



Repertory Software- A Glance

Abstract: Computer which is one of the wonderful inventions of the homosapiens, has started to creep into all aspects of human life, starting from ticket billing to weather forecasting. Computer in medical science are used for two purposes, namely:

a) **Diagnostic:** eg a radiologist is assisted by a software programme to form images of body parts b) **Therapeutic:** eg a cardiologist is assisted by a software programme to assist him in interventional procedures.

But Homoeopathy is the only alternative system of medicine which is computerised. In all aspects - case taking and repestorizing



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The reason behind this scenario is that the prescription in Homoeopathy follows a definite logical sequence of Analysis, Evaluation and Comparison. Interesting point to note here is that any phenomenon which follows a definite logical sequence can be transformed to machine language. Eventually we can conclude that simillimum has to be derived after following a logical sequence and is not by mere intuition.

HISTORY IN BRIEF: The history of software programmes date back to 1967-68 when the software of Lamina from Australia was introduced to India. But the real exploration of utility of computer software programme took place in 1980s which witnessed the birth of two major software programmes namely RADAR and HOMPETH (developed by Tata Consultancy Service).

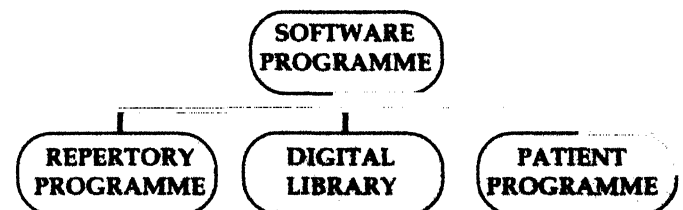
CHRONOLOGY IN BRIEF

1967 LAMINA
1986 MAC, HOMPETH
1987 RADAR
1988 CARA
1994 POLYCRESTA

COMMON FEATURES: a) The computer software programmes require a working environment or

platform which is provided by certain programmes namely Microsoft Windows, Linux or MAC. These programmes are known as Operating System (OS). Most of the Repertory softwares are compatible to Microsoft Windows with Linux as optional. But MAC repertory works only in Macintosh computer which is pre installed with MAC operating system.

b) All softwares have three main components which are as follows:



REPERTORY PROGRAMMES: In all software we can see almost more than one repertory for eg CARA and RADAR (Synthesis and Murphy-optional). But in some softwares like Kentian and Kentbio only Kent's repertory is given importance.

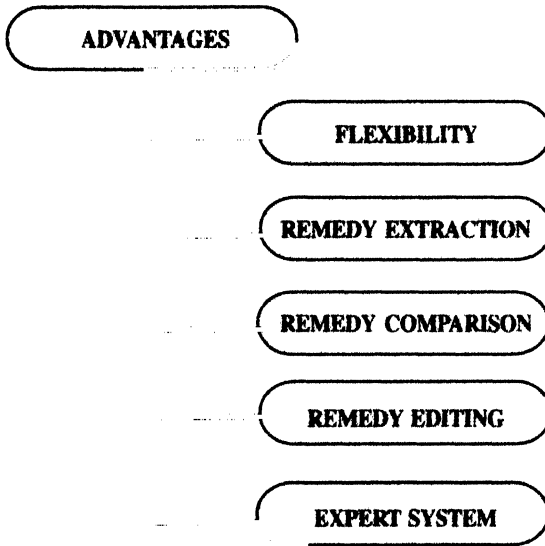
DIGITAL LIBRARY: In most of the software the digital libraries are given as accompaniments like Encyclopedia Homoeopathica (EH) for RADAR and SIMILIA for CARA. This digital library not only contains the books of classical authors but also



modern author's journals and talks of stalwarts. These digital libraries are a very good source of knowledge enrichment and research activities.

PATIENT PROGRAMME: These are usually integrated into the software like WINCHIP or RADAR. These programmes enable the physician to store the data of patients and can even print out a copy of bill for the patient.

ADVANTAGES: The advantages of computer software are as follows



FLEXIBILITY: There is great flexibility for the physician to select the different types of strategies to evaluate and analyse the rubrics of the patients. For eg there are eight strategies in analysis clipboard of RADAR. This advantage will enable the physician to cater according to the demand of the case.

REMEDY EXTRACTION: This is one of the unique applications seen in all software. This helps the physician to extract the medicine from a chapter, a repertory or a group of repertories. By this method we are able to build a tolerably accurate picture of a remedy from a broad data base. This helps us to build Materia Medica of rare remedies. Eg *Nux-jugulans*.

REMEDY COMPARISON: By this application one is able to compare the close running remedies and are able to distinguish among the similars. The process of extraction is similar to comparison. Both can be done in same window, simultaneously.

EXPERT SYSTEM: This is one of the salient feature of many software especially RADAR which boasts of Vithoulkas Expert System (VES). According to this system, it analyses and evaluates the rubrics along the line of Vithoulkas' thought process. In other words, the thinking process of George Vithoulkas has been converted into machine language and is marketed under the name of VES. Many such expert systems are available like Vakil module, and Paul Herscule module.

It has to be noted that these software programmes are using the theories of mathematics for providing results. They utilise Bayesian Theorem and Theory of Probability for the smooth functioning of their applications and the result they provide are scientifically correct.

These are some of the main points regarding Repertory software.

Junior Software engineer , a senior Software engineer and their Project Manager are on their way to a meeting. On their way through a park, they come across a wonder lamp. They rub the lamp and a ghost appears. The ghost says, "Normally, one is granted three wishes but as you are three, I will allow one wish each".

Ha ha ha!!!

So the eager Junior Software engineer shouted, I want the first wish. I want to be in the Bahamas, on a fast boat and have no worries."Pffffff, and he was gone.

Now the Senior Software engineer could not keep quiet and shouted "I want to be in Florida with beautiful girls, plenty of food and cocktails."Pffffff, and he was also gone.

The Project Manager calmly said," I want these two idiots back in the office after lunch at 2.00pm"