J|A|C|S
JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

Computer Software Review

Publicon. Wolfram Research, Inc 100 Trade Center Drive, Champaign, IL 61820-7237. http://www.wolfram. com/products/publicon. $149.00 (in the United States and Canada). Outside the United States and Canada, contact http://www.wolfram.com/international for pricing.

Chris Pursell, and Susan Oxley

More About This Article

Additional resources and features associated with this article are available within the HTML version:

- Supporting Information
- Access to high resolution figures
- Links to articles and content related to this article
- Copyright permission to reproduce figures and/or text from this article

View the Full Text HTML

ACS Publications
High quality. High impact.

Publicon. Wolfram Research, Inc. 100 Trade Center Drive, Champaign, IL 61820-7237. http://www.wolfram.com/products/publicon. $149.00 (in the United States and Canada). Outside the United States and Canada, contact http://www.wolfram.com/international for pricing.

Publicon 1.0 is a software program designed for the preparation of technical documents. Produced by Wolfram Research, it has the same WYSIWYG interface as its well-known program Mathematica. Unlike Mathematica, however, Publicon is designed specifically for document preparation; it does not have the ability to evaluate mathematical expression. It is currently available for Windows and Macintosh operating systems. The software comes with document templates, including several designed for REVTex, AMS-TeX, LaTeX, and BioMed Central. The development of customized document templates is also possible.

In Publicon, text, equations, and graphics are entered into cells, which are readily stylized using default or customized styles, such as text, title, section, equation, and figure. Mathematical expressions can be entered either directly into a line of text, or they may be entered as a separate cell. Expressions can also be imported directly from Mathematica. The mathematical typesetting is easy to use, and since it is built directly into the program, there is no need to open a separate one, such as the Equation Editor or MathType in Microsoft Word. A typesetting window is present on the screen and enables you to view the variety of templates available and insert the selected template directly into the document. Having to constantly switch between tabs and sections within the template window was cumbersome, but most of the common templates also have keyboard shortcuts.

Of particular use to chemists are the Chemistry Templates. These templates include those for writing reactions, with various arrows for both forward and reverse reactions, and for writing chemical formulas. Examples of the formulas included are generic molecules, isotopes, hydrocarbons, sugars, alcohols, and carboxylic acids.

Publicon also provides a means to enter references into the text and organize those references into a bibliography. References are stored in an internal database, into which references may be entered manually or imported from other reference software. The supported formats for importing references are BibTex, EndNote, and PubMed XML. Once entered into the document, a bibliography is automatically generated at its end and updated when other citations are added. All aspects of the referencing can be customized to suit different formats for citations.

The main drawback to this program is its inability to interface readily with other more common programs for preparing documents. With the restrictions on formats for exporting files, it is not easy for multiple authors to modify the document without all parties using the Publicon software. Publicon documents, including mathematical expressions, can be exported to various LaTeX formats, XML, XHTML with MathML, or HTML with mathematical expressions converted to graphics. Conversion to HTML is not always smooth, however, because of the loss of some formatting in the equations and figures. The *Journal of the American Chemical Society* does not currently accept documents in Publicon format for article submission, although it does accept documents in LaTeX. Documents can also be converted directly to PDF files using the Notebook-to-PDF converter available for free on the Wolfram Web site.

Overall, this software is very useful is preparing technical documents. The interface is easy to learn and use, and the stacked cell format provides organizational structure and quick formatting options. The templates provide a fast and easy means to include equations, mathematical expressions, and figures in a document.

Chris Pursell and Susan Oxley,
Trinity University

JA040985A

10.1021/ja040985a