# Computer Software Reviews

**CITE-V. Version 3.6.** HESS: P.O. Box 408, Bartlesville, OK 74005-0408. List price $350.00 single station, $900.00 network; upgrade to V. 3.6, $75.00; trial pack, $25.00.

This database management package is aimed at the professional who wants to maintain a bibliographic reference library. Although the demo version database was developed with a nod toward the chemical engineering literature, CITE-V could be used equally effectively in research and academic environments. CITE-V contains three basic routines: reference input and correction, database searching, and printing of generated lists. Maintenance utilities and useful supplemental information options, including abstracts, subject/area organization, mailing addresses, and room for all coauthors, are provided. (Data are manually input; direct transfer of previously downloaded online searches is not an option.) I had the opportunity to use the program on both XT and 286 PCs. While the XT was only nominally slower in the data input and searching functions, it took much longer to assemble and print large reference lists, whereas the 286 was quite adequate for all tasks. A color monitor, although not essential, is a definite plus.

CITE-V attempts to make the various source templates (book vs journal vs patent...) as identical as possible to make data input easier; this may account for some minor flaws when prompting for data. For example, whereas a Journal source requires only the journal title and author(s), a Book source could demand both chapter/book titles and author(s)/editor(s); only one field is provided for each. Some data fields are too short (author's surname 12 characters; last page 5 characters, but first page only 4), and abbreviations would have to be employed—not suitable for authors.

Constructing Boolean searches is simple; there are truncation and wildcard options and many ways to access the data, although if multiple constraints are desired, CITE-V performs a search after each constraint is specified. This could become time-consuming on a slow machine, if the database is large.

Although a few pre-set formats are available for generating printed citation reports, there is little description of their physical layout in the user's manual (What data fields are used? Are authors' names separated by commas, semicolons, surnames first? etc.); a sample report must be produced to find out, and there are no options to fine-tune the output; this must be done with another word processing package. One selling point—the production of photocopy requisitions for libraries (and document retrieval services)—seems questionable. In my experience, interlibrary loan offices tend to frown on receiving user-generated requests in widely varying format and information content from different database management systems. CITE-V may not, then, obviate the need to fill out standard library forms, although it would make that task easier.

While installation and overall operation is relatively straightforward, CITE-V documentation is simply not, as stated in the Overview, "user friendly". Much of the manual explains the overall philosophy or "grand scheme" of CITE-V instead of giving practical examples on how to use it. I frequently re-read whole paragraphs several times, trying to decide if they were relevant to understanding how the program works. An example: "SUBJECT acts as the anchoring point while AREAS defines each classification element. Many times you might uses [sic] them in the same light as typical bibliographical entities of your profession or the industry. The catalog provides an effective method for dealing with the plethora of issues that affect your career..." One obtains "an inkling of the product jargon"... performs "transactions of interactive communication" within two "poles" of a dialog... captures "daily volatile sources and systematic surveys". More time is spent describing internal data field names and heirarchial relationships than explaining the routine entry-search-print options to someone not intimately familiar with computers. If the field tables, etc. were included in an Appendix, and if step-by-step examples of data input, editing, searching, and printing options were included—with closely wedded text and screen illustrations—the manual would be much more readable. In addition to a few typographical errors, there are numerous annoying sentence fragments.

In short, although I believe CITE-V is a useful tool for organizing bibliographic reference data, the user should not have to plunge headfirst into the program to find this out. I would like to see additional flexibility in generating printed reports and a somewhat less obtuse user manual.

**Mark Volmer,** *Emory University*

# Book Reviews*

**Topics in Current Chemistry. Volume 156: Photoinduced Electron Transfer** I. Edited by J. Mattay. Springer-Verlag: New York. 1990. iii + 229 pp. $89.00. ISBN 0-387-52379-0.

This is a collection of seven contributed reviews. It begins with an overview of the subject, A Brief History of Photoinduced Electron Transfer and Related Reactions, by H. D. Roth. Although there is no index to this volume, a cumulative author index for Volumes 151–156 is included.

**Topics in Current Chemistry. Volume 157: Chemical Applications of Nuclear Probes.** Edited by K. Yoshihara. Springer-Verlag: New York. 1990. 183 pp. $74.00. ISBN 0-387-52423-1.

Five contributed reviews make up this volume. Most of them are concerned with analytical applications, but one is more mechanistic, Chemical Reactions Induced and Probed by Positive Muons, by Y. Ito. There is no subject index.

**Heterocyclic Compounds. Pyrroles. Part 1: The Synthesis and the Physical and Chemical Aspects of the Pyrrole Ring.** Edited by R. Alan Jones (University of East Anglia). John Wiley & Sons: New York. 1990. xvii + 742 pp. $295.00. ISBN 0-471-62753-4.

Pyrrole, first identified by Runge in 1834, is certainly one of the most important heterocyclic systems, with pervading significance in both animals and plants. Its long chemical history makes it a particularly challenging subject for a modern comprehensive review. The Editor does not reveal how many volumes are projected for the complete coverage of the subject, but this first volume provides the basic chemistry and can stand alone.

Physical and theoretical aspects of 1*H*-pyrroles are reviewed by Chadwick, who includes large quantities of data in tables to supplement the discussions of spectroscopy and of conformation. Synthesis of 1*H*-pyrroles is reviewed by Bean, and reactivity of the 1*H*-pyrrole system is reviewed by the team of Jackson, Artico, Anderson, Loader, Gossauer, Nesvadra, and Dennis. In the last chapter, Sammes combines the same several topics for 2*H*- and 3*H*-pyrroles.

The production is excellent, with abundant structural formulas, and the only criticism that comes to mind is the omission of bonds attaching substitutes to rings in most instances, which detracts from easy structural recognition. The quantity of literature citations is understandably large. The subject index, 14 pages, is short but adequate; the entries are mostly classes of compounds. The Preface is dated July 1989, and although the literature cut-off date is not given, references at least as late as 1987 can be found.

**Topics in Current Chemistry 155. Small Ring Compounds in Organic Synthesis IV.** Edited by A. de Meijere (Institut f. Org. Chemie u. Biochemie). Springer-Verlag: New York, 1990. vi + 160 pp. $69.50. ISBN 0-387-52422-3.

The three reviews in this volume are "Metal Homoenolates from Siloxycyclopropanes", "*Gem*-Dihalocyclopropanes in Organic Synthesis", and "Trough-bond Modulation of Reaction Centers by Remote Substituents". The last is only incidentally concerned with small rings and is largely devoted to an exposition of the polarity alternation concept for correlating reactivity. Not indexed.

* Unsigned book reviews are by the Book Review Editor.