# KICKING the TIRES

by Frank Petrie, MaMUGs, Technology Specialist

**Product: Sente v1.1.2**
**Company: Third Street Software**
**<www.thirdstreetsoftware.com>**
**Requirements: Mac OS X 10.2 or later**
**Price: (US) $79.95 (one seat license)**
**Test Rig: iBook G4/933/640 MB RAM**
**Review Date: 10 May 2004**

Besides growing older, I also happen to have a permanent disability (nope, not Windows). As a result, I have to try and keep up with the daily torrent of information regarding medications and news. If there was a way to track all of these for the lay person, wouldn't that make things easier? OK, OK ... for physicians, too?

"Sente is for people who need to keep up with biomedical research literature. Sente (pronounced SEN-tay) is a simple yet powerful tool for searching PubMed, organizing the search results and staying current as new information is published. With Sente, you can quickly retrieve and review thousands of references to come up to speed on a new topic, and organize large collections of citations for quick access in your ongoing research."

Stick out your tongue and say,"Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaahhhhhhhhhhhhh..."
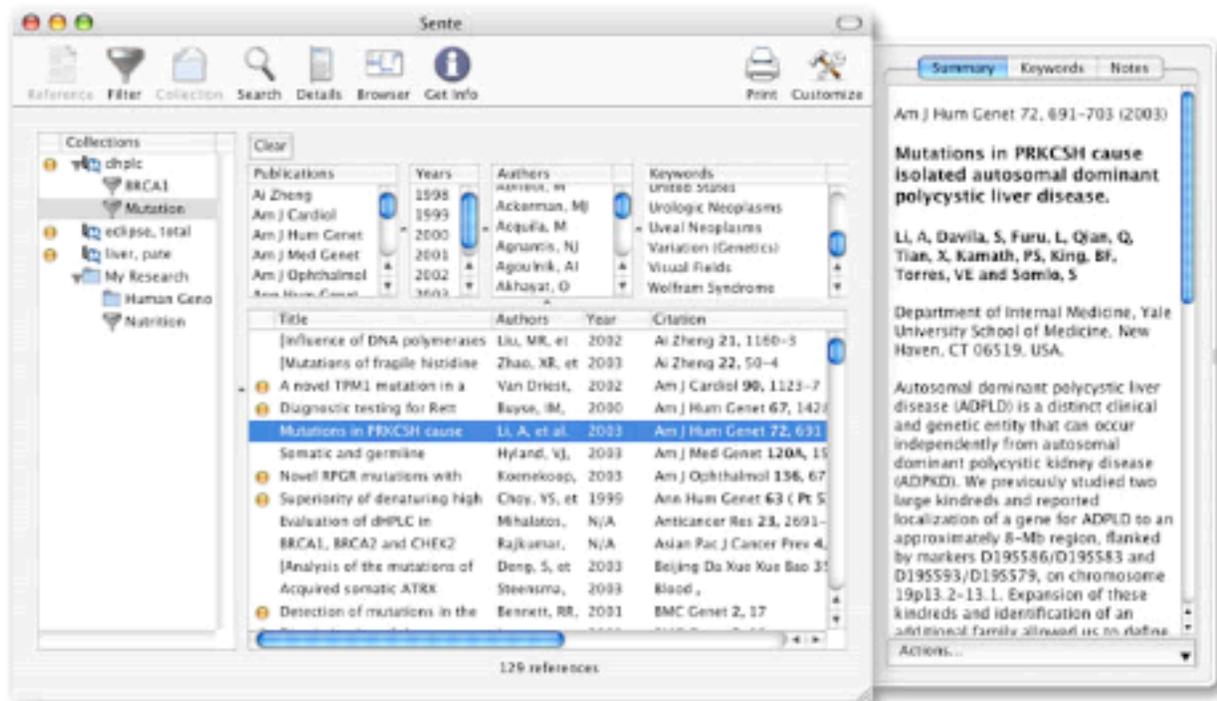
## The Good

Run the simple installation package. No pain. I'm not a medical professional, but I have used some software for keeping current with the latest information. And as this is such a specialized piece of software, I thought that it best to list what it can do according to Third Street Software's website:

• Search PubMed and download 1,000s of citations, including abstracts, in less than a minute;

• Flip through a large collection of references as quickly as you can skim through the citation and abstract – one keystroke is all that it takes to move on to the next citation;

• Assign custom keywords to any paper with a single keystroke;

• Create dynamic subsets of your data using, for example, your custom keywords, or other information found in each entry;

• Annotate any reference with your own notes and graphics using the built in rich text editor;

• Attach the full text version of an article to its Sente citation for easy access in the future;

• Stay current on all searches as Sente automatically checks for new references every day.

I did run through the basics of creating search criteria and such and found everything in proper order. And I found that Third Street delivered on all of its promises.

The GUI follows all of Apple's OS X guidelines. Preferences make Sente very customizable. The 'Detail Drawer' allows you to read a summary, see the search's keywords and allows you to make notes including graphics. And searches are updated as frequently as you set them for.

You can further refine your searches by choice of publication, years and authors. And take that another step further by creating filters, just as you would create rules in Apple's Mail application.

## The Bad

Nada.

## The Ugly

Nada.

## The Close

Anyone with, anyone you love or anyone you know with a disease should be as informed as possible regarding any medical situation they're facing. Knowledge is power. And any physician trying stay abreast can save a lot of time by letting their Mac compile the exact research that they're looking for. That leaves more time for patients and their needs.

Normally, I focus on software to help make our lives easier. It's easy to forget that there is software for our computers that can help us to live.

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