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Bibliographic Databases

The software review on bibliographic databases by Ruth E. Wachtel (27 Feb., p. 1093) will undoubtedly be useful for users of MS-DOS computers and does give slight mention to some other possibilities, but it offers no help for Macintosh users. Indeed, as far as I know, there is no commercially produced bibliographic program for the Macintosh. The good news, though, is that none is needed because other, general purpose, database programs are available that can be readily adapted to bibliographic purposes. Among these I am most familiar with Filemaker (from Forethought Inc.), but there are several others that apparently do a comparable job. When Filemaker is evaluated by the list of desirable features chosen by Wachtel, it does not match exactly any of the reviewed programs, but earns more "yes" entries than some of them. Furthermore, its list price is as low as the lowest of them; and as a general database manager, it can be used for many more purposes than just bibliographic management. Double-sided floppy disks used in the Macintosh will hold 800 kilobytes and permit more than twice as many references per disk as 360-kilobyte floppy disks, thus postponing the step-up to a hard disk for a little longer.

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Erratum: In Arthur L. Robinson's Research News article "New evidence at Wayne State for superconductivity at 240 K" (3 Apr., p. 28), the second sentence of the sixth paragraph should have read, "When the investigators continue to decrease the temperature, at 100 K the sample begins to lose its remaining resistivity and becomes fully superconducting at about 60 K."

Erratum: In Deborah M. Barnes's Research News article "Drug may protect brains of heart attack victims" (6 Feb., p. 632), William A. Pulsinelli (whose name was misspelled) was incorrectly included in the statement, "because rodents are more susceptible to ischemic brain damage than primates, the Cornell researchers stress the importance of testing potential neuroprotective drugs in nonhuman primates before giving them to humans."

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