

CITATION MANAGEMENT TOOLS: WHICH ONE IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

Zotero

Mendeley

	Zotero	Mendeley
Register:	Register and download <i>Zotero for Firefox</i> or <i>Zotero Standalone</i> here: www.zotero.org	Register and download <i>Mendeley Desktop</i> here: www.mendeley.com
Free, open-source?	Yes, free and open-source.	Free, not open-source (owned by Elsevier).
Main advantages:	Imports references easily from nearly anywhere on the web. Drag & drop PDFs into your library. Unlimited groups.	Streamlined. Social features. Highlight & annotate PDFs. Drag & drop PDFs into your library. Easy to learn & get started.
Main disadvantages:	Free space is limited to 300 MB. If on a shared computer, no straight-forward way to log in and out.	Import feature doesn't work seamlessly with all databases. Free account has limits to groups and storage space.
Free storage?	300 MB (about 500-600 PDFs); you can expand your storage capacity for free with ZotFile, or pay for more.	2 GB (about 3,000-4,000 PDFs). You can also pay for more.
Import references from the web or library databases?	Use the Zotero plugin (browser extension).	Use the "Import to Mendeley" bookmarklet.
Saving copies of websites and images?	Easily finds & formats relevant citation information from a site. Good with web-based publications like newspapers.	Best with records for traditional formats (articles, books, etc.).
Add references from PDFs by drag & drop?	Yes, drag and drop PDFs to your library, then right click and choose "Retrieve metadata for PDF."	Yes, drag and drop PDFs (metadata will automatically be extracted).
Create bibliographies you can copy & paste into your document?	Yes, right-click on item(s) or folder and choose "Create Bibliography."	Yes, select items, right-click and choose "Copy As Formatted Citation."
Create bibliographies directly in MS Word?	Yes, install Zotero's word processor plug-in for MS Word or LibreOffice. In Word, you'll see plugin under the ZOTERO tab.	Yes, install Mendeley's MS Word plugin. In Word, you'll see "Cite-O-Matic" under the References tab.

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Compatible with other word processors?	Open Office, Google Docs, also works with LaTeX through BibTex.	Open Office.
Create groups?	Can create unlimited public/private groups, with unlimited members.	Public groups are unlimited; limited to one private group with 4 members (but you can pay a fee for more groups/members).
Mobile apps?	Yes, third party apps for iOS and Android.	Yes, free apps for iOS and Android.
Citation styles included?	Includes almost 7000 citation styles; you can easily add a citation style here: https://www.zotero.org/styles	Includes hundreds of styles. To see all available styles in Mendeley Desktop, go to View > Citation Style > More Styles...
Search your citations?	Yes, searches your notes, tags, and the full-text.	Yes, searches your notes, annotations and the full-text.
Annotate & save PDFs?	Sort of. Right-click on the PDF in your library, choose "Open in External View" and select "Adobe Acrobat."	Yes, annotate directly within Mendeley.
Social networking features?	Create a profile and share your papers. Follow other researchers.	Find and join research groups, create a research profile to share your publications, and see who is reading your papers.
Compatible with major web browsers?	Works with all major browsers, except Internet Explorer.	Works with all major browsers.
Data stored on Canadian servers? (privacy issues)	No, any information you enter to Zotero is stored on servers located outside of Canada.	No, any information you enter to Mendeley is stored on servers located outside of Canada.
Technical support?	No formal technical support. Technical assistance through active user community forums.	Limited technical support directly from Mendeley.