

MeerKat wish list – December 2005

ItemNumber Description

Status

1 - Wish list

14 If there are several references with different designs attached to the same study then all of these designs would be in the export file to Central, with no way of telling which design belongs to which reference. The problem is because design belongs to a study, not to the references; problem would be resolved if export is study-based.

No action taken yet

17 When importing reviewers: if they already exist there is an option to compare existing details with the newly imported details – but it doesn't seem as though you can delete them. This would be a mess if you accidentally imported a 100 that were already in MeerKat and couldn't get rid of them.

No action taken yet.

18 The reference study type in the reference import definition form does not go anywhere.

No action taken yet.

26 "Sort report by" pop up form for the References (full form) report doesn't work Properly if more than one level of sorting is specified. If a Sort 2 entry is added then the report ignores Sort 1 and only orders by Sort 2.

No action taken yet.

27 Exporting references to Central – does this need to be fixed so that MeSH terms are exported?

No action taken yet

29 Action queries (e.g. update and amend) targeted at a set of records.
For example, transferring certain codes from a user-defined field on a reference record to a user defined field on the reference's study record.
Some groups (e.g. Schizophrenia) have developed other databases ("Mink") linked to MeerkatBE.mdb files to do this.

No action taken yet within MeerKat, but work - around is to write these queries in other databases linked to MeerKatBE.mdb. Contact Schizophrenia Group to see if their "Mink" add –in does the job!

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37 When searching for some references with the "edit records" box ticked. If the retrieved records are then sorted on a particular field (ascending or descending) *all* records are returned, rather than the records retrieved by the search!

No action taken yet.

42 Action queries to import/export multiple record identifiers and descriptions for references in MeerKat such as MEDLINE ID /PubMed ID /EMBASE ID /CENTRAL ID/Document Object Identifiers.

No action taken yet within Meerkat, but work-around is to write these queries in other databases linked to MerkatBE.mdb. Contact Schizophrenia Group to see if their "Mink" add-in does the job!

43 Adding the option of auto compacting the MeerkatBE.mdb file on exiting would help for large databases.

No action taken yet.
A work around solution implemented MeerKat v1.3
Option to compact MeerKatBE from switchboard.
Main switchboard > Tools > Compact database

44 Importing/exporting *studies* as opposed to references between different MeerKat register (and into RevMan?).

No action taken yet.

46 Create a new reference record manually and save it. Then add a study, double-click on the study name to show the study form. When finished, close the study form. Get Access error 3159 ("not a valid bookmark").

No action taken yet.

48 Register status "Accepted" is attached to study rather than reference which causes problems with exporting to CENTRAL. Situation arises when there are unpublished trial reports to be included in reviews (and hence included under the study record) but don't want to send the report itself to CENTRAL because there is no permission to do so.

No action taken yet.

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49 Reference records don't have a designated comments field that can be used to hold the CO: field in MEDLINE and CENTRAL.

No action taken yet.

50 Ability to mark records manually for export rather than to rely on queries; ie want functionality similar to that on The Cochrane Library.

No action taken yet.

51 Enhancement of search facilities to allow better logical grouping of criteria such as the use of parentheses. Difficult at present to create complex search criteria such as (A and B) or (C and (not D and E)). Could either take the "search strategy" approach of The Cochrane Library, so that can combine results of various search lines. Failing that, another desired option would be to mark results of a search somehow (eg inserting a keyword into a field) so that complex searches can be broken down into a sequence of simpler traceable searches.

No action taken yet
MeerKat v1.3 has a test search engine.
This will search for phrases in reference field using a more text free approach.
Main switchboard>search>reference>
New search (experimental)

52 When producing a report of a study with references that have a non-standard issue number such as "1-2", the issues are printed as (12).

No action taken yet.

55 Potential new report into MeerKatFE which will –output a shorter list of references from studies without any of the extra details of the study.

No action taken yet

58 When SQL length of the underlying query is greater than 1,024 characters then forms using them do not work, so reference search reporting, say 1000 hits will then open up in a form with ALL references references from the register in them (e.g on doing an intervention search (9 lines), and it finds 56 records.

No action Taken yet
MeerKat v1.3 allows you to edit queries
for study search via SQL Access queries

Running a report gets me all 5000+ studies as does editing them. Viewing a List of the results gets me just the 56.

59 Format study names so that when names begin with words like "de" or "van" they come across as "de fitjjer 1987" rather than "de 1987" as they do at present.

No Action Taken Yet

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59	Format study names so that when names begin with words like “de” or “van” they come across as “de fitjer 1987” rather than “de 1987” as they do at present.	No Action Taken Yet
61	Viewing the export file, all MEDLINE records export correctly but in the non MEDLINE records (eg conference proceedings, section of book, etc) there is a problem with the fields AN: and ID: For example, when a non-medline record has nothing to go in the AN: field, the PM number from the previous record is automatically put into this field and in the ID: field there are 2 MeerKat ID (one from the previous record and a new one)	No Action Taken Yet
67	Study without reference report year in dates is three-digit rather than four.	No Action Taken Yet
68	Study reports switchboard: Having the full, medium and short report full form etc run on the whole of MK doesn't serve a purpose. Normally such reports run on subsets of records following a search.	No Action Taken Yet
69	If a reviewer has a reference booked out to them on a review you cannot book the same reference out to the reviewer when he/she does a different review.	No Action Taken Yet
70	I've just run a big search in MeerKat – only 9 search terms in the References search so not 'big' in the length of the search string, but big in that it found 3700 references. When it tried to display them (in edit form) it displayed the entire register – this has happened before when you do a search string that has too many characters in it but I've not seen it with a big search result before.	No Action Taken Yet
71	When exporting references you only get the option to output at a plain text file. This has been fine until now when we have lots of Chinese characters – which are converted into ???s. Can we have an option to save an export file as an .rtf or at least a .txt Unicode file so the Chinese characters are displayed in the search results.	No Action Taken Yet

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3 - Items that may be an Access or system problem

19 All years starting with 19 truncate to 98, 99 etc. 2000 does not truncate. (Depends on the way Microsoft Access and/or windows have been configured).

No action taken yet.

20 The labels for user defined fields in study form are not always visible. Seems only to be a problem when the MeerkatFE.mdb database is opened such that you can see underlying tables/forms etc.

No action needed.

22 When importing references received message:Error#3000 Reserved error (-1517) there is no message for this error. Imported the references but did not open the process imported reference screen as normal.

No action taken yet.

23 Tried to repair database through the utilities switchboard– received message 'Operation is not supported for this type of object. 3251' – Repaired the database through the 'back end' and it worked OK – it also solved the import error problem (item 22).

No action taken yet. Suspect it is a compatibility problem between Access 97 and Access 2000. Options: Only use utility package if on Access 97: Dump utility package and tell the user how to compact and repair via Access

24 Speed poor on some PCs even with very small database

No action taken yet.

32 Text being cut off on report: Study Full forms. Problem seemed to be resolved when MeerKat was upgraded from 1.0 to 1.1 on the PC concerned.

45 Attaching reports as rich text files to emails occasionally results in some scrambled text

No action taken yet.
Only occurs some of the time with some records. Changing printers can help. A way round this is to use Microsoft SnapShot viewer that comes with Access (and is free for others to download), or even to create PDF files. Neither of these workarounds results in an editable document

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47 After importing contacts list from ModMan, go to check results form. Get Error 3061.

No Action taken yet
Has only appeared so far on a system with a German installation of Access 2000. Nobody else has been able to reproduce this error. Suspect that Access is doing something strange with translating things it shouldn't be??

60 MeerKat does not like journal names that import from Medline with a colon in the title e.g JPEN: Journal of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition – it seems to read the colon as a tag end marker.

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4 - Fixed and implemented

1 When importing more than 1 reference to a new study (create study name yourself) design does not appear in design field.	Fixed on v1.1
2 When printing reports – page numbers do not appear or numbers do not relate to page numbers of the reference.	Fixed on v1.1
3 In Add/edit keywords assigned to reviewers – pick list – drop down arrow is missing.	Fixed on v1.1
4 Reports of references that are BOOKS do not have titles	Fixed on v1.1 – but see also item No. 25
5 Does not like reports of references that are COCHRANE REVIEWS!	Fixed on v1.1
6 Reports of references LONG FORM : the key words do not appear – the numbers do!	Fixed on v1.1
7 Reviewers names do not appear in alphabetical order on the reports (full form).	Fixed on v1.1 – but see also item No 26
8 Run time error 2501 “the open report action was cancelled” message appears when trying to chase up references with reviewer.	Fixed on v1.1; also the list of reviewers in the drop down list is now sorted alphabetically
9 When searching for study, restricting to the participant field = adults – get the message “too few parameters. Expected 2. (same message if you use the like operator and use truncation.)	Fixed on v1.1

10 Error when importing references. Field cannot be null	Fixed on v1.1
11 Export references not working unless you export via a search	Fixed on v1.1
12 Mesh terms not exported via export references option	Fixed on v1.1 – but see also item No 27

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13 (This is from the original wish list) Health care conditions from pick list in add/edit studies are not in alphabetical order. The problem is in all pick lists where you add to them on the fly. Sorting is OK when the form is closed and reopened.	Fixed on v1.1; while testing noticed a problem --Tools>Manage pick lists>add/edit health care Condition would prompt for a parameter. This was also fixed on v.1.1
30 Meerkat 1.0 does not accept zero spaces before and after the tag end marker (:) which is the format RevMan expects (and CLIB produces).	Fixed on v1.2.
31 After searching for references and then creating an export file, the NOTE field (the yellow field on the front reference form) cannot be exported.	Fixed on v1.2.
34 Add the ability to add/amend a review number (e.g. the Cochrane Library "CD" number or the abstract number) for a review using the "Add/Edit Title, protocol or review" form.	Fixed on v1.2.
35 Ability to re-run duplicates search after tidying up and editing records. A new report was added in v1.2 to identify to identify possible duplicate reference records. Access this via the "Reports > Reference" switchboard or via the "Reports > Reference" menu bar.	Fixed on v1.2.
36 When searching for some references: 1: press clear 2: enter search terms	

3: press save

Later, when reloading the search, all recent searches seem to have been appended -- ie more records than the original search results are returned.

Fixed on v1.2.

39 The status radio buttons group ("Title" or "Protocol" or "Review") in the "Add/Edit Title, protocol or review" form doesn't work! Shows default value of "Protocol" for all records; if you change it to any other value the same value is shown for all records. Closing and opening the form returns the value to "Protocol".

Fixed on v1.2.

40 In the "Add/Edit reference" form, there are only 3 options in the "Type of Report" Drop-down list. Can others be added, e.g. via an extra item in the "manage pick lists" Menu?

Fixed on v1.2

A new pick list maintenance item was added For "Type of Report" which can be accessed Either via the "Tools > Manage pick lists > More pick lists" switchboard or via the "Tools>Manage pick lists" menu bar.

28 After importing a large number of references MeerKat says it has imported 32,767 references when the true number is greater.

Fixed on v1.3

38 When merging more than two study records (e.g. a with b and c): after merging b with a you would want to merge c with a but on pressing merge MeerKat wants to merge c with the very first study record in tblStudy instead (even though the box says that c will be merged with a)!

Fixed on v1.3

No action taken yet. Workaround is either to exit merge and start merging again, or to remove the "a" study from the "merge to" box and then put it back in again.

53 Clicking on the MeerKat box in the Windows Taskbar shows all the MeerKatFE tables, forms, reports, macros and modules, which is confusing for the user to say the least. This problem seems to have arisen with Access XP because previous versions of Access obeyed MeerKat's request to hide the FE objects from view.

Fixed on v1.3

54 Cannot change the appearance of user defined fields from the drop down list when searching MK v1.2; the only options that appear are the Schizophrenia

Fixed on v1.3

ones!

56 Loss of review details when merging studies.

Fixed on v1.3

62 CRG KeywordDescription, keywords are not alphabetical

Fixed on v1.3

63 If there are several journals of the same name with the language missing, it would be helpful to update the language for all journals of the same name.

Fixed on v1.3

64 On entering the search forms it would be helpful if the "edit the records" option was a default instead of "run the report" as it is at present

Fixed on v1.3

65 Error message appears for many of the reports about the width of the report

Fixed on v1.3