Reference Management Tools: Which One is Right for You?

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Agenda

• Common features and functionality
• Quiz: *What citation manager is right for me?*
• An overview of RefWorks, Zotero & Mendeley
How are you managing references now?
Reference managers: What’s the point?

http://www.flickr.com/photos/chillmimi/7879145394/
Common Features and Functionality
Commonalities

• Import citations from various places
  – Direct, PDF, bookmarklet, RIS, BibTeX
• Access & store citations in one place
• Manipulate citations
  – Folders, tags, editing, searching
Commonalities

• Share citations with a team or as a reading list
• Automatically generate bibliographies and in-text citations
• Data stored on non-Canadian servers
Quiz time!

*Which Citation Manager is Right for Me?*

- Please take 5 minutes to fill out the self-quiz
- We will then review the results
An overview:
RefWorks, Zotero and Mendeley

http://www.flickr.com/photos/xavitalleda/6809106652/
1. Your library of references: web-based platform to access & manage your references

2. MS Word plug-in: insert citations & create bibliography (Write-N-Cite)
References

- Title: Epidemic

- Title: International Association of Law Libraries 'par

- Authors: Simon Latham
  Book Title: Lathams Falconry or the faulcons lure, and cure: in two bookes 'par
  Source: 1976, Theatrum Orbis Terrarum, Amsterdam

Organize & Share Folders

- Ref ID: 899
- Ref ID: 665
- Ref ID: 666
Advantages:

• Robust (brutally-literal) interface
• Well-behaved – does what it is told; demonstrates little initiative
• Friendly to citation entries from a wide variety of bibliography types (books, magazines, journals...)
• A citation management software “classic”
Disadvantages:

• Not without glitches (e.g. working between versions of Write-N-Cite on PC and Mac platforms)
• Learning investment – economical if you have lots of citations
• Weaker for social networking features
1. Your library of references:
   a) Zotero for Firefox, or
   b) Zotero Standalone, or
   c) Zotero Web

2. MS Word plug-in:
   inserts citations in your paper and creates a bibliography
Zotero for Firefox interface:
Zotero Standalone interface:
Advantages:

• Drag & drop PDFs into your library (it will extract bibliographic information for citations)
• Simple to use once you have it set up
• Works with nearly every information source
• Simple to share sources with others
• Can take notes, tag records
Disadvantages:

• Not as user-friendly to log in
• Free space limits storage to 300 MB
  (for 6 GB of storage space = $5/month)
1. Your library of references:
   a) Mendeley Desktop, or
   b) Mendeley Web

2. MS Word plug-in:
   inserts citations in your paper and creates a bibliography
Mendeley Web interface:
Mendeley Desktop interface:
Advantages:

• Drag & drop PDFs into your library (it will extract bibliographic information for citations)
• Annotate/highlight/tag documents
• Networking with other researchers
• “Watch” a folder on your computer and automatically import new documents into your library
• Free account includes 2 GB of storage space
Disadvantages:

• Not as seamless with databases (doesn’t always grab all the bibliographic information)

• Can only create 1 private group with up to 4 members (pay $50+/month for more members)

• Need to pay for more storage space (for 5 GB of storage space = $5/month)
Which tools is right for you?
Feedback

Thanks for your participation!