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WM Record File

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PDR ✓

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Distribution:

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Dear Walt:

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SUBJECT: GSREF Bibliographic Reference System Software

I have enclosed a copy of the user's manual [Selner, G. I. 1986. User's Guide for GSREF: A Personal Computer Bibliographic Reference System Version 3.1. U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 86-0186, Denver, Colorado] and flexible-disk (DOS formatted) copies of the source and executable codes for the GSREF software. GSREF is written in FORTRAN and is available from the U.S. Geological Survey as public-domain software [i.e., "freely copied and given to others" (Selner 1986, p. 1)]. GSREF can be used to store and retrieve a set of reference citations on IBM-compatible personal computers.

I tested GSREF during October for possible use with our LLW-reference database. The GSREF code is simple to use and probably ideal for users who do not require much flexibility with respect to data file structure or output requirements. The file and output structure is fixed by the source code. Also note that searches of keywords and character strings by GSREF are upper- and lower-case sensitive. One obvious attribute of GSREF is that the software is free. Give GSREF a try with a few references and see what you think.

I still think, however, that the dBASE III-Plus software package is one of best tools for development of the personal-computer LLW reference database. Although dBASE III-Plus is more difficult to master than most other personal-computer software, it provides a flexible and "sophisticated" tool for management

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of all personal-computer databases. It will be easy, for example, to use dBASE III-Plus at any time to make changes to the data file structure and output for the LLW reference database. I also expect that we will find other uses for dBASE III-Plus software package in our research project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kenneth M. Krupka".

Kenneth M. Krupka  
Senior Research Scientist  
Geochemistry Section  
Environmental Sciences Department

KMK/sja

Enclosures