horizontal lines. The program offers the usual optional display of rulers and grids and the user can choose to snap to grids or rulers.

CUSTOMIZATION

The package has many options which can be controlled by the user and is therefore ideal for the user who has strong preferences and wishes to adapt the software to his/her preferred style of working. When installed, these options are set to "factory set defaults", which are described in the manual. The advanced user is recommended to study these options carefully to ensure that the package is working in a way that is best for her/him.

BUGS

In a package as complex as ISIS/Draw, it is inevitable that bugs have survived into the first production version. The most obvious and irritating bug occurred in the sketch mode when I was attempting to highlight a vertical line longer than the screen (the molecule button and ruler were corrupted and ghosting occurred in the drawing area).

SUMMARY

In summary, I think MDL has produced an excellent product which still has some way to go before perfection will be reached.

REFERENCES AND NOTES

(1) *ISIS/Draw for the Macintosh*; Molecular Design Limited: San Leandro, CA. The current prices are as follows: list price $495; ACS member price $445 (from ACS Software), academic price $375.

(2) Molecular Design (U.K.) Ltd, 10 Armstrong Mall, Southwood Summit Centre, Southwood, Hampshire GU14 0NR, U.K. The current list price is £450.

Scientific Reference System II[1]

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At the outset, I must say that I have been using another bibliographic reference management system, EndNote Plus (Niles and Associates) in the Macintosh environment for 3 years. It is therefore difficult not to compare Scientific Reference System II (SRS II), a HyperCard-based program to EndNote Plus. SRS II is a rather sophisticated HyperCard stack for the management of bibliographic data. Its strengths are that it can readily import text files which have been captured from on-line bibliographic services such as STN–CAS Online, BIOSIS, CAB; Dialog–CAS Online, Medline, and a variety of other services. One can also manually type in a reference card. Fields are available for title, abstract, authors, reference, keywords, and, when the data is imported, the abstract reference. There is also a set of flags which can be set for the purposes of searching the database. Searching can be done on a simple expression or full Boolean logic can be used to accomplish more sophisticated searches. Finally, one can print out the database or subsets of it, chosen through searching in a number of reference list formats which conform to a large set of journals.

Given this set of features, how does SRS II perform? The program comes with very clear and concise documentation, and the code is supplied on two disks. The first contains the SRS II stack, support files, and a set of text files with typical output from some of the supported on-line services. The second disk contains a copy of HyperCard for those who do not have it. Because the program is a HyperCard stack, it suffers from the slow behavior of this product. HyperCard is so general that it's response time for most operations is rather slow when compared to dedicated database programs like EndNote. The

stack's author has added "cute" sounds to accompany changes in the screens. I suspect the typical researcher will tire of this at some point and opt for greater speed. Since this is a HyperCard stack, knowledgeable HyperScript programmers (read hackers) can adjust the number of "bells and whistles" to their own liking. The import feature is very nice, but to import 15 articles from text on a Macintosh LC took approximately 8 min. A similar feature for importing is available for EndNote through the program EndLink (Niles & Associates), although this reviewer has not evaluated its performance. Finally, for use in document preparation, the ability to prepare a formated reference list is a good feature. Programs like EndNote Plus additionally allow for the references to be dynamically linked to the citations in a document so that the numbering scheme becomes automatic.

The price of the SRS II from Trinity software is listed as $125.00. This is comparable to prices for EndNote from a number of mail-order firms. It is less if you must have the import feature, probably the strongest feature for SRS II. The distributor allows for a 30-day free trial so that you can examine its performance for your own needs. Overall, if your requirements are specifically those of compiling on-line searches into an easy-to-use database, then SRS II is a useful product. If you are more interested in features which support manuscript writing, then you will probably need to investigate other programs.

REFERENCES AND NOTES

(1) Distributed by Trinity Software Campton, NH 03223.