can be selected from an EndNote library and entered into a word processing document during composition. The reference can then be formatted to specified journal styles. EndNote supports more than 500 predesigned styles arranged according to discipline. The program also includes a list of almost 9000 journals with abbreviations sanctioned by the National Library of Medicine. Additionally, the new version of EndNote makes creation and modification of styles much easier with its new Style Manager. The Style Manager lists all available styles, previews formatted citations, and guides the user through the difficult process of editing styles with the help of clearly organized menus. Online help and printed documentation are clearly written and are helpful for novices and experts alike.

One function of EndNote addresses the challenge of organizing documents. Students, teachers, and researchers have all experienced the frustration of lost or forgotten documents. To solve this problem, EndNote relies on the fact that at its core it is a database program. Each reference type contains fields for data entry. Default fields include the usual bibliographic information, headings, abstract, and a notes field. Remaining reference fields can be remapped to topics of special interest to the user, such as where the item was previously cited, whether a copy is on file, or if other documents of similar type exist. Altogether, EndNote has 38 fields and 25 reference types—all searchable with EndNote's search engine. Furthermore, EndNote 4 extends the abilities of earlier versions of the program by allowing individual fields to be linked externally to documents on a disk or to a URL on the Web. However, the most important field for EndNote file management is the unique identifier, a specific number assigned by the database provider to each journal article. This number can be placed on the article for archiving and retrieval of desired document information. Thus, EndNote's file management features should help reduce the stacks of paper obscuring many desktops.

Researchers will find the cost of EndNote covered many times over by their increase in productivity and accuracy. EndNote libraries easily transfer between Mac and Windows operating systems. Indeed, the program runs virtually identically between the two platforms. However, previous owners of EndNote may be surprised at a new release so soon after the program was acquired by the Institute of Scientific Information. ISI ResearchSoft, which provides electronic databases like Current Contents, also owns the rights to ProCite and Reference Manager. Most of the new features in version 4 of EndNote improve the user interface without changing the functionality of the program. Some of the features still missing in EndNote are formatting options for requesting reprints, a convenient method for installing standardized program preferences, and compression algorithms for sharing personalized libraries over the Web. These will no doubt be part of future program development.

—BRUCE MCCALLUM

Department of Anesthesiology, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI 53226, USA. E-mail: Mccallum@Post.its.mcw.edu

Reference

1. M. F. McLellan, L. D. Case, M. C. Barnet, *Anesthesiology* 77, 185 (1992).

TECHSIGHTING
SOFTWARE

Graphing Wizardry

The advent of online grant and manuscript submission, publishing, and presentation has created a need for tools for creating, analyzing, and presenting data electronically. SigmaPlot 2000 from SPSS Science provides a versatile environment for plotting and analyzing data. The latest version includes several enhancements targeted at electronic document creation.

SigmaPlot 2000 retains the same basic appearance and command functions as earlier versions, easing the transition from versions 5 or earlier. The program opens with a blank worksheet for data entry with numerous options for bringing data into the worksheet. These range from manual entry to importing plain text (ASCII) and formatted spreadsheet data (Microsoft Excel). This version offers greatly improved integration of object linking and embedding (OLE2) with Microsoft Windows or Office programs. In practical terms, this means one may open Excel spreadsheets and manipulate them within the program. It also permits SigmaPlot graphs to be placed and edited within Word documents and PowerPoint presentations.

SigmaPlot 2000
SPSS Science

Chicago, IL
$599; $199 (upgrade)
312-329-2400
www.spssscience.com/sigmaplot/

The program offers a large selection of two- and three-dimensional graph types for presenting the data. Several new graph types have been added to this version (bringing the total to 14), some with more than a dozen styles. The number of choices might seem overwhelming to a novice user, but online help as well as the *SigmaPlot 2000 User's Guide* provide detailed explanations of all graph and worksheet options. A "graph wizard" guides the user through data selection and formatting. One can adjust virtually any graph parameter by calling up the graph properties dialog box. Graph templates can be defined and saved from any plot, providing a simple way to save frequently used settings and layouts.

SigmaPlot also offers features for data analysis. These include data transforms, regression, and curve fitting. A substantial enhancement to this version is the inclusion of simplified command windows and "wizards" that assist in performing basic analyses and transformations without requiring the user to learn SigmaPlot's programming language. Alternatively, the entire programming environment remains available for creating complex analyses and transformation functions.

Also new to this version of SigmaPlot 2000 is an export filter that permits graphs to be saved as CMYK TIFF 24-bit files, the standard required by many journals for electronic submission of figures. One can specify the graph resolution in dots-per-inch (dpi) in a range from 72 to 1200 dpi. The online help file provides a useful introduction to these parameters and their use in electronic publishing. Additional export formats include Encapsulated PostScript (EPS) and JPEG.

Several macros are provided to assist with presentation tasks, including a PowerPoint Slide macro and an HTML Export macro. Both macros leave something to be desired, however. The HTML Export macro only works with Microsoft Word 97 and fails with Word 2000. The PowerPoint Slide macro allows the user to place a selected graph in a new or existing PowerPoint presentation, but the novice will need to be familiar with PowerPoint slide layouts and required font sizes for clear presentations. Expert users may also find the choices of background and graph color schemes limiting. However, with the improvements in the OLE2 function, directly copying and pasting graphs from SigmaPlot 2000 to PowerPoint provide suitable work-arounds for some of the macros's limitations.

SigmaPlot 2000 runs with Windows 95 (version B), 98, 2000, or NT. The minimum system requirements are a Pentium processor, a CD-ROM drive, 20-MB hard disk space, and 32-MB RAM.

—CAROL A. BERTRAND

Department of Cell Biology and Physiology, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, S309 BST 3500 Terrace Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15261, USA. E-mail: cbertra+@pitt.edu