliness and range of features make it very attractive. If you are looking for a references manager, Papyrus is highly recommended.

Reviewed by

Dr. Eli Grushka
Department of Inorganic
and Analytical Chemistry
The Hebrew University
Jerusalem, Israel