

Name: _____

Date: _____

Exercise: Finding Information - Your Journal verses Your Database

Purpose: To realize the benefits of managing data using a computerized database system.

Anyone who has used a phone book, card catalog, recipe collection or diary has experience using a database. A database is a collection of similar information. Databases are not new. What is relatively new is the ability to use a computer to help manage a database. There are many benefits to using a computerized database system. We see one benefit when searching for information that is stored in our database. If you have ever used an online search engine, such as Google, to find information on the Internet, you have experienced that benefit. In general, information can be searched for and retrieved much quicker with a computer. We realize another benefit of a computerized database when we attempt to analyze our data. Once a database is set up, data analysis can be accomplished with just a few mouse clicks, unlike a traditional database, where we would have to review each record entered, in order to perform an analysis, or ask questions about, the data we collected.

Answer each of the following questions, first using the data you collected on Habitat Tracker© worksheets, and then using the Habitat Tracker© application. In each case, compare the time it took you to find the answer in your notebook verses the time it took to find the answer using the computer. (It is ok if the two answers are different.)



1. How many Plant Varieties did you record growing in your Habitat?
 - a. Habitat Notebook: _____ Time: _____
 - b. Habitat Tracker©: _____ Time: _____
2. How many Wildlife Visited your Habitat that are Herbivores?
 - a. Habitat Notebook: _____ Time: _____
 - b. Habitat Tracker©: _____ Time: _____
3. On which Journal Entry was the Weather the Hottest? The Coldest:
 - a. Habitat Notebook: _____ Time: _____
 - b. Habitat Tracker©: _____ Time: _____
4. How many Non-Native Wildlife did you record visiting your Habitat?
 - a. Habitat Notebook: _____ Time: _____
 - b. Habitat Tracker©: _____ Time: _____