

Name: _____

Date: _____

Exercise: Let's be Normal - The Benefits of a Computerized Database

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

Have you noticed that you have entered data in one screen in Habitat Tracker®, and then see that data in other screens? A hallmark of an efficient database system is that a piece of information only needs to be entered once, but can be used, and viewed, many times. When a database is set up in this manner, it is said to be Normalized. A Normalized system increases the efficiency by which we can enter, view, and use data. Normalization is achieved, in part, through creating associations between data entered into the database. In a manual system, we create similar associations by entering (rewriting) the same information every time we need it.



1. Go to your *Habitat Notebook* and count the number of times you wrote the name of your habitat. _____
2. How many times did you type the name of your habitat in Habitat Tracker®? _____

3. List 3 examples where you entered data in one screen in Habitat Tracker®, but can see it in other places:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
4. List 3 screens where you set up associations between different categories of data in Habitat Tracker®.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____