Qbib
The Qddb Bibliography Database User's Guide

Version 2

Herrin Software Development, Inc.

2001

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0.1 Copyright and Warranty

Qbib is based on Qddb's Fx library. For more information on Qddb, visit:

`http://www.hsdi.com/qddb`

Support and binary distributions are also available.

Chapter 1

Introduction

Qbib is a `Qddb` database application that provides a convenient interface for managing your references and is capable of importing and exporting *BibTeX* files. *BibTeX* is a popular *LaTeX* tool for including bibliography information in *LaTeX* documents.

Most people keep a collection of *BibTeX* files and choose particular entries when writing papers. *Qbib* expands the usefulness of your bibliographic data by allowing you to import existing *BibTeX* files, add notes and reviews from other users, relocate the original papers in the library or on-line, and add any comments you like. Even if you don't write papers, *Qbib* gives you the ability to keep track of important papers, books, journals, proceedings, and other valuable bibliographic information.

Some of *Qbib*'s features include:

- import/export *BibTeX* files via the convenient Qbib export basket
- add, modify, delete *BibTeX* entries
- powerful search and report generation facilities
- checks to ensure the required fields for all entry types are populated before saving entries
- allows you to record and search for additional information about your bibliography entries
- optional automatic inclusion of cross references
- easily find or delete possible duplicate entries

This guide is for users that want to install and learn how to use *Qbib*.

Chapter 2

Obtaining and Installing *Qbib*

2.1 Installing *Qbib*

To install *Qbib*, perform these steps:

```
1# gunzip -c qbib-<version>.tar.gz | tar -xvf -
2# cd qbib-<version>
3# vi Makefile
4# make install
```

Figure 2.1: Steps to installing *Qbib*

Line 1 unpacks the *Qbib* tarball. A directory named `qbib-<version>` is created beneath the current directory containing the *Qbib* distribution. Line 2 instructs you to change to the `qbib-<version>` directory. Line 3 instructs you to edit the Makefile. There are instructions in the Makefile to tell you how to prepare for installation. You must be sure to set the appropriate environment variables to tell the "make" process where your `qwish` executable is located. Also, be sure to modify the `QBIB_BIN_DIR` variable to tell the "make" where to put the *Qbib* executables. After you've saved your changes to "Makefile", Line 4 starts the "make install" process. After this step, you've completed your installation and are ready to run the *Qbib* programs: `newqbib` and `xqbib`.

Note that Qbib 2.0 and later includes a QddbScript for easy modification by Qddb 2.0 (and later) users. If you create a new Qbib database with `newqbib`, you can use `nxqddb` to access the database instead of `xqbib`[1].

[1]Both work properly because a QddbScript is copied into the database directory on creation. If you have existing databases, you can copy /opt/hsdi/qbib/lib/QddbScript to the database directory manually.

Chapter 3

Using *Qbib*

Qbib is comprised of three executables:

newqbib creates a new *Qddb* database in the current directory

xqbib is the main *Qbib* program. `xqbib` displays a graphical interface that allows you to (1) import/export *BibTeX* files and (2) search, add, modify, and delete entries from the Qddb database.

bibtex2qddb is a program that is launched from xqbib to translate a *BibTeX* file into an intermediate file read by *xqbib*.

newqbib and *xqbib* will be discussed in the following sections. *bibtex2qddb* is only used internally by *xqbib*.

3.1 newqbib

Before using *xqbib*, you first need to setup your *Qbib* database using the *newqbib* command.

At your command prompt, enter `newqbib RelationName` where `RelationName` is the name of your new BibTeX database name. A new directory named `RelationName` will be created beneath your current directory. Alternatively, you can specify a full path for your new database. A common approach is to store all your BibTeX databases in a common location. For example, suppose you like to keep all your BibTeX databases in `~/databases/bibtex`. If you wanted to create a new "Music" BibTeX database, you would enter the command as in Figure 3.1.

Once you've created your database using `newqbib`, you can add, modify, import/export, delete entries from this database using the `xqbib` program.

```
1$ newqbib ~/databases/bibtex/Music
```

or

```
1$ cd ~/databases/bibtex
1$ newqbib Music
```

Figure 3.1: Running newqbib

3.2 xqbib

3.2.1 Setting the QDDBDIRS environment variable

In order for `xqbib` to find your databases, you should be sure to have the environment variable QDDBDIRS set appropriately. For example, if all your Qddb BibTeX databases are in `~/databases/bibtex`, then you would enter the following command (bash shell syntax): `export QDDBDIRS=~databases/bibtex`. You probably also want to add this command to your `~/.bashrc` startup file.

3.2.2 Launching the xqbib program

To launch the xqbib program, the syntax is:

```
$ xqbib [RelationName]
```

If you do not specify any arguments on the command line, `xqbib` will search for a Relation named *Qbib-db* in your current directory first and then for a *Qbib-db* relation in your QDDBDIRS path.

3.2.3 Using xqbib

xqbib is an Fx-based Qddb application. Hence, all the built-in features and behavior of other Fx-based applications are present in *xqbib*. For example, you can search on any field and configure the many options available via the "Configure" pulldown menu.

Reference the *Qddb User's Guide* `http://www.hsdi.com/qddb/usersguide` for details on how to operate the *xqbib* window in general.

The Basics

xqbib has four modes available from the "Modes" menubutton:

search mode is used to find particular entries in the database based on some criteria. You can use the "simple search" mechanism by simply typing the search criteria in the

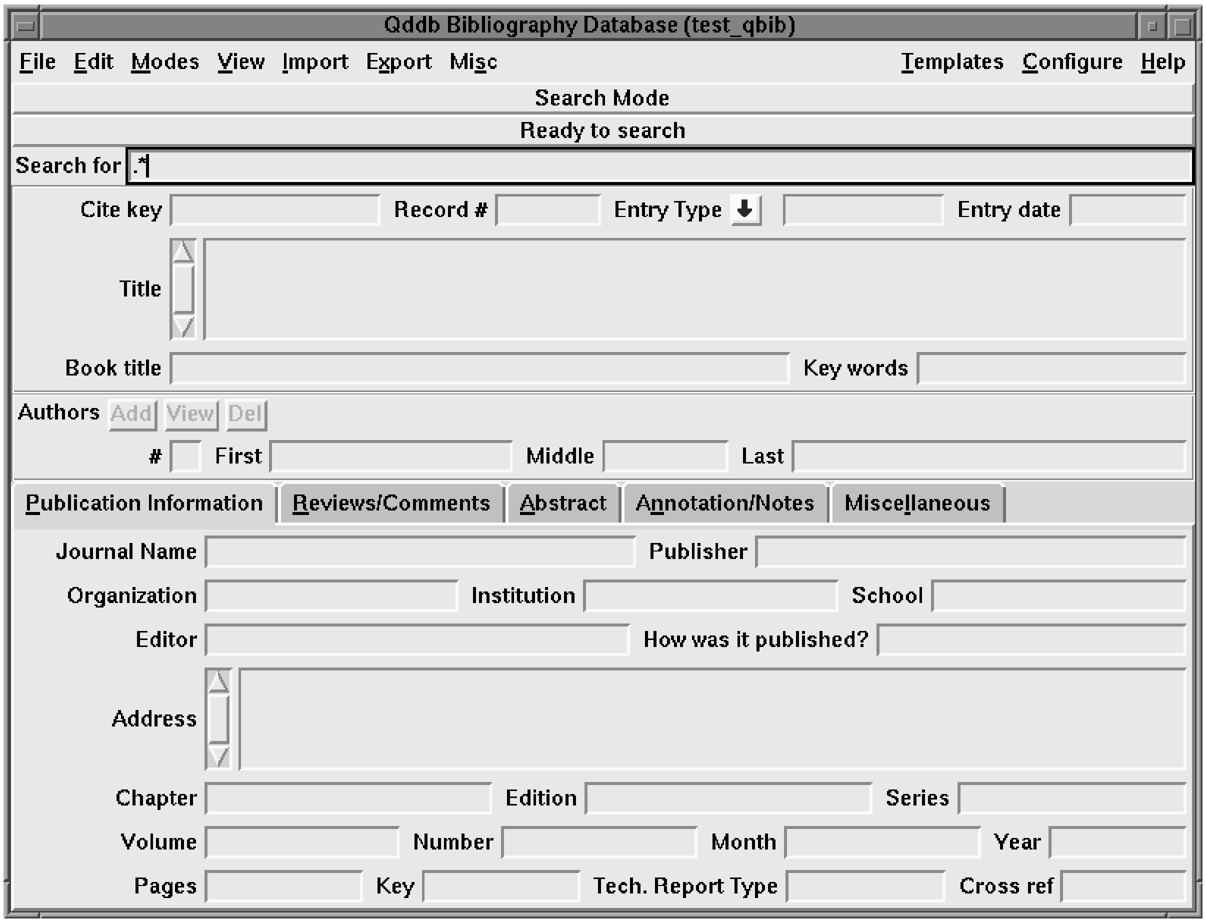

Figure 3.2: xqbib window

fields and hitting <Return>. You will then see a list of “Search Results” from which you can choose a single record to edit.

For very specific searches or report generation, you should use the “Expert Search” or “Reports” menu items under the “Edit” menubutton.

add mode is used to add new entries, singly or in bulk, to the database.

change mode allows multiple users to modify a single database simultaneously. When one user selects a record to edit, they have a lock on that record and any other users choosing to view that record will be in “Read-only Mode” (the record can only be modified by one user at a time).

read-only mode is only used to release the lock on a record that is currently in "Change Mode".

Add mode and change mode enforce the mandatory and optional fields for each entry type. Mandatory fields are a light blue and optional fields are grey by default. You should typically choose an entry type soon after you enter "Add Mode" so that you immediately see which data are mandatory.

Publication Information

The "Publication Information" panel (see Figure 3.2) is the default notebook panel. This notebook panel contains essential publication information for nearly all standard entry types.

Reviews/Comments

The "Reviews/Comments" panel (see Figure 3.3) contains fields to track a citation's reviews.

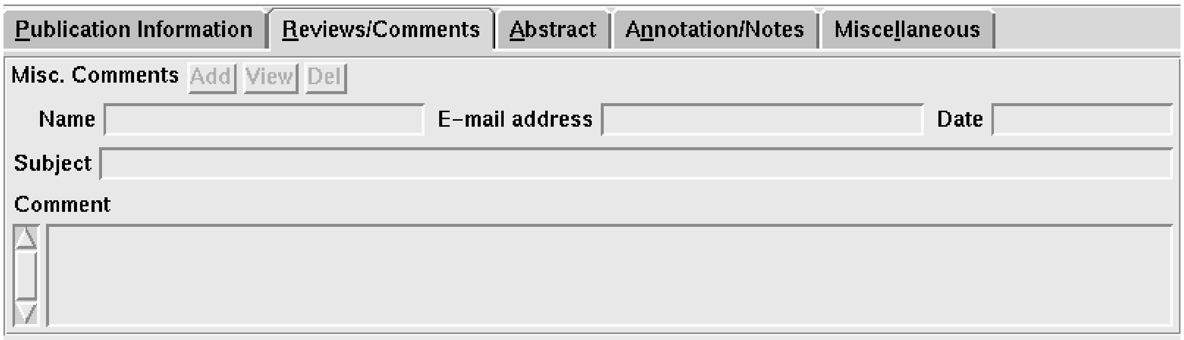

Figure 3.3: Reviews/Comments notebook panel

Abstract

The "Abstract" panel (see Figure 3.4) allows you to maintain a citation's abstract.

Annotation/Notes

The "Annotation/Notes" panel (see Figure 3.5) allows you to track each citation's annotations/notes.

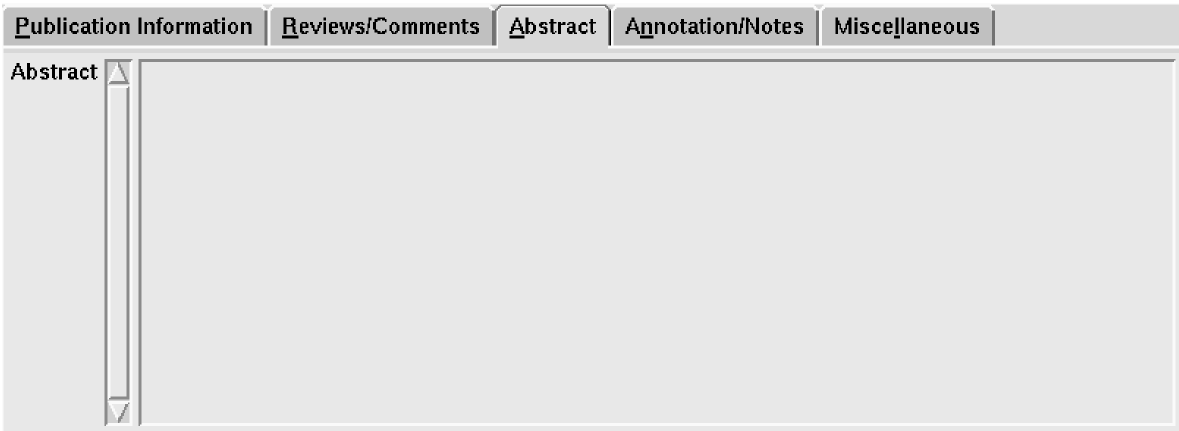

Figure 3.4: Abstract notebook panel

Miscellaneous

The "Miscellaneous" panel (see Figure 3.6) contains miscellaneous fields for you to record with each citation.

3.3 Importing BibTeX files into Qbib database

To import an existing *BibTeX* file, bring up the *xqbib* window and go to "Search mode". When you're in "Search mode", the "Import BibTeX file" menu option will become unstippled. Clicking the "Import BibTeX file" menubutton will display a file dialog box (see Figure 3.7) for you to enter the name of the BibTeX file that you would like to import. You can maneuver between directories by clicking a directory name in the "Directories" listbox, then choose a filename in the "Files" listbox. You can also type a directory or filename instead of using the mouse.

3.3.1 Duplicate keys

If you import a BibTeX file that has a duplicate key with an existing entry in your *Qbib* database, *Qbib* will display a dialog (see Figure 3.8) to inform you of a duplicate entry.

From the dialog box, you can do one of three things:

1. Generate a new key. Useful in case you happen to have the same "Cite key" for more than one entry.

2. Skip the record. Meaning, do not import the record that already has the "Cite key" in your *Qbib* database.

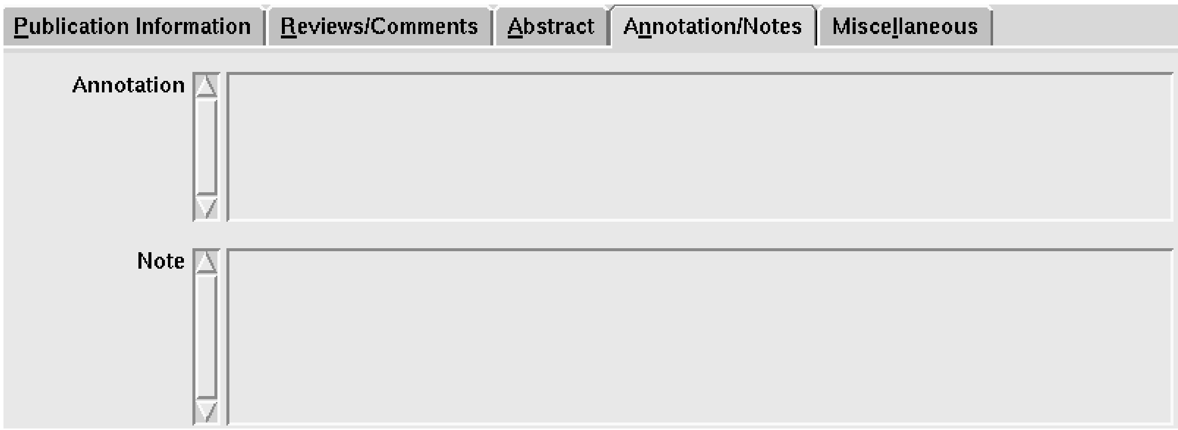

Figure 3.5: Annotation/Notes notebook panel

3. Stop processing. Meaning, do no import the current record nor the records following the one that has the duplicate "Cite key".

Additionally, `Qbib` presents three options for how you wish to handle any further duplicate keys. Choose from one of the following:

1. Always show this message
2. Always generate new key
3. Always skip record

If you choose options 2 or 3, then `Qbib` will not show the dialog box on subsequent duplicate BibTeX records.

3.3.2 Missing mandatory fields

If you import a BibTeX file that contains a record that does not contain one or more mandatory fields for its entry type, Qbib will ask you for further instructions (see Figure 3.9).

From the dialog box, you can do one of three things:

1. Save anyway. You must go back and fill in the missing fields later.
2. Skip the record. Meaning, do not import the record that is missing fields into your *Qbib* database.
3. Stop processing. Meaning, do not import the current record nor the records following the one that has missing fields.

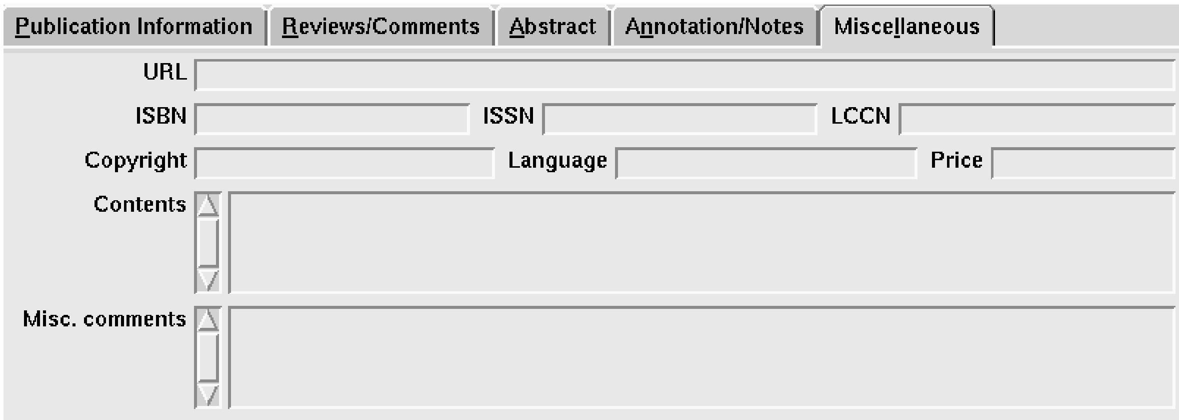

Figure 3.6: Miscellaneous notebook panel

Additionally, `Qbib` presents three options for how you wish to handle any further duplicate keys. Choose from one of the following:

1. Always show this message
2. Always save anyway
3. Always skip record

If you choose options 2 or 3, then `Qbib` will not show the dialog box on subsequent records with missing fields.

3.3.3 Import aux files to search results

Qbib provides the ability for you to import citations from an existing *LaTeX .aux* file into your *Qddb* search results. To do so, click the "Import/Aux file to search results" menubutton to display the file dialog box. Be sure to choose an appropriate *.aux* file generated from *LaTeX*. Upon selecting a *.aux* file, *Qbib* will parse the auxillary file and display the matching citations in the search results dialog box. You can then go to the "Export/Add search results to basket" menubutton to add the matching entries to the current basket. See section 3.4 for details on how to export *BibTeX* entries from the Qbib basket.

3.4 Exporting Qbib database into BibTeX file

To export entries from your *Qbib* database:

1. Add desired record(s) to the *Qbib* basket.

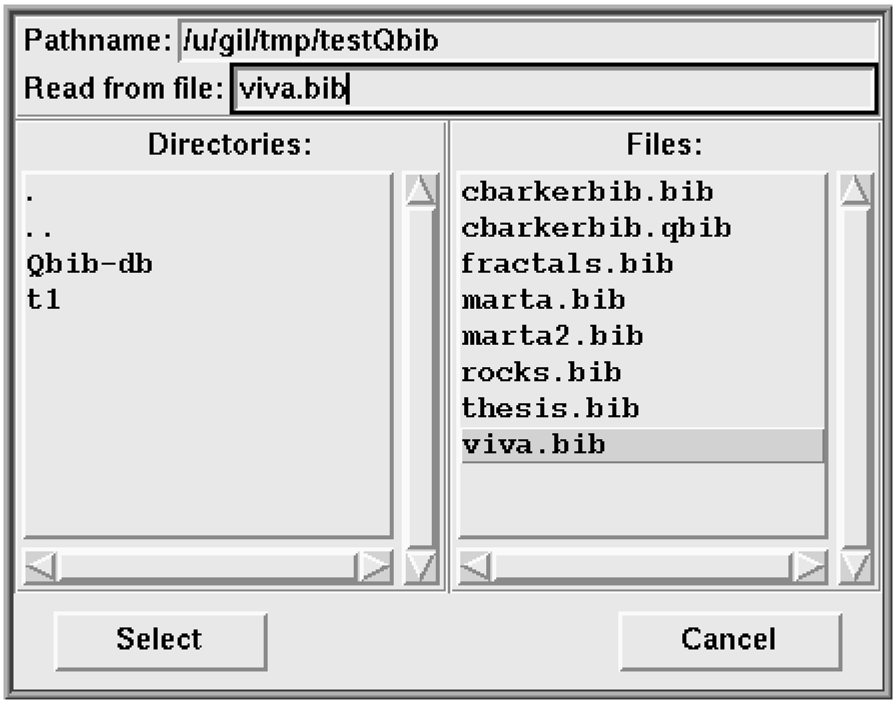

Figure 3.7: File dialog box to import a BibTeX file into Qbib database

2. Click the "Export/Export BibTeX file" menubutton.

3.4.1 Adding records to the basket

The "basket" is a holding area for *Qbib* entries to be exported to a *BibTeX (.bib)* file. There are several ways to add entries to the basket:

1. While viewing an entry (i.e. Change mode or Read-only mode), you can add that particular entry to the basket by clicking the "Export/Add record to basket" menu item.

2. You can add all the entries found from your most recent search by clicking the "Export/Add search results to basket" menubutton.

3. You can add all the entries from entire database by clicking the "Export/Add all records to basket" menu item. Note that this option can take a while if you have many entries in the database.

Qbib also provides a convenient method for you to extract entries from your *.aux* files into the "basket" by clicking the "Import/Aux file to search results" menu item.

Figure 3.8: Duplicate key exists dialog box

3.4.2 Clearing the basket

To clear the export basket, simply click the "Export/Clear basket" menubutton. Upon choosing this menubutton, *Qbib* will empty the current basket and stipple the appropriate menubuttons.

3.4.3 Removing entries from the basket

To remove entries from the basket, click the "Export/Edit basket" menubutton. A dialog box (see Figure 3.10) will be displayed for you to delete entries from the basket. Initially, the "Undo" button will be stippled until you have deleted one or more records. If you wish to undo your deletions from the edit basket, click the "Undo" button at anytime before closing the edit window.

3.4.4 Export BibTeX file

Once you have at least one record in the "basket", *Qbib* will enable the "Export/Export BibTeX file" menubutton to allow you to export the basket contents into a BibTeX file. The standard *Qddb* file dialog box will be displayed to allow you to save the basket contents to a filename of your choice.

3.5 Configuration options

Since *Qbib* is an Fx-based application, you are presented with all the Fx menubar options. Reference the *Qddb User's Guide* for details on all the configuration options found in Fx-

Figure 3.9: Missing mandatory fields

based applications.

The “Configuration” includes such things as window placement, fonts, colors, search results configuration, letter and postcard setup, and so forth. You may choose to save your configuration either *globally* (for all users of a particular database) or *personally* (just for your user account). A global configuration is usually used to provide a reasonable set of defaults for any user of a particular database. A user’s personal configuration overrides any global settings and will not be affected by changes to the global configuration. To save a particular configuration, you can use the “Save” options in the “Configure” menu.

Besides the configuration options common to all Fx-based applications, Qbib allows you to set 1) custom keyboard traversal, and 2) optional automatic inclusion of cross references in the export basket.

3.5.1 Keyboard traversal

Qbib provides extra keyboard traversal options. Note that the traversal will vary depending on the current entry type.

Required fields only This option is the default; required fields are always included in the keyboard traversal. `<Tab>` moves only between mandatory fields (and the notebook tabs).

Optional fields Click the “Configure/Keyboard Traversal/Optional fields” and optional fields will be added to the keyboard traversal. `<Tab>` moves only between mandatory and optional fields.

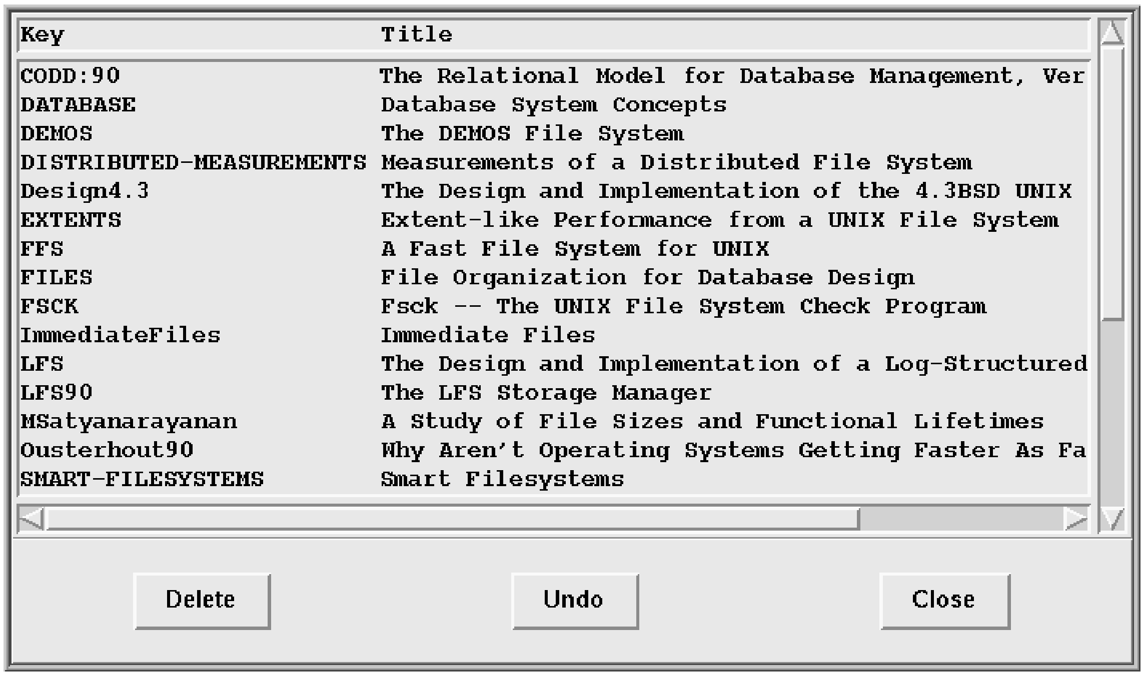

Figure 3.10: Edit basket dialog

Non-standard fields Click the "Configure/Keyboard Traversal/Non-standard fields" and non-optional fields will be included in the keyboard traversal.

3.5.2 Auto-Include Crossref

Qbib provides a convenient feature to automatically include cross referenced entries in the export basket. For example, suppose you have an entry, say *Foo:97*, that contains a cross reference, say *Bar:97*. If you turn on the "Auto-Include Crossref" option, adding the *Foo:97* record to the export basket will also cause the *Bar:97* record to be added to the export basket.

3.6 Restabilizing your Qbib database

As with any other *Qddb* database, you can stabilize your database from the command line by typing qstall <RelationName>. Alternatively, inside a *Qbib* application, you can click the "Misc/Restabilize" menubutton to stabilize the *Qbib* database. Note, you must be in "Search mode" in order for the "Misc/Restabilize" menubutton to be available (i.e. unstippled).

Chapter 4

About HSDI

Herrin Software Development, Inc.(HSDI) offers a wide variety of services including:

- Software development, customization
- Customer support
- Training
- Hardware consulting and support
- Internet services such as online support, CGI scripts, and debugging

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