

CITATION MANAGEMENT TOOLS: WHICH ONE IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

	Zotero	Mendeley
Register:	Register and download <i>Zotero 5.0</i> : www.zotero.org	Register and download <i>Mendeley Desktop</i> : 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.
Main disadvantages:	Free space is limited to 300 MB. If on a shared computer, no straight-forward way to log in and out. No integrated annotation features.	Import feature doesn't work seamlessly with all databases. Free account has limits to groups and storage space. Encryption of account data makes it difficult to export library.
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 Connector (browser extension) or the Zotero bookmarklet.	Use the Mendeley Web Importer 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 PDFs to library by drag & drop?	Yes, drag and drop PDFs (metadata is automatically extracted).	Yes, drag and drop PDFs (metadata is automatically extracted).
Create bibliographies you can copy & paste into your document?	Yes, drag and drop citations and references into a document and they will be automatically formatted. Or right-click on item(s) or folder(s) and choose "Create Bibliography."	Yes, select items, right-click and choose "Copy As ... Formatted Citation."
Create citations & bibliographies in word processors?	Yes, automatic installation of plugins for Word, Libre Office, and GoogleDocs. Also works with LaTeX through BibTex. In MS Word, you'll see the plugin under the ZOTERO tab.	Yes, install the Mendeley Citation Plugin in Word and Libre Office. BibTex export for use with LaTeX. In Word, you'll see Mendeley "Cite-O-Matic" under the References tab. This plugin is not currently compatible with Mac OS 10.14 (Mojave) or Word 365.

Zotero

Mendeley

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Create groups?	Can create unlimited public/private groups, with unlimited members.	Public groups are unlimited; limited to five private groups of up to 25 collaborators; 100MB shared web storage across all groups (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 over 9000 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?	Yes, double-click on a PDF in your Zotero library to highlight and annotate in your computer's PDF reader.	Yes, annotate directly within Mendeley. (However, when using Mendeley's export function, annotations made within Mendeley are exported separately.)
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. For Internet Explorer, Edge, and Safari 12, use the bookmarklet rather than Zotero Connector.	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. You can choose to use a local version of Zotero (no syncing with the cloud).	No, any information you enter to Mendeley is stored on servers located outside of Canada.
Portability of data (able to export)?	Yes, you can export a Zotero library (this breaks links with Word documents) or transfer your data directory.	Limited. PDF annotations are exported separately. Encryption of the library makes export and portability limited.
Technical support?	No formal technical support. Technical assistance through active user community forums.	Limited technical support directly from Mendeley.