



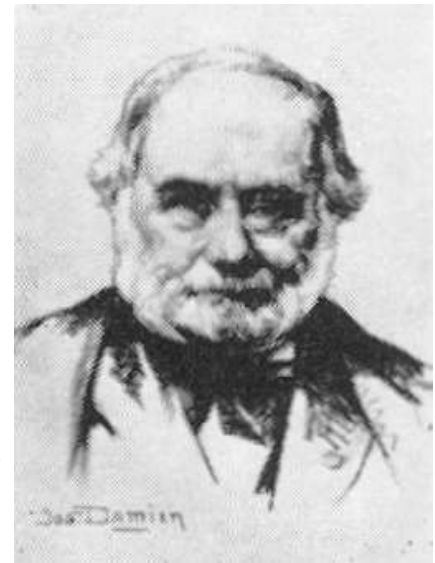
# A Review and Brief Comparison of the Leading Repertory / Materia Medica Software Programs

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The computerization of our homeopathic literature represents one of the most significant advances of our profession in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. I find my homeopathic software invaluable in daily clinical practice, in the continual self-education so necessary in our profession, and in preparing materials for teaching homeopathy.

GHG Jahr wrote in 1867,

IT was in the year 1827 when I made my debut in the practice of Homoeopathy, at a time when the only resources at our command were the *Materia Medica Pura* of the founder of our school and a few cures reported in Stapf's "Archiv" and in the "Praktischen Mittheilungen". With these scanty means we had to get along as well as we could, and, by a diligent and attentive study of the drugs with whose pathogeneses we had become acquainted at that time, familiarize ourselves with the characteristic symptoms of each drug and its special indications, in order to avail ourselves of them for therapeutic purposes in such case as might present themselves for treatment. This was no small task, which could never have been accomplished, if the *Materia Medica* of that time had contained the large number of drugs that are offered at the present time ... But since the number of drugs known at that time, did not exceed sixty, and among these only twenty had been proved with exhaustive perseverance and correctness, we had it in our power to study them thoroughly without too much trouble; to become fully acquainted with the specific effects of each drug ... to apply them as such in accordance with their symptomatic indications ... At this time such a careful study of our *Materia Medica* is unfortunately no longer possible to the beginner in Homoeopathy. Overwhelmed by the accumulated mass of drugs and clinical observations, he scarcely knows which way to turn for at least one ray of light in the chaos spread out before him ..."



We have in our literature today some 400 reasonably well-described remedies, along with 1200+ additional remedies known only fragmentarily. The task of getting along by a "diligent and attentive study" of our *materia medica* is today next to impossible. We face the need to replace our 19<sup>th</sup>-century reliance on "full acquaintance with the specific

effects of each drug", with ready access to the resources of our literature.

When Chris Kurz wrote his *Battle of the Repertories* comparison article in 1996, he reflected a view commonly held at the time, that beginning and intermediate students of homeopathy would do best to steer away from the use of computerized literature. Many homeopathic educators have discouraged the use of repertory and materia medica software programs until proficiency is developed in using printed-text references. The traditional skills of a homeopath include the knowledge of repertory structure and familiarity with its content, and it is feared that these skills might be neglected if reportorial software is relied upon to "automate" case analysis. It has also been suggested that "automated" case analysis using reportorial software can invite the computer-age phenomenon of "GIGO" – "garbage in, garbage out;" where the ease of data-input might encourage repertorization of poorly-considered symptom collections, with intermediate steps masked by the presumed authority of the computer.

It may be true that the use of stone tools reinforces the wisdom of "measuring twice and cutting once." Similarly, the labor required in printed-text repertorization may provide a measure of safety in assuring that one is careful to select a succinct collection of characterizing rubrics to represent the totality of symptoms of a case.

However, it is my experience that one can suffer a fool with books as easily as with a computer. I liken the resistance to adoption of the computer as a learning tool in homeopathic education, to the early resistance to acceptance of the stethoscope by the medical community. Computerized literature can significantly change the way we address and use information. This comes with a new set of benefits, along with a new set of risks; but risks in the use of our literature are nothing new to us.

Use of the repertory on the computer may actually facilitate learning its structure and familiarizing its content, allowing the user to gradually develop an organic understanding of repertory structure and content gained in daily use. Consultation of our materia medica on computer permits more ready comparative study and greatly facilitates consulting multiple authors.

Several computerized repertory / materia medica packages have been developed over the past 20 years. For the purposes of this article, I have investigated the three packages in most widespread use by professional homeopaths: CARA Pro 1.4 from Miccant; Mac Repertory 5.6.0 Pro Version / ReferenceWorks 2.6.3 from Kent Homeopathic Associates; and RADAR 8.1 / Encyclopedia Homeopathica 1.3 from Archibel.

At the outset, it is important to state that none of these programs "finds the remedy" for a case; the tasks of casetaking, the perception and organization of a Totality of Characterizing Symptoms, the choice of reportorial rubrics to represent this totality of symptoms, the differential consideration of the leading remedies and the ultimate choice of a simillimum remain tasks for the carefully observant practitioner. In similar manner, the tools of a carpenter do not build a house; they extend her grasp, make it much easier to drive nails, bore holes and judge a plumb line. A hammer in unskilled and ignorant hands can smash thumbs, mar wood and assist in the construction of an unsound house as easily as assist in the construction of a sound dwelling.

Each of these programs represents a significant contribution to the homeopathic community. Each has its own set of strengths and weaknesses; in reading the points of comparison below, it may be important to reflect on your individual wants and needs, and compare these with the relative strengths and shortcomings of each software package.

## Help

Yeah, I know that real guys don't use it; but easy access to help can not only solve problems of use, but also can facilitate the learning of shortcuts and power-user functions. These programs differ considerably in their onscreen and supportive help literature.

CARA	MacRepertory, ReferenceWorks	RADAR, Encyclopedia Homeopathica
Limited onscreen help.	No onscreen help. Ships with extensive manual.	Extensive searchable, context-sensitive help. Screenshots linked from the text illustrate features.  Text-based manuals include a comprehensive manual, a Quick Tour manual, and a Frequently Asked Questions pamphlet.  Professionally videotaped weekend training session available.

## Repertory(-ies)

The three repertory programs use different repertory databases. All allow mixing/matching of rubrics from their various repertories in a single analysis.

CARA	MacRepertory	RADAR

Combined – Kent, Synthetic, addn's from Vithoulkas & Sherr	The Complete Murphy's	Synthesis
Complete, Phatak, Boericke, Boenninghausen, Julian, Allen, Clarke, Murphy	Extensive collection of historical repertories	Synthesis <i>Views</i> *
		Murphy's
		Kent
		Boenninghausen's Therapeutic Pocketbook, Boenninghausen's Repertory of the Antipsoric Remedies, Boger-Boenninghausen Repertory (German; translation to English promised soon)

**The Complete Repertory (Roger vanZandvoort) and Synthesis (Frederik Schroyens) are the cutting-edge works of homeopathic repertory development.**

\* Even with the earliest repertories, a tension has existed between the need for the repertory to be inclusive and the need to be reliable. Clearly there are gray-zones to both realms. Many of Jan Scholten's additions, e.g., fall into the realm of speculative deduction, but may nevertheless prove valuable in the analysis of certain cases. Other practitioners may wish to rely only on repertory entries which have withstood the test of considerable time, and choose to ignore additions more contemporary than Pierre Schmidt. With version 8+ of the Synthesis Repertory, Frederik Schroyens has introduced the novelty of permitting multiple views of the repertory. The Full Synthesis in versions 8.0 and beyond includes additions from modern provings and clinical experience that some might find questionable. If one wishes to restrict repertory entries to sources judged more classically reliable, at the expense of excluding some material of more experimental nature, a restricted view may be selected – either while browsing the repertory for rubrics, or directly in the analysis window. Several stock views are provided to choose from, and the user can use the view-editor function to create and save their own custom views. Views are changed instantly from a drop-down menu in the repertory title-bar, and any of the views may be set as the default view by the user.

## Locating, Finding and Selecting Rubrics

I consider this one of the most critical tasks of a repertory program. The practitioner familiar with their repertory will appreciate speed and ease in finding and selecting known rubrics. Those who are learning the structure and content of their repertory can benefit from quick and easy searching for unknown rubrics, and particularly for clusters of rubrics with similar meaning. All three of these repertory programs offer striking advantages over using a paper repertory in ease of locating and searching for rubrics; RADAR stands well ahead of the pack in these features.

## Finding a known rubric

e.g., you wish to find the rubric *Mind, fear, night*

CARA	MacRepertory	RADAR
<p>Press <i>F2</i> to open the search dialog window</p> <p>Select the <i>Mind</i> chapter</p> <p>An empty search opens the <i>Browse Repertory</i> view in the selected chapter</p> <p>Type <i>fe</i> to go to <i>Mind, fear</i></p> <p>Scroll down to <i>Mind, fear, night</i></p>	<p>Mouseover to the "mind" icon and click on it</p> <p>Type <i>fe</i> to go to <i>fear</i> within the <i>Mind</i> section</p> <p>Click on <i>Mind, fear</i> to open list of subrubrics (or press <i>Ctrl-Y</i> to toggle subrubrics open)</p> <p>Scroll down list of subrubrics to find <i>Mind, fear, night</i></p>	<p>Type:</p> <p><i>mi</i> &lt;return&gt;</p> <p><i>fe</i> &lt;return&gt;</p> <p><i>ni</i> &lt;return&gt;&lt;return&gt;</p>

## Finding a rubric of unknown wording

e.g., you know that there is a rubric about not being able to tolerate horrible things or situations, but you can't recall how it's worded

CARA	MacRepertory	RADAR
<p>Press <i>F2</i> to open the search dialog window</p> <p>Select the <i>Mind</i> chapter</p> <p>Type <i>horrible</i> in the search field</p> <p>&lt;return&gt;</p> <p>all searches are rather slow; the first search each time the repertory-view is re-opened is extremely slow</p>	<p>Type:</p> <p><i>Ctrl-E</i></p> <p>For the repertory search window</p> <p>Type:</p> <p><i>horrible</i></p> <p>in the word-search field</p> <p>&lt;return&gt;</p> <p>A preliminary-results window appears, displaying the number of "hits" within each chapter of the repertory. Click next to <i>Mind</i> to select this chapter. Select the clipboard you'd like to receive the rubrics found.</p> <p>&lt;return&gt;</p>	<p>Type:</p> <p>? <i>horrible</i> &lt;return&gt;</p> <p>A window will open with a list of rubrics containing the word <i>horrible</i>. The desired rubric(s) may be imported directly to an analysis clipboard. Double-clicking on any of the rubrics in this list will take you to that rubric in the full repertory view.</p>



	<p>Rubrics in the <i>Mind</i> section containing the word <i>horrible</i> will appear in the chosen clipboard. The desired rubric(s) can then be moved to the clipboard you're using for analysis, the others erased. Double-clicking on a rubric will take you to that rubric in the repertory view.</p>	
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### Cross-references between related rubrics

– e.g., in the repertory, *Mind*, fastidious **may be cross-referenced to** *Mind*, conscientious about trifles **to remind you to look as well at this rubric of closely-related meaning**

CARA	MacRepertory	RADAR
Feature not available	<p>Cross references may be listed in parentheses after a rubric. <i>Ctrl-click</i> links to the FIRST cross-reference only; subsequent cross-references are not linked, and serve only as text reminders.</p>	<p>Links to cross-referenced rubrics appear in red, with an arrow icon, following the referring rubric. Double-clicking on any of these links will take you to the cross-referenced rubric. You can also select one or more of the cross-referenced rubrics directly from these links, either individually, or in combination with the referring rubric. Users may easily modify the cross-reference list, adding their own.</p>

### Searching for "concepts"

e.g., you may wish to find rubrics related to **obsessive behavior**. *Mind*, obsessive ... **does not produce any rubrics**. A search for *obsessive* **fails as well**. **Can you locate any rubrics that might have something to do with obsessiveness?**

CARA	MacRepertory	RADAR



<p>Feature not available</p>	<p>Feature not available</p>	<p>Type:</p> <p>??<i>obsessive</i> &lt;return&gt;</p> <p>A window opens, displaying the Concepts file:</p> <p><i>RADAR Concepts - Psychological disorders - obsessive compulsive neurosis</i></p> <p>Double-click on the book icon accompanying this, and a window opens up displaying a list of rubrics related to the <i>concept</i> of obsessive-compulsive behaviors.</p> <p>Several concepts files are incorporated into the program – including <i>Fonseca’s Semiological Guide</i>, <i>Servais’ Themes</i>, <i>Zulian’s Index</i>, <i>RADAR Concepts</i>, <i>RADAR Acute diseases</i>, and <i>Mateu’s First Aid</i></p> <p>Concepts files may also be accessed from individual rubrics. E.g., the rubric <i>Mind, counting continually</i> is followed by a concepts (lightbulb) icon; clicking on this brings up a list including the concepts file <i>RADAR Concepts - Psychological disorders - obsessive compulsive neurosis</i>.</p> <p>Concepts files may be modified by the user. E.g., the rubric <i>MIND - REST - cannot rest when things are not in the proper place</i> could easily be added to the above <i>RADAR concepts</i> file by the user.</p>
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## Author references

I like to know where my information comes from. Repertory additions attributed to Jahr or Hering demand greater attention for me than those from Gallavardin.

CARA	MacRepertory	RADAR
Author references are displayed as a footnoted number; clicking on the number or on the remedy brings up the reference.	Authors references may be displayed as either numbers or abbreviations (select from the Options menu). The full name of the author (but not the source of the reference) may be obtained by consulting the integrated Authors and Remedies application.	Author references may be enabled or disabled through the Repertory Window Options dialog. References appear as a colored footnote after the remedy. Double-clicking on the reference will open a window displaying the author's full name and the source of the reference.

## Moving a rubric into an analysis clipboard

CARA	MacRepertory	RADAR
<p>With the rubric selected, either double-click or press &lt;return&gt;</p> <p>or</p> <p>Right-click on the rubric, and from the drop-down menu, select <i>Take Rubric</i></p> <p>or</p> <p>Drag the rubric to the chosen clipboard</p> <p>A confirmation dialog box may be enabled/disabled (in the program preferences). Choices are offered here for underlining, choosing the clipboard, and designating the rubric as eliminative or causal for the analysis.</p> <p>Rubrics may be imported to a clipboard from a repertory chapter view or a find list. Only one rubric can be added at a time; even if it appears that you have selected multiple rubrics from a Find list.</p>	<p>With the rubric highlighted, press &lt;return&gt; to add to the default clipboard</p> <p>or</p> <p>Drag the rubric to the chosen clipboard</p> <p>Rubrics may be imported to a clipboard from the repertory view, or dragged from another clipboard (e.g., from a search result clipboard)</p>	<p>With the rubric selected, type:</p> <p><math>+n</math></p> <p>where <math>n</math> = the degree of underlining you wish (1-10)</p> <p>To direct the rubric to a specific clipboard (other than the default clipboard), type:</p> <p><math>+n&gt;C</math></p> <p>where <math>C</math> = 1-10 to indicate clipboard 1-10</p> <p>or</p> <p>Drag the rubric to the chosen clipboard</p> <p>or</p> <p>With the rubric selected, click on one of the clipboard icons in the command bar (labeled 1, 2 or 3) to add to the default clipboard underlined once, twice, or three times respectively.</p> <p>Rubrics may be imported to a clipboard from the main repertory view, from a chapter view, or from any search</p>



		result window. From a search result window, any number of selected rubrics may be imported simultaneously. From the main repertory view, a referring rubric may be imported along with any number of simultaneously selected cross-referenced rubrics.
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All three of these programs greatly simplify the task of finding and collecting rubrics of both known and unknown wording, over the use of a paper repertory. This is where the user will spend most of their time in the program in day-to-day use; and robustness, ease of use, and elegance of implementation of these tasks is of high importance. For this active/interactive searching, instant responsiveness is required of the program. I found CARA unacceptably slow in locating and searching for rubrics. MacRepertory required scrolling and mouseclicks, with optional keyboard entry for only portions of these tasks. RADAR's full implementation of keyboard-entry locating and searching functions sets it clearly in the lead when it comes to ease in locating, finding, and selecting rubrics for an analysis. RADAR's concept-level search function adds an additional level of robustness in the ability to find unknown rubrics that may apply to a patient's symptom.

## Organizing the analysis

### Editing / Qualifying rubrics

– e.g. setting underlining, designating as eliminative, causal, &c.

CARA	MacRepertory	RADAR
Underlining, elimination easily performed within the rubrics clipboards	Underlining easily performed.  Elimination is performed by selecting/highlighting the eliminative rubric(s), prior to analysis  Rubrics may be crossed out (by pressing "-" when highlighted) to appear in the analysis graph, without entering into the analysis calculations.	Underlining, elimination easily performed. Rubrics may receive an underline value of 0 to be appear in the analysis graph, without entering into the analysis calculations.  A <i>causal</i> designation is significant only in analysis via the Vithoulkas Expert System.

**Combining rubrics** – e.g., in a given case, it is not clear whether the patient is best-described with Fastidious, Conscientious about trifles, or Rest, cannot, when things are not in

their proper place; **so you'd like to combine these into one more-inclusive rubric.**

CARA	MacRepertory	RADAR
<p>Rubrics may be combined after they are collected in a clipboard. CARA uniquely offers the ability to <i>uncombine</i> previously combined rubrics – select the previously created combined rubric, click the Uncombine icon, and the originating rubrics are restored.</p>	<p>Rubrics may be combined either as they are being added from the Repertory view, or later after being collected in a clipboard. The identities of the contributing rubrics are lost in the combined rubric; the original rubrics can be saved and placed in a spare clipboard, if desired.</p> <p>Eliminative or crossed rubrics can also be created – listing only those remedies <i>common</i> to 2 or more originating rubrics.</p>	<p>3 options exist for combining rubrics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Leave the individual rubrics intact, but calculate them as if they were combined into one rubric;</li> <li>2. Create a single inclusive rubric, but leave the contributing rubrics in the analysis, weighted 0 so that they may be seen, but are disregarded in the analysis calculations;</li> <li>3. Create a single inclusive rubric, discarding the contributing rubrics</li> </ol> <p>Options 2 &amp; 3 are performed on rubrics after they are collected in the rubrics clipboard.</p> <p>Option 1 may be performed after the rubrics are collected, or as they are being added to the clipboard from the Repertory View, Chapter View, or Find window.</p> <p>Eliminative or crossed rubrics can also be created – listing only those remedies <i>common</i> to 2 or more originating rubrics. These act like Option 1 above – the originating rubrics will remain in the analysis, but will enter in to the calculations as if they were crossed (behaving like one rubric with only those remedies <i>common</i> to the contributing rubrics)</p>

**Summary – once rubrics are selected and imported into analysis clipboards, the three programs are closely comparable in their abilities to organize the collected rubrics for analysis; though these are implemented in somewhat differing manners.**

## Display of the analysis

### Basic graphic display

CARA	MacRepertory	RADAR
<p>Waffle and bar graph displays are available.</p> <p>Waffle display may indicate remedy grade by color, number or both.</p> <p>Some limited customization is available; changing waffle size, colors, flat/3D appearance, font of text.</p> <p>Sized to display average rubric length; long rubrics are cut off.</p>	<p>Many display options – very attractive graphics, most appealing for presentation work. In the Waffle graph, one can slide the graph right to allow room for long rubrics that would be cut off otherwise; or slide the graph left to permit more of the analysis to be viewed.</p> <p>Graphic displays include:</p> <p>Waffle graph (grade indicated by either color or number)</p> <p>Bar graph</p> <p>Multigraph (displaying multiple weighting methods in bar graph display)</p> <p>Multigraph (displaying multiple clipboards in bar graph display)</p> <p>Clipboards to be included in the analysis may be selected by clicking on/highlighting the rubrics clipboards; additional clipboards may be included by cntl-clicking on them.</p> <p>Many different custom graphs may be designed, with many options possible. E.g., a 2-dimensions scatter graph of totality on one axis, and small remedies on the other axis.</p> <p>Some graphs seem to be fun, but of questionable actual usefulness – e.g., city graph, state of matter graph</p> <p>See also Families analysis, below.</p>	<p>The basic display is a waffle graph, with remedy grade indicated by either color or number. The rubrics may be listed either to the left, and inline with the graph, or in a separate list above the graph. These options are toggled from icons on the graphic display. Text and waffle size may be simultaneously decreased/increased from icons on the graphic display, to permit better viewing of analyses of different sizes.</p> <p>A multiple bar-graph display allows simultaneous viewing of several weighting schemes (see Weighting of analysis, below).</p> <p>Clipboards to be included in / excluded from the analysis may be selected from an analysis preferences window.</p> <p>See also Special analyses, below – re the Vithoukas Expert System and Herscu Cycles/Segments module displays.</p>

**MacRepertory is the hands-down winner for presentation-quality graphics. All three programs provide perfectly adequate graphic displays for practitioner use.**

## Weighting of analysis

### - analysis scheme

CARA	MacRepertory	RADAR
Basic weighing strategies are available.	<p>A great variety of weighting strategies are available from the Analyze and Limit menus; these may be selected individually or in any combination. Custom weighting schemes may be constructed based on individualized recipes.</p> <p>A multigraph may be selected to display multiple weighing schemes side-by-side, in bar-graph display.</p> <p>A two-dimension scatter graph may be set up to display 2 weighting schemes on x- and y-axes.</p>	<p>Icons on the graphic display can be used to select among 8 different weighting schemes; any one of these may be set as the default scheme. Schemes include:</p> <p>Sum of symptoms</p> <p>Sum of symptoms, sorted by degree</p> <p>Sum of degrees</p> <p>Sum of degrees, sorted by symptoms</p> <p>Sum of symptoms &amp; degree</p> <p>Small rubrics</p> <p>Small remedies</p> <p>Prominence</p> <p>The graphical analysis window displays 6 of these weighting schemes side-by-side (#s 2, 4, 5,6,7,8 of the above list) in bar-graph displays.</p>

## Special analyses

CARA	MacRepertory	RADAR
No comparable feature available.	No comparable feature available. See, however, Families-based analysis, below.	<p>Vithoukas Expert System*</p> <p>Herscu Module – Cycles and Segments*</p> <p>*see discussion, below</p>

The Vithoulkas Expert System is a sophisticated analysis module which applies a complex set of algorithms to the rubrics you'd selected, modeling the case-analysis strategies of George Vithoulkas. It will often bring up some remedy suggestions that were not at all obvious in a conventional repertorization. I find this an extremely valuable adjunct to case analysis, and my one gripe about it is that its logic is not transparent to the user – so I am not immediately privy to the logic that brings up *Strophanthus* as a strong candidate in the VES, when it came up only as high as 77<sup>th</sup> position in any of the traditional weighting schemes. I do find such situations tremendously stimulating though, and attempting to re-create the reasoning leading to such a result is an excellent learning experience. One other gripe – not really with this module, but with what it will tolerate a fool to do – can be summed up with the computer-lingo expression GIGO – garbage in, garbage out. The VES will tell you if you have failed to underline rubrics in the manner it requires, or if you are particularly deficient in modalities or sensations; but it will not tell you if you have failed to organize your case adequately, failed to select rubrics representative of a truly characterizing totality, etc. For someone not taking care in these earlier stages of case analysis, there is the potential risk of hiding behind the virtual authority of the computer and its software. Certainly this risk exists as well with conventional repertorization, even when based in text and paper; but here the lack of transparency of the computer's logic can more effectively mask these deficiencies of preparation.

The Herscu module is based on Paul Herscu's approach to working with Cycles and Segments. For those acquainted with this method of case analysis it may be used in a "free" mode, where symptoms are clustered into clipboards by the user, with the module called in only at the final point of analysis. Optionally, it can also step you through the analysis in a question-and-answer based manner, organizing your selection and placement of rubrics to suit the method. The Herscu Cycles and Segments approach satisfies two major issues in case analysis: (1) it provides a framework for organizing the Totality of Characterizing Symptoms as a composition, satisfying Stuart Close's assertion that the totality must express an idea **which** unites the symptoms in a special manner and gives them its characteristic form; and (2) it provides a mechanism for addressing the incompleteness and uneven representation of knowledge of our remedies within the repertory.

The presence of these 2 analysis modules is a strong selling-point for RADAR.

### Families analysis

CARA	MacRepertory	RADAR

A repertorization may be restricted to a given family, from menus available in the Analysis Options window.

Mineral families (elements, periodic table rows or columns) may be selected from a Periodic Table interface, or from a menu.

Plant and animal families may be selected from the hierarchical Classes menu.

The Plant and Animal family groupings are in need of some work.

The algorithms involved in CARA's Family analysis are similar to those that drive the hierarchical pie-graph Families module of MacRepertory and the Families analysis in RADAR.

A repertorization may be easily restricted to the Minerals, Plant, or Animal Kingdom, using icons on the chart window.

A repertorization may be restricted to a given family (plant family, element, periodic table row or column, etc.) by selecting the family from a drop-down menu.

A very interesting feature of MacRepertory is the ability to ask for a repertorization *by family* (from a pull-down menu) – so that instead of seeing how individual *remedies* fare in the analysis, the analysis graph displays how *individual families* cover the repertorization.

Repertorization may be restricted to all "Family" groups, or to Miasms, Plant Chemicals, Vega's Boxes, Five Elements correlations, Planets correlations, Boyd's families, *Rows & Columns of the Periodic Table*, Plant Elements, or *Major Plants*.

*(Those in italics in the above list appear to offer the greatest potential for practical use).*

If a family name is clicked on in this graph, a window will pop up displaying an analysis *restricted* to that family.

I find two concerns with this feature. If All Families are selected for a Families analysis, the graph tends to become too inclusive, with too many non-useful higher orders of classification cluttering up the graph; and I find the convention for naming plant families to be somewhat irregular.

A repertorization may be restricted to a given family (Kingdom, plant family, element, periodic table row or column, etc.) by selecting the family from a menu window opened from an icon in the command bar.

"Family" groupings include

Kingdoms

Plant families and higher taxonomic levels

Animal families and higher taxonomic levels

Elements

Periodic Table rows and columns

Bowel nosodes

Boyd's groups

Dorsi's Diatheses and Notions

Five Elements

Miasms

Nosodes

State of Matter

Teste's groups

Families also include an extensive list of Remedy Relations, including Remedies that Follow (a given remedy) Well, Complementary Remedies, &c.

RADAR contains an



A hierarchical Families analysis is also available. This begins with a Pie graph of major Family Group divisions. The protocol for generating this graph and those that link from it (see below) is dependent on *how many remedies belonging to each group show up in the reportorial analysis* – unlike the more useful Families implementation above. Thus a family with several members present in the analysis will score well; whether any of these remedies do well in the analysis on their own, and regardless whether the family as a group covers the case well. (This is similar to the Families Analysis protocols in CARA and RADAR, and though it is more nicely implemented here, it is subject to the same concerns brought up for those programs).

Clicking on the Minerals segment of the pie graph will display a Period Table, with the elements, rows and columns that score well in the analysis displayed in the deepest colors. Clicking on an element, row or column will bring up a window displaying an analysis *restricted* to that element, row or column.

Plants, Animals and Imponderables are similarly set up with hierarchical schemes suited to those groupings of remedies. As with the CARA and RADAR Families analysis, the upper levels of taxonomic classification through which one has to wade before coming to meaningful family groups obscures the usefulness of this feature.

extensive Families Repertory, which serves as the database for the analysis restrictions above. It may also be consulted independently, by opening it up as the front-most repertory, and using the locating, searching and extracting features of the RADAR program.

RADAR also sports an Analysis by Families module. The algorithms involved are similar to those that drive the hierarchical pie-graph Families module of MacRepertory and the Families implementation in CARA.

Summary – Families-based analysis is clearly an up-and-coming focus for many homeopathic practitioners, and serviceable families analysis protocols are a potentially valuable feature of any repertory program. MacRepertory has the current edge in this category, with both the ability to restrict an analysis to a chosen family, and to repertorize by family – which is particularly functional when restricted to the Rows & Columns of the Periodic Table, or to the Major Plants families. RADAR shares the ability to restrict an analysis to a chosen family, but currently lacks a functional repertorize by family function. CARA’s family implementation requires significant work on its families database. The Analyze by Family modules of CARA and RADAR, and the hierarchical Families module of MacRepertory, utilize protocols that do not appear to be of great utility in practice.

## Search Functions

CARA	MacRepertory	RADAR
F2 brings up the Search dialog window.	<p>Cntrl-E brings up the Repertory Search dialog window. Remedies to be searched on may be entered in the Remedies field on the left; words to be searched on may be entered in the Word field on the right.</p> <p>AND, OR and NOT operators are available both in the Remedies and Word fields. One return after an entry will create a second field with an AND operator; two returns will create a second field with an OR operator. Clicking on the plus-sign preceding a field will toggle it from + to -, indicating respectively AND or NOT as the operator.</p>	<p>F4, or <i>extended search</i> from the Search menu, brings up the Search dialog window. Complex Boolean searches are available on</p> <p>Words, Roots &amp; Branches of words, Synonyms, Remedies, and repertory Chapters, in any combination including nested AND, OR, &amp; AND NOT operators. Searches are indexed, and very fast. Search commands are literal &amp; intuitive.</p> <p>Search results are produced in a Result of Search window; the rubrics found may be looked over, and all or selected ones imported to a rubrics clipboard.</p>

## Interface of Repertory with Materia Medica

CARA	MacRepertory	RADAR



<p>CARA Pro contains a selection of homeopathic books more extensive than the Keynote/Confirmatory materia medica selections in MacRepertory or RADAR, but considerably less extensive than the collections in the associated materia medica programs from those developers (ReferenceWorks and Encyclopedia Homeopathica). These are easily referenced from the analysis window of the program.</p>	<p>Several Keynote/Confirmatory materia medica texts are integrated into the program. These may be opened to any given remedy selected in an analysis, by dragging the name of the remedy from the analysis window to a keynote icon.</p> <p>KHA's materia medica program, ReferenceWorks, can produce rubrics from word-searches that may then be imported into the MacRepertory repertory program and used in an analysis. These searches cannot be edited; so a search for "fear of dogs" might include "he has no fear of dogs".</p>	<p>Keynote/Confirmatory material medica texts integrated into the program include Boericke, Allen's Keynotes, and the RADAR keynotes which are largely based on Vithoukas' teachings. These may be opened to any given remedy selected in an analysis, by dragging the name of the remedy from the analysis window to a keynote icon.</p> <p>Archibel's materia medica program, Encyclopedia Homeopathica, can produce rubrics from word-searches that may then be imported into the RADAR repertory program and used in an analysis. Unlike ReferenceWorks, these searches can be easily edited, allowing one to remove references such as "he has no fear of dogs" from a search for "fear of dogs".</p> <p>RADAR and Encyclopedia Homeopathica also integrate in the other direction. From the analysis window in RADAR, clicking on a single icon will extract the critical words from the rubrics in use, and send this complex search to the materia medica program – performing a parallel analysis.</p>
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## Patient Records

CARA	MacRepertory	RADAR

CARA's analysis functions are built around a very thorough patient database program.

MacRepertory saves rubrics lists, analysis graphs, notes and simple visit data in a simple but very straightforward patient file system.

RADAR can save analyses to a collection of folders for easy future retrieval. Patient records – including rubrics clipboards and analysis graphs exported directly from RADAR, along with extensive visit data – are handled in the linked application WinChip, which is a full-featured patient database program.

## Summary

These three software packages all represent significant contributions to the homeopathic community. All offer prominent advantages over the use of printed literature, for purposes of case analysis, self-study, and teaching. None will substitute for careful observation and astute reasoning on the part of the practitioner; computerization takes over those tasks that involve non-creative drudgery, and permits rapid, flexible and creative use of our resource materials.

Each of these packages has its own set of strengths and weaknesses. MacRepertory excels in its presentation graphics, and currently holds an edge in its implementation of Families-analysis work. RADAR excels in the use-critical tasks of speed and access in finding rubrics, including rapid, simple searches, concepts searches, and cross-references between related rubrics. The implementation of alternative views of the Synthesis repertory, and two-way interaction with the associated Encyclopedia Homeopathica program are strong features of RADAR. CARA is a less complex program that performs the basic tasks of repertorization and literature access well, but sacrifices speed, ease of use and some bells and whistles to economy.

We have come a very long way from Jahr's 1827, "when the only resources at our command were the Materia Medica Pura of the founder of our school and a few cures reported in Stapf's "Archiv" and in the "Praktischen Mittheilungen". With careful attention to our calling to be carefully observant clinicians, the computerization of our literature can offer us the tools to bring homeopathy into its presence as a truly 21<sup>st</sup>-century medicine.

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