

## 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/> - \$199.00+

The Dragon NaturallySpeaking 7 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 QuickKeys 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.

Indexing 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. The latest version now provides conditional index entries, which are great for documentation sets that have multiple outputs derived from them. 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.

IndexRef for FrameMaker - <http://www.sundorne.com/IndexRef/indexref.htm> - \$25.00 US/ \$35.00 Canadian

IndexRef finds cross reference entries in a Frame-generated PDF index, determines where the destination link should be, and rewrites the hyperlink so clicking it will jump to the appropriate place in the index. Evaluation version available.

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.

## **Working with PDF files**

Adobe Acrobat - <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobatstd/main.html> – \$299.00

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.

IndexRef for FrameMaker (See above under Add-ons for Embedding)

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.

PDF995 - <http://www.pdf995.com/index.html> - \$9.95

If you don't want to spend the money on a full version of Acrobat, you have some other options for creating your own PDF files. One is PDF995, which asks only a small fee for the use of the software. Free download.

## **Windows help files/single sourcing**

HTML Indexer (See below under HTML/XML tools)

RoboHelp - <http://www.ehelp.com/> - \$899.00+

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.

Macromedia Dreamweaver – <http://www.macromedia.com> - \$399.00

Creating websites, as well as handcrafting web indexes, can be done with Dreamweaver. It includes visual layout tools, extensive code-editing support, and rapid web application development—all in one complete, integrated solution. Steep learning curve, so get a book! Free evaluation copy.

Metabrowser Client- <http://metabrowser.spirit.net.au/> - Free

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)

WS-FTP LE - <http://www.ftpplanet.com/download.htm> - Shareware

If you have a web site, you have to upload files. Some web authoring tools do it for you, some don't. WS-FTP LE has been around for eons, and is still reliable and easy to use. And free.

XMLMetal – <http://www.corel.com> - \$829.00+ for Developer edition

If you are starting to work with XML, you need an editor. You can wait until Word 11 comes out and see what it has to offer, or you can play with XMLMetal. There are several flavors available, start with the simplest. XMLMetal allows several views of your document, including a nice word-like visible tag window. Evaluation edition available, requires Visual Studio.net.

XML Spy - <http://www.xmlspy.com/> - \$99.00 home 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**

MultiTees – <http://www.multites.com> - \$125.00+

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/> - \$440.00+

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.

### **Complex data keeping**

MS Excel – <http://www.microsoft.com/office/excel/default.asp> – \$339.00 for Excel alone.

As part of Office, Excel can be just as useful as Word. Keeping columns as level heads, you can add as many columns as you need to keep notes of versions, products, complex single-sourcing data, metadata requirements, etc. Export what you need as a tab-delimited file into your indexing software, and manipulate away.

### **Pulling terminology/concordances/automatic indexing**

Grokker - <http://www.groxis.com/cgi-bin/grok/> - \$99.00

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.

nServer e-Publisher Suite - <http://www.nstein.com/index.html> – If you have to ask, you can't afford it?

This suite has vocabulary extraction, categorization, search, summarization and other modules built in. A full system solution for large amounts of data and documents. End-user versions available. Test drive available.

RoboHelp (See above under Windows Help Files)

Sonar Bookends Professional - <http://www.virginiasystems.com/> - \$295.00+

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.

Syntactica - <http://www.syntactica.com> – 100 pages free, then .10 per page

A document indexer and abstractor, completely web-based. Syntactica™ identifies all significant words and phrases from a document and lists them in alphabetical order, forming a back-of-the-book index. Indexes generated by the Syntactica™ Text Analyzer service represent different levels of detail. There are three levels of detail - MIN, MID, MAX - available. Syntactica™ site allows users to edit online the indexes after being automatically created by the Syntactica™ indexing engine. Users may modify entry appearance of the existing index items, delete selected items as well as add new items of their own. Examples and free trial available.

### **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.

# 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)

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