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Software Note

REFLIST: A Program to Assist in Preparation of Reference Lists in Theses and Journal Articles

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1. Introduction

REFLIST is a program for DOS microcomputers which helps in the odious task of ensuring that all references in an academic paper or thesis have been correctly cited in the main text and listed at the end. It creates a list of all references cited in the paper and identifies references cited in the text but not included in the reference list at the end of the paper, as well as items included in the reference list which were not cited in the main text. REFLIST should be able to save you hours of tedious work trying to sort out your reference list, especially if you have a large document like a thesis or book.

REFLIST is very quick; on an IBM AT compatible computer it will process a 2000 line file with 200 reference citations in around 15 seconds. Two file formats are recognised for input: standard ASCII text files and ChiWriter word processor files. Output can also be in ChiWriter or ASCII format.

Full details of how to run REFLIST are provided on disk with the program.

2. Acceptable Citation Formats

REFLIST recognises references cited in the Harvard style; i.e. surname(s) followed by year of publication. Within this framework it is quite flexible and will correctly handle any of the following examples:

(Pannell, 1988)

(Pannell 1988)

Pannell (1988)

Pannell (1988a)

Pannell (1988a, p.23)

Pannell (1987; 1988)

Pannell (1987 & 1988)

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Pannell (1987 and 1988)

Pannell (1987, 1988)

(Pannell and Falconer, 1988)

(Pannell & Falconer, 1988)

Smith and von Holtz (1965)

(Morrison et al., 1986)

(Morrison, Kingwell, Pannell and Ewing, 1986)

(Morrison et al 1986; Pannell 1987; Pannell & Falconer 1988)

Pannell, D.J. (1988)

Morrison, D.A., Kingwell, R.S., Pannell, D.J. & Ewing, M.A. (1986)

Morrison, D.A., R.S. Kingwell, D.J. Pannell, & M.A. Ewing, (1986)

The last three are not likely to occur in the main text but will arise in the reference list at the end of the paper.

3. Unacceptable Citation Formats

There are some circumstances in which a reference will be misinterpreted.

- (a) if you include one or more lower case words between the name(s) and the date; e.g. "In the Smith report (1977)...". This reference would be ignored because the date is not preceded by a name.
- (b) if you forget to put a comma after the first name of a three name reference; e.g. "Smith Jones and Brown (1978)". This would be recorded as "Jones and Brown (1978)". The same error would occur if you put a space between the first name and the comma; e.g. "Smith , Jones and Brown (1978)".
- (c) if you have a reference with so many names that it is spread over three or more lines. REFLIST only looks at the current line and one previous line.
- (d) if, in the reference list, you include the authors full Christian name rather than just initials; e.g. "Jones, Henry B. (1979)" would be recorded as "Henry (1979)".
- (e) Some journals require the date to be somewhere other than immediately following the names in the reference list, e.g. Jones, A.V. "The price of eggs." *American Journal of Avian Economics* 45(1974): 1-45. REFLIST will not work on reference lists like this but it will still correctly pull references out of the text.

Most of these problems are easy to avoid and in the vast majority of cases, references will be correctly picked up and processed. Just in case REFLIST does reject something which is actually a reference it prints out a list of "near misses". These are cases where it found a "19" but for some reason decided that it was not a reference.

4. Example Output File

A typical output file is shown in Table 1. The output starts with a summary of the file and then lists the references in alphabetical order. Finally it lists "near misses". Here are some of the things which can turn up in the results.

(Gramshaw, 1974) [T = 2, L = 1]

Notice the figures in square brackets at the end of the line. T indicates the number of times the reference was cited in the main text. L is the number of times the reference was cited in the list at the end of the document. This reference was cited twice in the main text of the paper and once in the reference list at the end. In other words there is no problem. That is what you hope all your results will look like.

(Allen, 1978) [T = 1, L = 0]

This reference occurred once in the text but was not included in the reference list.

(Smithers, 1988) [T = 0, L = 1]

This one was not cited in the text but was included in the list.

(Jones, 1967) [T = 1, L = 2]

This one has been included twice in the reference list. If it is a repeated reference you need to delete one. If it is not a repeat, but rather two references with the same name and date, you need to distinguish between them; e.g. 1967a and 1967b.

(Morrison et al., 1986) [T = 3, L = 0]

Morrison, Kingwell, Pannell and Ewing (1986) [T = 0, L = 1]

Although there are some zeros, which are generally bad, this is actually a success. "(Morrison et al., 1986)" was cited three times in the text but not in the reference list, but this is obviously because it is included in the list as "(Morrison, Kingwell, Pannell and Ewing, 1986)".

(Cox, Shepard and Covey, 1981) [T = 1, L = 0]

(Cox, Shephard and Covey, 1981) [T = 0, L = 1]

In this example the program has picked up a spelling mistake. You need to correct either "Shepard" or "Shephard".

(Chadwick-Jones, Brown and Nicholson, 1973) [T = 0, L = 1]

(Chadwick-Jones, Nicholson and Brown, 1973) [T = 1, L = 0]

The order of names is wrong somewhere.

(However, Porter and Steers, 1973) [T = 1, L = 0]

(Porter and Steers, 1973) [T = 0, L = 1]

This is an example of an occasional but unavoidable problem, where a word which is not part of a reference name meets all the criteria for it to be included in the name. In this case the "However" is at the start of a sentence and because it starts with a capital and is followed by a comma it looks to REFLIST like part of the reference.

(In, 1978) [T = 1, L = 0]

(January, 1989) [T = 0, L = 1]

These are examples of pieces of text which are not references at all. The first one resulted from a sentence in the main text which started, "In 1978, the election for ...". The second example resulted from a conference proceedings in the reference list. You can clearly ignore these.

At the end of the list of citations there is a list of "near misses". This shows lines of the file which include a "19" but do not appear to REFLIST to be reference citations. In addition to going through the list of references produced by REFLIST, you should probably check all "near misses" just in case they are actually references.

5. Availability

REFLIST is a shareware program. A copy can be obtained by sending \$25 to cover costs to Optimal Software, P.O. Box 610, Victoria Park, Western Australia 6100.

Table 1: An Output File

REFLIST 1.3 - by David J. Pannell, 1 Feb 1989
 References cited in C:\PANNELL\CW\AMIR1.CHI
 3032 lines in file
 46 citations in file
 24 distinct references
 [T = number of times reference cited in text]
 [L = times reference cited in list at end of document]
 [Start of list indicated by #REFLIST# on line by itself]

(Aitchison, 1988)	[T = 1, L = 1]
(Ashton, 1972)	[T = 1, L = 1]
(Collins et al., 1983)	[T = 1, L = 0]
(Collins, Rossiter and Wolfe, 1983)	[T = 0, L = 1]
(Cousens et al., 1986)	[T = 1, L = 0]
(Cousens, 1985)	[T = 1, L = 1]
(Cousens, Doyle, Wilson and Cussans, 1986)	[T = 0, L = 1]
(Donald, 1951)	[T = 1, L = 1]
(Ewing and Pannell, 1987)	[T = 1, L = 1]
(Finney, 1971)	[T = 1, L = 1]
(Gramshaw, 1974)	[T = 2, L = 1]
(January, 1989)	[T = 0, L = 1]
(Kingwell and Pannell, 1987)	[T = 1, L = 1]
(Kingwell, 1987)	[T = 1, L = 1]
(Morrison et al., 1986)	[T = 3, L = 0]
(Morrison, Kingwell, Pannell and Ewing, 1986)	[T = 0, L = 1]
(Nelder and Wedderburn, 1972)	[T = 1, L = 1]
(Oldham and Moore, 1989)	[T = 1, L = 1]
(Pannell and Falconer, 1988)	[T = 1, L = 1]
(Pannell and Panetta, 1986)	[T = 1, L = 1]
(Rowe, 1986)	[T = 1, L = 1]
(Wadley, 1949)	[T = 2, L = 1]
(White, 1978)	[T = 1, L = 1]
(Williams and Allden, 1976)	[T = 1, L = 1]

Near misses

- 1: version EWM 65 which is updated to 1988.
- 2: Victoria in 1976. There were 96 observations in the data
- 3: aa p.197). According to Wadley the
- 4: and Victoria from 1975 to 1981.
- 5: aa to 1981.
- 6: 196-202.
- 7: Total weed control costs \$13194