Wright Information

Software Field Trip: Sources of Software

(Note: inclusion does not indicate recommendation. Prices listed are US, and most likely can be beat by shopping around. Prices with a + mark mean that several add-ons or varieties are available, which could add to the cost.)

Macro tools (saving your hands)

√ Dragon Naturally Speaking - http://www.scansoft.com/naturallyspeaking/ - $99.99+

> The Dragon NaturallySpeaking 8 family of products is the fast, easy and accurate way to turn speech into text. Users can dictate into virtually any windows-based application at speeds up to 160 words per minute and achieve higher levels of accuracy than ever before. Many indexers use Dragon to save keystrokes and enter index terms quickly.

√ QuickKeys - http://www.cesoft.com/products/quickeys.html – $99.95+

> A must-have utility that automates time-consuming and repetitive computer tasks with customized hot keys, toolbars and much more. With QuicKeys the ability to customize and control your computer is virtually endless. Demo available.

Add-ons for embedding

√ emDEX – http://www.emdex.ca – $100.00

> emDEX is a FrameMaker™ Plug-In, adding a real-time visual means of watching your index grow right before your eyes to help you track and modify your index entries on the fly. No more need to tag-and-generate again and again. Provides real-time visual updating of the emDEX index window as you are marking entries, allowing you to view and modify entries as you go; real-time formatting of locators and *"See"*, *"See also"* references; visual index creation for single documents or books; global search and replace; and one-step range marking by highlighting text. Demo available.

√ Index Tools Professional - http://www.siliconprairiesoftware.com/Products.html - $30.00

> Index Tools Professional provides improved indexing capabilities for FrameMaker. It allows embedding index entries into the flow of documents, eliminating the need to work with FrameMaker's Marker window. It greatly speeds entering index entries. Index Tools Professional provides tools to format generated indexes, including adding "continuation" lines for groups of entries that span multiple columns. The plug-in allows merging and continuation lines to be applied automatically, whenever a generate/update operation is performed on a FrameMaker book. Index Tools Professional also includes a tool to make generating a master index for a set of FrameMaker books quick and easy.

√ Marker Tools for FrameMaker - http://www.leximation.com/tools/ – $55.00 US

> - Enhanced Marker Edit dialog - Provides the same functionality as the default Marker dialog but gives you a larger area for editing the marker text, and includes a counter that indicates the number

of characters in the marker. It also provides user-definable "building blocks" that can be added to the marker text with the click of a button. You can select an entire paragraph (or the whole document) and browse through all of the markers one at a time. You can also perform a marker search from the Marker Edit dialog. This dialog also lets you delete, add, and "clone" markers while browsing through groups of markers.

- Search for text in specific marker types - The default functionality in FrameMaker is to allow you to search for a specific text string in all markers, or search for markers of a given type, but not both. MarkerTools lets you do that.
- Expand/Collapse markers - Provides the ability to edit marker text directly in the document by expanding selected marker types at their current location. After editing the marker text, you can collapse it back into a marker. This also lets you add/delete markers in the expanded mode.
- Display warning when deleting markers - If you enable the "Marker Watch" feature, you'll be notified when deleting one or more markers. This gives you the opportunity to undo the deletion before the markers are gone forever.
- Export/Import markers - Allows you to export and reimport the marker data for a specified marker type. This can be very useful for making global changes to the marker text or doing some general marker cleanup.

√ IxGen - http://www.fsatools.com/ - $249.00

IxGen is the leading marker manipulator add-on for Frame. Allows indexing entries to be edited outside of Frame, split, manipulated, and reinserted into the files. The latest version includes floating toolbar options and many new features. Demo available.

√ DEXter - http://www.editorium.com/DEXter.htm- $199.95

DEXter works with standalone indexing tools like Cindex or Macrex to embed index entries into Word files.

√ WordEmbed - http://wordembed.jalamb.com- $110.00

WordEmbed works with standalone indexing tools like Cindex or Macrex to embed index entries into Word files.

Working with PDF files

√ Adobe Acrobat - http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobatpro/main.html– $449.00

We all know about Acrobat Reader, but the full version is worth considering if you are working with clients who want to do specialized forms of PDF files. It can compare two versions of a document, allow you to add hyperlinks manually, add and subtract pages to a PDF file, and includes support for generating your own PDF files.

√ Sonar Activate - http://www.virginiasystems.com/ - $195.00

Sonar Activate is a plug-in for Adobe Acrobat®. Sonar Bookends Activate can now create hypertext links for page number references (like "See page 12). Once hypertext linked, the user only needs to click on the reference to jump to the correct page in the PDF document. If a pdf file was created without an active index, Sonar can activate it. Demo version available.

Windows help files/single sourcing

√ HTML Indexer (See below under HTML/XML tools)

√ RoboHelp - http://www.macromedia.com/software/robohelp/ - $999.00+

The leader in online help and HTML-based help software authoring. RoboHelp and RoboHTML include single-sourcing tools based on Word, and an Index Wizard that both does concordance-style indexing or completely-fine-tuned professional indexing. Several versions available, some of which provide in-product live testing abilities. Subscription plan for updates. Trial download.

√ WebWorks Publisher - http://www.webworks.com/ - $1295.00+
Versions for both Frame and Word to create single-sourced files, PDF, eHelp, eBooks, and online help files. Subscription plan for updates. Evaluation copies available.

√ FAR - http://www.helpware.net/FAR/index.html - $49.00
FAR (Find and Replace) is a shareware utility developed by The Helpware Group to simplify the process of creating and editing HTML Help projects. FAR acts as a front end to Microsoft's HTML Help Workshop, and you can use it to quickly create an HTML Help project, and to create an index for a Help project. Shareware version available.

HTML/XML tools
√ HTML Indexer - http://www.html-indexer.com/ - $239.95
HTML Indexer creates a back-of-the-book index from any collection of HTML files. It also includes output options for HTML Help and JavaHelp index files. HTML Indexer allows you to index HTML files once and create all three index types with a single click. Free download available.

√ Metabrowser Client- http://metabrowser.spirit.net.au/ - $120.00
Metabrowser allows you to see and edit metadata on web sites directly, import controlled vocabularies and metadata schemas such as Dublin Core, or thesauri/taxonomies built in Term Tree and other software packages.

√ RoboHTML (Part of RoboHELP, see above under Windows help files)

√ Sonar Professional with Web Site Indexing (See below under Pulling terminology)

√ TermTree (See below under Thesaurus)

√ XML Spy - http://www.altova.com/ - Free home edition, $499 professional edition
XML Spy allows you to get a graphical overview of how your XML schema is developing. It's hard to write text in, great for developing an overall plan. Evaluation copy available.

Thesaurus/Taxonomy builders
√ MultiTes 2005 – http://www.multites.com - $145.00+
Thesaurus construction, taxonomy building, controlled vocabulary management. Less graphical than TermTree, but has a nice selection of output formats. Supports monolingual and multilingual thesauri. Evaluation edition available.

√ TermTree - http://www.termtree.com.au/ - $800.00 (Australian)+
Allows you to build and export tree structures that can be used for synonym rings, taxonomies, controlled vocabularies, or thesauri. Exports in HTML and XML, as well as Word reports and other formats. Visual display, easy to use. Evaluation version available.

Pulling terminology/concordances/automatic indexing
√ Grokker - http://www.groxis.com/cgi-bin/grok/ - $49.00

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Grokker builds precise and detailed knowledge maps containing visual cues and relationships between the data. The map itself contains powerful metadata that vividly describes the "nature" of the data collection. Grokker enables map generation and the ability to collaborate, extend, edit, delete, save, and share any attribute or subset of the map. The actual records, such as HTML pages, are accessed by traversing the web with a web browser. This approach allows Grokker to negotiate any type of network, file system, or database saving time, resources, and most importantly, generates far more useful results.

√ Logik - http://www.coredge.com/ - My edition $399.00
> Logik — My Edition is a Knowledge Preview Tool designed to provide users with a quick way to assess information buried in e-mail, public folders, on hard drives and the Internet. Logik sifts through electronic documents and exposes a preview of relevant content in the form of document summaries and highlighted key themes and categories. This tool comes in handy in building rough taxonomies and pulling vocabulary for concordances. Evaluation copy available.

√ RoboHelp (See above under Windows Help Files)

√ Sonar Bookends Professional - http://www.virginiasystems.com/ - $395.00+
> Sonar Bookends automates the process of pulling index entries. Works with InDesign, QuarkXPress, PageMaker, FrameMaker, Word, WordPerfect, and PDFs. Add-on features allow indexing of web sites, TOC generation, and other automated processes. Useful for pulling terminology out of a set of documents for further work on controlled vocabularies. Demo versions available.

√ Folksonomy tools - A good starting point is http://www.iawiki.net/FolksOnomy

Bibliographic records
√ ProCite - http://www.procite.com/ - $299.95
> A bibliographic format and data entry system. Maintains a database of citations and abstracts, allows keywording, and outputs to a variety of standard publication formats and style guides for various publishers. Includes Cite as You Write, and understands web citations. Automatically formats output, extremely customizable. Indexing is possible with some effort. Free trial available.

√ EndNote – http://www.endnote.com – 299.95
> Similar to ProCite, you can use EndNote to search online bibliographic databases, organize their references and images, and create bibliographies and figure lists instantly. Both packages link to web sites, pdf files, and other documents. Trial version available.

Topic maps
√ Omnigator - http://www.ontopia.net/omnigator/models/index.jsp – Free
> Allows you to view topic maps written in XTM. Free download.

√ A list of other topic map tools is at http://www.topicmap.com/topicmap/tools.html

Software Comparison:
Nancy Mulvany's and Jan Wright's Toolboxes

Nancy's Software Tools

- Eudora (email)
- Qtopia (PDA calendar & addresses)
- MS Excel
- Macrex & Sky Index
- ZoneAlarm (firewall)
- McAfee antivirus
- DriveImage (for hard drive backup)
- Macromedia Dreamweaver
- Dragon Naturally Speaking

- Solitaire
- MS Word
- WinZip
- Adobe Acrobat (for making PDFs)
- Quicken
- TurboTax
- WS_FTP (for uploading files)
- Window Washer (for cleaning up Internet trails, Microsoft temp files, cookies, etc.); Pest Patrol; Spybot
- Connected TLM (daily offsite backup)
- Adobe PageMaker
- EndNote (bibliographic citation & reference management)
- TextPad (ASCII editor)

Jan's Software Tools

- Eudora (email)
- MS Outlook (calendar and addresses)
- MS Excel
- Cindex
- ZoneAlarm (firewall)
- Norton AntiVirus
- Iomega QuikSync Backup
- Macromedia Dreamweaver
- Dragon Dictate (voice activated navigation software)

- Spider Solitaire
- MS Word
- WinZip
- Adobe Acrobat
- Quicken
- A human accountant (What? Really?)
- WS_FTP
- Pest Patrol

- WWW.ibackup.com
- Adobe PageMaker
- ProCite (bibliographic citation and abstracting software)
- MetaBrowser
- Adobe FrameMaker with IXGen (from Frank Sterns Associates)
- TermTree (thesaurus design)
- TraxTime (for timing hourly rate projects)
- RoboHELP/RoboHTML (online help creation)
- XML Spy (XML schema builder)
- QuickKeys (Macro builder)