

# Creating Scripts

Scripts are a time-saving feature within FileMaker Pro. Any sequence of steps that are regularly used can be stored in a script and the script can be reused whenever it is required. The script can also be run by clicking on a 'button.

By setting scripts and buttons you, as someone who knows how to use a database, can develop the database so that someone with no knowledge of how to operate it can easily use the database and access information from it.

## Loading the Database

You will be using the database that you updated in the last chapter

- 1 Load FileMaker Pro, click on OPEN AN EXISTING FILE and select OK. Or close the current file and select OPEN from the FILE menu.
- 2 Open the following file from your STORAGE folder:

Library Orders 5 Copy

## Creating a Script to Sort Items

The first script that will be created will sort the books into Author order with any books by the same Author in Title order.

### A Carrying Out the Sort

When creating a script you carry out the necessary steps on the database then use SCRIPTMAKER to store the steps. So in this case we need to sort the database into the required order.

- 1 Use the LAYOUTS POPUP MENU to set the screen to the PURCHASE LIST layout and set the screen to BROWSE MODE.
- 2 Press **⌘+S** or **CTRL+S** to open the SORT dialogue box.
- 3 Clear all the current sorts then add the AUTHOR and TITLE fields to the SORT ORDER frame.
- 4 Select SORT to sort the books into AUTHOR then TITLE order.

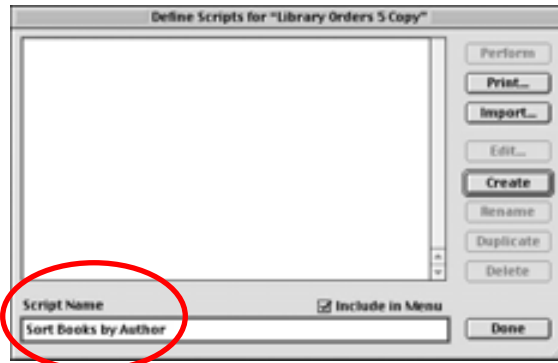


## B Creating the Script

1 Display the SCRIPTS menu and select SCRIPTMAKER.

2 At the bottom of the DEFINE SCRIPTS dialogue box name the script:

Sort Books by Author

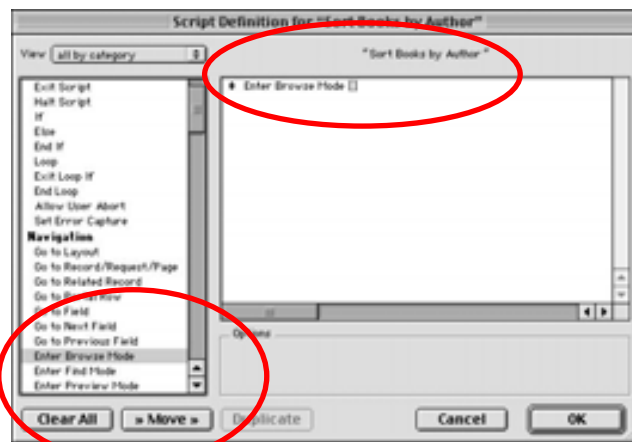


3 Click on CREATE and you will be provided with a list of commands down the left side of the screen. These commands are added to the blank frame at the right to develop the script.

4 When developing scripts some general commands should be added. The first of these is to set the screen to BROWSE MODE.

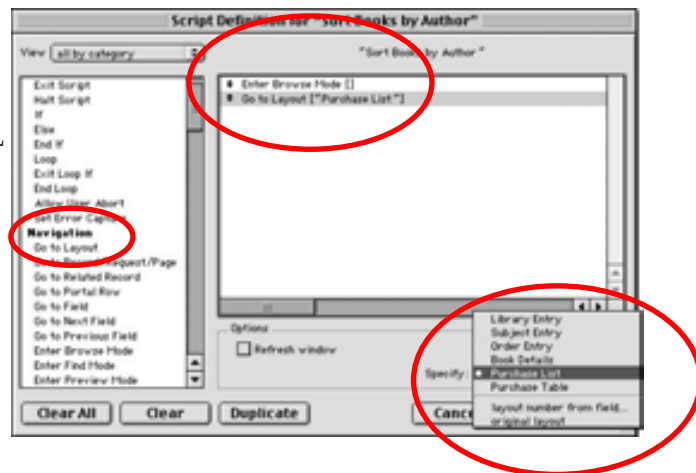
5 In the NAVIGATION section of the commands list click on ENTER BROWSE MODE and click on MOVE to move the command into the SORT RECORDS BY AUTHOR frame.

**NB: You can double click on a command to move it into the script frame.**



6 The second command ensures that the correct layout is open. Under the NAVIGATION commands double click on the GO TO LAYOUT command to move it into the SORT RECORDS BY AUTHOR frame.

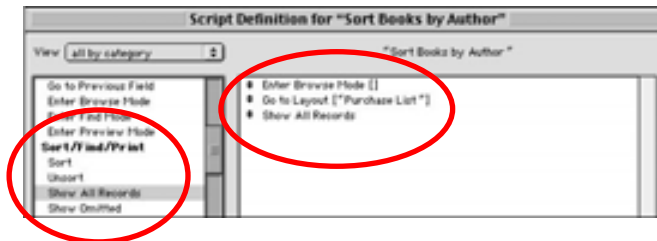
7 GO TO LAYOUT [ORIGINAL LAYOUT] will be inserted. At the bottom right of the SORT RECORDS BY AUTHOR frame set the SPECIFY box to the PURCHASE LIST layout and the command will change to GO TO LAYOUT [PURCHASE LIST].



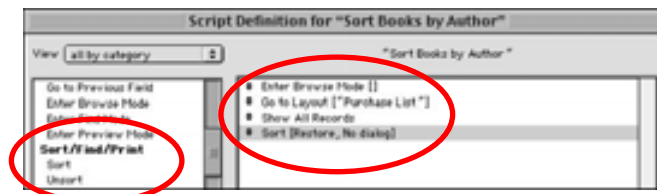
**NB:** The original layout will take the screen to the layout that the sort was created on so it would still have opened the PURCHASE LIST layout in this case. The SPECIFY box allows you to specify the layout you wish to have open.

- 8 We can ensure that all the records are displayed on the screen using the SHOW ALL RECORDS command.

Scroll to the SORT/FIND/PRINT section of the script commands and double click on SHOW ALL RECORDS to add it to the script.

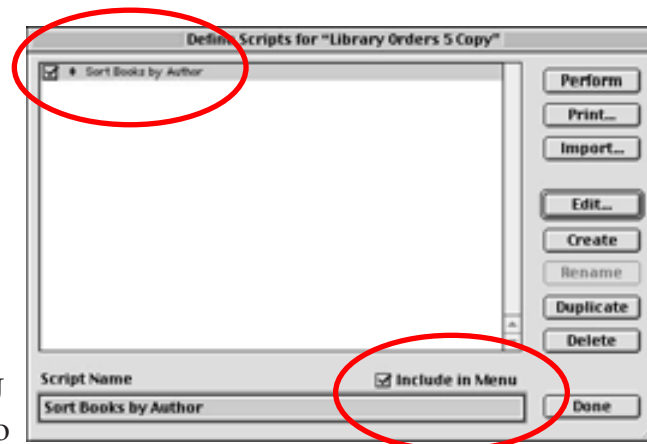


- 9 In the SORT/FIND PRINT commands double click on the SORT command to add it to the script. This command records the sort you carried out prior to starting the script.



**NB:** There are two options with the SORT command. RESTORE SORT ORDER always restores the original sort that was carried out prior to creating the script and PERFORM WITHOUT DIALOGUE carries out the sort without showing the SORT dialogue box.

- 10 Select OK to complete the sort. You will be returned to the DEFINE SCRIPTS dialogue box. If INCLUDE IN MENU is selected the script will be added to the SCRIPTS menu.



- 11 Leave INCLUDE IN MENU selected and select DONE to return to the database.

## C Testing the Script

To test the script the database will be sorted into a different order then the script run to check that it sorts the database into the correct order.

- 1 Press **⌘+S** or **CTRL+S** to open the SORT dialogue box.

- 2 Clear all the current sorts then add the SUBJECT AREA into the SORT ORDER frame.



- 3 Select SORT to sort the books into SUBJECT AREA order as shown in the following diagram.

Library Orders 5 Copy

**Merryville High School** Data Entry

Books are in Subject Area order. Book List  
May 2, 2004

| Title                  | Author   | Subject Area | Received     | Copies | Price   | Amount   |
|------------------------|----------|--------------|--------------|--------|---------|----------|
| England My England     | Daley    | English      | 19 Feb, 2004 | 2      | \$25.00 | \$50.00  |
| Stepping Out           | O'Reilly | English      | 21 Feb, 2004 | 8      | \$15.55 | \$124.40 |
| The Gold Rush          | Lawson   | History      | 18 Feb, 2004 | 12     | \$17.90 | \$214.80 |
| Medieval Europe        | Lawson   | History      | 18 Feb, 2004 | 20     | \$18.50 | \$370.00 |
| World War II           | Stronsky | History      | 19 Feb, 2004 | 3      | \$23.50 | \$70.50  |
| Computers at Work      | Simpson  | Info Tech    | 19 Feb, 2004 | 18     | \$32.95 | \$593.10 |
| Learning FileMaker Pro | Vernon   | Info Tech    | 1 Mar, 2004  | 10     | \$25.95 | \$259.50 |
| Bits and Bytes         | Adamsen  | Library      | 15 Feb, 2004 | 15     | \$24.95 | \$374.25 |
| What's in a Name       | Anderson | Library      | 23 Feb, 2004 | 2      | \$26.95 | \$53.90  |
| Home Finance           | Wilson   | Maths        |              | 10     | \$19.95 | \$199.50 |
| Maths in Action        | Miller   | Maths        |              | 25     | \$23.95 | \$598.75 |
| The French Revolution  | Drujon   | Science      | 2 Mar, 2004  | 5      | \$28.50 | \$142.50 |

- 4 Display the SCRIPTS menu, select SORT BOOKS BY AUTHOR and the books should be sorted into AUTHOR order with books by the same author's name in TITLE order.

File Edit View Insert Format Records Scripts Window Help

ScriptMaker... 6 Point A+ A- B

Library Orders 5 Copy **Sort Books by Author** x1

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