COMPanion to release Akademus, a new research tool for students

Teaching information literacy is more than just teaching students how to find information. It is also educating them on how to organize and communicate information – to put it down on paper – so they can learn from it.

That's why COMPanion has developed a new research tool for students to help them quickly find information, compose it in a word processor and print a report – all in the same software program. It's called the Akademus Research Workstation.

Akademus is a powerful research workstation and report writer that gives students and teachers quick access to CD-ROM databases and other resources. More importantly, students can copy the information they find directly into the Akademus word processor to prepare and print class assignments such as research papers and speeches.

No more waiting for shared resources to become available, or wasting time retyping research results and bibliographies into a report.

Akademus uses advanced technology that speeds up searching on networks. This means students throughout the school can search the Akademus database – all at the same time – without the network slowing down.

Apple offers Online Information Resources

Apple now offers online support areas on the Internet and selected commercial online services so you can access technical support information and software updates directly from your computer.

AppleLink

The Support Area features:
• Apple Tech Info Library – Apple's official technical support database.
• News & Support Guide board – Apple Information.
• Tools & Utilities board – tools for supporting Apple products.

• Support Discussions board – discussion board for AppleLink subscribers.

eWorld

The Quick Answers Area (shortcut: tech info) in the Apple Customer Center features:
• Apple Tech Info Library – Apple's official technical support database.
• Save Yourself a Phone Call board – Apple Information.
• Maxing Your Mac board –

COMPanion to announce release of Alexandria 4.0 in next InfoDesk

Your Summer Issue of InfoDesk will include an exciting announcement about our plans to release Alexandria 4.0.

The new version is accelerated for the Power Macintosh, so those of you who have purchased or are planning to purchase Power Macintosh servers will benefit from increased speed and performance. Version 4.0 also includes other features we'll tell you about in the next issue.

In the mean time, we will release Alexandria 3.7 in May to prepare you for a smooth transition to version 4.0.

Apple

extracted Apple Tech Info Library articles for upgrading or expanding Apple products.
• Reaching Out board – extracted Apple Tech Info Library articles on working with Apple products for DOS & Windows.
• Got A Better Answer feedback form – send your comments and suggestions to the Quick Answers sysop.

CompuServe

There are four areas maintained by Apple on CompuServe, each with a different go word (shortcut):
• Apple Support Forum (go aplsup).
• Apple Tech Info Library (go apltil).
• Apple New Updates (go aplnew).
• Apple Feedback Area (go aplfbk).

The Internet-Home Gopher Server

Apple information is posted in two areas on the Home Gopher Server:
• The Apple Tech Info Library is found in the path: Home Gopher Server->Computer Information ->Apple Tech Info Library.
• The Apple Support Area holds Apple information and Apple software updates and is found in the path: Apple
Education g
server->App
Support
Area.

(The Apple Computer Higher Education gopher server is also known as info.hed.apple.com)

The Internet

Apple's newest Internet sites provide a wide range of services. Our worldwide web server – www.info.apple.com – includes:
• Apple Tech Info Library (WAIS)
• Apple Software Updates, ftp.info.apple.com (ftp site)
• Apple Information
• Apple Related Web Pages – www.support.apple.com – includes much of the same information as www.info.apple.com.

Patches and updates can also be downloaded via FTP directly from ftp.support.apple.com

Though not specifically a support area, a variety of useful information can also be found at Apple's K-12 WWW site: http://www.austin.apple.com:80/education/

For More Information

For more Apple technical support information, call toll free 800-505-0171 and request a catalog of available documents. ▟
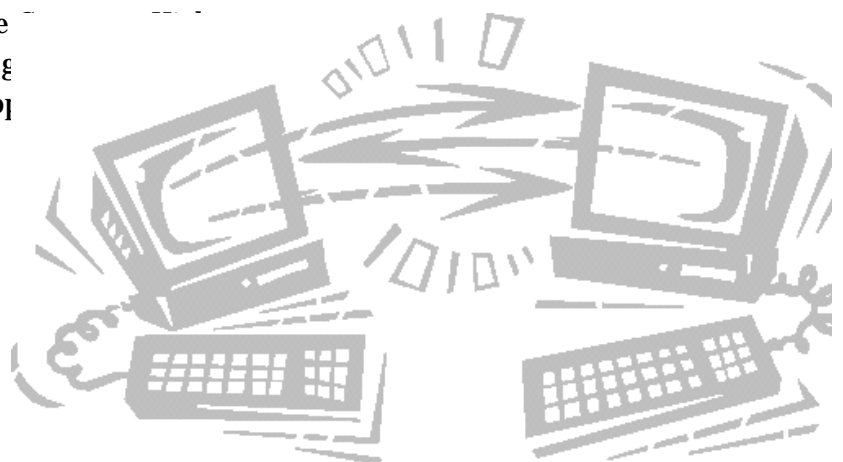
And with the Akademus Speech Text feature,students can even hear Akademus "speak"their research papers back to them.

A New Educational Idea

"The Akademus Research Workstation is a new educational idea – an all-in-one software program for searching,organizing and printing information for reports," said Bill Schjelderup,president of COMPanion."Students and teachers will appreciate Akademus' convenience and simplicity in producing research papers."

Akademus takes its name from another revolutionary concept in education – the original Academy. In ancient Greece, Plato established this center for teaching and research,which he named in honor of Akademus, a Greek hero who owned the land where the school was built.

The Akademus software, which is accelerated for the Power Macintosh,is currently in beta testing and will be released in early Spring.

A Matter of Fact database

This first release of Akademus includes Volume I of the Akademus library of databases called *A Matter of Fact*.

The A Matter of Fact database contains 70,000 full-text abstracts of "facts"on current public policy issues dating back to 1984. The abstracts include statements that contain statistics on social,economic,political, health and environmental public policy issues – enough to fill 21 encyclopedia-sized volumes of printed text.

Each abstract is substantive and quotable.A Matter of Fact does not present raw numbers in tables and charts; rather it presents the data selected by writers and speakers to influence others.

"The A Matter of Fact abstracts are perfect for writing a paper, preparing a speech or tracing an issue over time," said Schjelderup."It helps students find the evidence they need to support their theses and improve the quality of their research."

AKADEMUS FEATURES

- Accelerated for Power Macintosh
- 70,000 full text abstracts
- Integrated word processor
- Multi-lingual interface
- Link to multiple resources
- View multiple search screens
- 5-level boolean logic search
- Phonetic "Sounds like" search
- "Speech" capabilities
- Citation information

Students using Akademus can quickly search the database by subject headings or key words using its powerful Boolean logic search features.Simply enter the word and click "Search." Akademus instantly displays a list of relevant abstracts.

Akademus even "speaks" your search results or research papers back to you.Highlight the text you want read,select "Speech Text"and listen to Akademus speak your report.

Multi-language Feature

"The speech text feature is an excellent teaching tool for students learning English as a second language," said Schjelderup. Another feature that benefits ESL students is the ability to switch Akademus'language preferences "on the fly"to English,Spanish or French.

Akademus is available in a single user and site license version,which allows up to 500 Macintosh computers within a single school to access one networked server.The license also allows students to access Akademus from home via modem and ARA (Apple Remote Access).

Helplines, TraveLines database

Also included with Akademus is the Directory of National Helplines and TraveLines. Helplines is an on-line database of toll-free numbers to more than 500 national organizations.These resources offer information on current issues from domestic violence to toxic-cleanup assistance.

TraveLines offers toll-free numbers to more than 150 travel services in the USA,Canada and other countries. TraveLine services are useful for gathering transportation information and selecting travel destinations.

For pricing information, see Akademus in the Product Overviews section on page 7.

Questions & Answers

The following are frequently asked questions from our Technical Support Hotline.If you have a question about Alexandria or any other COMPanion product please call us at 800-347-4942.

Q: *I set a checkout period of 14 days.But when I check out a book today, it falls due in exactly 14 days, even though half of those days are marked closed. Shouldn't Alexandria ignore closed days in determining due date?*

A: The only time Alexandria counts closed days in determining due date is if the 14th day is closed.Then the due date is moved forward to the first open day.Why does Alexandria ignore closed days? Because even though the library is closed, your students can still read the book. In fact, having it count closed days should encourage students to read on weekends and holidays since they will only get the book for the set checkout period.

Q: *I walked away from my computer and when I came back it said, "Tape Cleared" in the transaction window.Did I lose the transaction record of everything I did today?*

A: Since Alexandria saves each transaction as it is performed, all of your data is safe. The "Tape Cleared"message simply means the screen log, which displays what you have done that day, was cleared. (If you want to clear the tape for any reason,type a "z" and press "enter.") To see the transaction log, open the transaction log document in the Alexandria folder.

TECHNOTES

Listed below are a few of COMPanion's TechNotes with information to help you use your Macintosh and Alexandria system more effectively. To request a TechNote, call our Technical Support Hotline.It can be faxed or mailed to you.

Number	TechNote Topic
322	**Enter a book** – This document describes the fastest method of entering a book directly into Alexandria, which is a single-screen entry.
324	**Import a Book Order** – Import a book order from a vendor
325	**2 of 5** Portable **Reader** – Portable readers can be programmed to read both 3 of 9 and 2 of 5 labels.
326	**MacSchool Patrons** – Importing patrons from MacSchool's School Management software.
327	**Personal Laserwriter LS** – How to print with the Personal LW LS (Personal Laserwriter LS)driver and printer.
328	**Newton Browsing** – Using Apple's Newton to browse your Alex holdings.
329	**Laserwriters and Barcodes** – Barcodes may print incorrectly with certain Laserwriter Drivers. This TechNote provides work-arounds.
330	**Using Apple File Exchange** – Step-by-step instructions for using Apple File Exchange to convert DOS MicroLIF diskettes.
420	**Reorganize and Optimize** – Keep your data file healthy and working as expected.
421	**Overnight Checkout** – Checkout for the day and overdue tomorrow.
422	**Subject Bibliography List** – Create a list of items using keywords.
423	**Fixed Assets Template** – A brief description on how to set up a fixed assets template for Alexandria 3.x.
450	**Verifiy Item Status Utility** – How to run the Verify item Utility.
451	**Verify Patron Status** – How to run the Verify Patron Status
501	**Using Norton 2.0 Backup** – How to use Norton 2.0's backup program
502	**Using Norton 3.0 Backup** – How to use Norton 3.0's backup program (Fastback).
503	**Using Norton Disk Doctor, 3.0** – How to use Norton Utilities disk repair Utility
504	**Using Apple's Disk First Aid** – How to use Apple's Disk First Aid utility

Tune-up tips to keep your reader running

If you've ever had to work without your barcode reader you know how much you depend on it. Keeping your reader in top condition can save you valuable time, not to mention money. Here are a few tips on how to tune-up your readers.

Portable Readers

• If you only use the reader once or twice a year you should charge it once a month to keep the batteries in good condition. Don't let the batteries totally drain. This can lead to shorter battery life and scanning problems.

• Make sure you charge the reader at least 18 hours before you plan on using it. If it hasn't been charged for a few months you may need to reset and reprogram the reader.

• To get the best use from the battery, it should be placed in the recharger when it has been used heavily (500-1000 scans) for eight hours. Under light use (50 scans) it should be recharged every 2-3 days.

• For optimum battery performance release the scan button between each scan. Holding the scan button continually down will completely drain the batteries in about 2 hours. Releasing the button should give you enough power for a full day's use.

• Test the reader before you start any large project. Scan 10 or 20 books and then download the information into Alexandria. You don't want to come across a problem after you have scanned hundreds of books.

• Lightly drag the reader across the barcode. Pressing too hard doesn't help the reader read bar codes. In fact, it accelerates the wear on the read head. This results in a higher number of "bad" scans that, in turn, makes you think you need to press harder.

• Your portable reader is a complex electronic device and is susceptible to abuse and damage. Be careful not to drop the reader, sit on it, bend it or expose it to extreme temperatures.

Keyboard Lightpen and CCD Wedge

• Keep an eye on your cables. Don't let them get pinched by drawers, slammed in cabinets or stretched too far. This can result in a short in the cable and a lot of aggravation.

• You can clean y[...] lightpen's tip by [...] window cleaner [...] and rubbing the [...] across. Be carefu[...] scratch the tip.

• Keep it safe. M[...] reader is never dropped or banged on the counter. If you have a holder for [...] er, make sure you [...] don't have a hold[...] you place your re[...] spot when you're [...]

Following t[...] will help your ba[...] have a long and [...] do encounter any problems with your reader please call the COMPanion Technical Support Hotline at 800-347-4942.
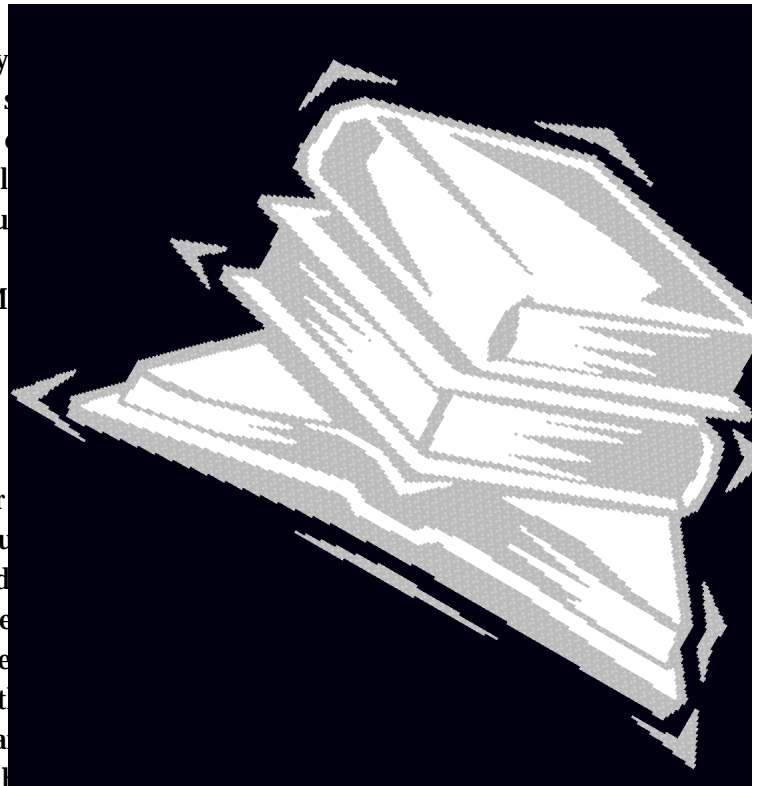
Susan Hamilton

School, District, City, State

St.Thomas More Catholic High School, Lafayette,LA.

Education

AB degree in Education from The George Washington University in D.C. in 1965. M.A. in English from Auburn University in 1974, M.L.S.(Masters in Library Science) from Emory University in 1975.

Professional Affiliations

American Library Association since 1975,American Association of School Librarians, Louisiana Library Association (currently the local arrangements chair for state conference), Lafayette Parish Association of School Librarians,and Beta Phi Mu (librarian's honorary).

Awards, Honors

• Modisette Award for outstanding school library (state award) for Our Lady of Fatima School when it was K-12.
• Lafayette Jaycees Outstanding Young Educator in 1978.

Successful library programs or special projects

Author visits are always memorable.Richard Peck,Robert Cormier, and Ernest Gaines have left their mark at St.Thomas More.I also like to check out art prints to classrooms because I believe we become what we see and absorb images unconsciously. The latest project is to alter the way we teach research skills to reflect the reality of all of the new electronic research products, including Alexandria.

Favorite book

I like to read fiction that reflects the texture of daily life in any time period and culture.I'm currently reading the *Bingo Palace* by Louise Erdrich.I also like non-fiction that helps me understand modern life,such as *My name is Chellis and I'm in Recovery from Western Civilization* by Chellis Glendinning.

On the future of the school library profession:

School librarians are more important than ever. They are change agents in their schools as they introduce technology to their schools and team up with teachers in the library and classroom.The walls of the library, classroom,and the school are broken down by electronic access. Information seeking skills are now being recognized as vital in the jobs of the future;that enhances our status in education, but it also puts a lot of pressure on us to do more – always more.

Hobbies

I like to read,of course! I enjoy cooking,and have lately experimented with all kinds of soups.Both my husband and I have the summer off, so I get him to pursue some new travel dream with me every year as well as go to a favorite old place – Hood Canal in Washington State.I'm also a political junkie.

When did you know that you wanted to become a librarian?

I knew I wanted to be a librarian when I first worked down the hall from a library in the Navy Department in Washington, D.C.That temporary World War II building once stood where the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is now. The library there was a refuge from the bureaucratic job I had and the librarian's job looked far more interesting.This was confirmed later when I moved to Atlanta and worked in a library part time while taking librarianship courses at Emory.

Pet peeve

My pet peeve is children or teens who say the are bored.As if that could be possible in this interesting world we live in!

On computers in education:

In five years we have gone with one computer with Alexandria to 30 networked lookup stations,and we are on the verge of taking this to the classrooms. Computers have been the leaven in the loaf of education in this school and I am proud to say that I have had a great deal to do with the dough rising.I have headed every computer committee,been on every curriculum committee and planning committee. But there are some days when the printers break down or students lose their work on their backup diskette or the library is full of purposeful noise when I would just like to go back to books.

AKADEMUS
RESEARCH WORKSTATION

Alexandria™
Library Automation for Macintosh®

Textbook Tracker

To order Akademus

Akademus is available in a single user and site license version, which allows up to 500 Macintosh computers within one school to access one networked server. The license also allows students remote access via ARA.

Prices represent a yearly subscription, and include semi-annual updates. COMPanion's #1-Rated Technical Support Hotline Service is included with each purchase. To order, or for a free Akademus demo disk, please call your COMPanion Account Executive.

Akademus Pricing

Akademus Site License $795.00
(Software & Volume I: *A Matter of Fact* CD-ROM and the National Directory of Helplines and TraveLines.)

Akademus Single User $595.00
(Software & Volume I: *A Matter of Fact* CD-ROM and the National Directory of Helplines and TraveLines.)

Alexandria 3.7 Release set for May

COMPanion will release Alexandria 3.7 in May, in preparation for the exciting upgrade to Alexandria 4.0 later this year. Version 3.7 will contain important enhancements for making an easy data transition to the Power Macintosh version. Customers with a current support subscription will automatically receive this upgrade.

The upgrade will be shipped on CD-ROM. If your library does not have a CD-ROM drive, please call us. We'll send it to you on disk.

If your support subscription has elapsed, please contact your COMPanion Account Executive at 800-347-6439 for information on how to renew support.

Textbook Librarian gets new name

Textbook Librarian has a new name: Textbook *Tracker*™. And we've added some new features to celebrate the new name, along with the ones you rely on for quick and easy textbook management.

Textbook Tracker made its debut this fall to the pleasure of librarians, administrators and others responsible for textbook management. To see how Textbook *Tracker* will help your school, call your COMPanion Account Executive at 800-347-6439 for a free demonstration disk.

Other COMPanion Products

New Hand-Held Laser Scanner

COMPanion offers a new hand-held scanner that uses a laser to read barcodes. The scanner combines the speed, depth of field and high performance of a laser reader with the durability, ergonomics and economy of a CCD Wedge scanner.

The scanner is triggerless–designed with sensor controls that are activated when items pass through the beam. Used with the scanner stand, this scanner can also function as a fixed scanner.

Hand-Held Laser Scanner Pricing

|		
V1035	Laser Scanner	$895.00
V1036	Scanner Stand	$35.00

Demo Portable Barcode Readers For Sale

Tired of lugging your computer around every time you do inventory? COMPanion has a limited number of high-quality, portable barcode readers for sale from our demo selection.

Demo Portable Barcode Reader Pricing

V1154	Demo Portable	$695.00

Time-saving tips to help you prepare for inventory
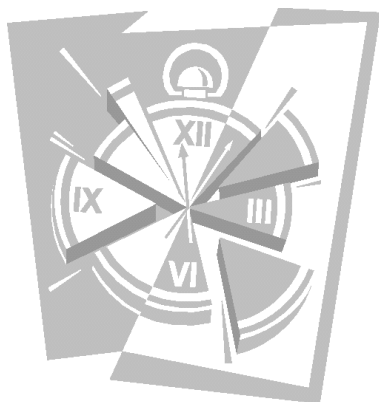
Inventory is still a few months away, but it's a good idea to start thinking now about a project of this size. Take a few minutes during the next month to check the following details to ensure your inventory goes off without a hitch.

Your portable reader can be your biggest asset during inventory. Make sure it still functions properly. Charge the reader for 24 hours to give it a full charge. Then wand some of your books for about 15 minutes or so. If any problems develop, call our Technical Support Hotline at 800-347-4942. You'll be happy you found and fixed the problems now – instead of in May. (For other reader maintenance tips, see related article on page 5).

If you don't have a portable reader yet, do yourself a favor and get one. Without one you will have to transport your books to the computer, or vice-versa. The "Computer on a Cart" method of inventory is the most common alternative to using a portable reader. Just make sure you have a long extension cord.

Have you started your search for outside help? Parent volunteers, students, even temporary employees can be a lifesaver, especially if you don't have a portable reader.

Make sure you a set game-plan for your helpers to follow. Schedule your help in shifts so you don't have people standing around waiting for something to do. Ten people first thing in the morning isn't going to be nearly as helpful as two shifts of five (or even five shifts of two).

Finally, do something to make the whole process fun. Get the principal to spring for pizzas. Offer prizes for your volunteer help. Anything that makes the job seem less burdensome will go a long way toward protecting your sanity.

COMPanion

1831 Fort Union Blvd. · Salt Lake City, UT · 84121-3041

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1-800-347-6439
DEMO KIT TODAY!