

CITATION MANAGEMENT TOOLS: WHICH ONE IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

Zotero

Mendeley

| | Zotero | Mendeley |
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| 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.). |
| 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 the Office 365 click-to-run version of Word. |

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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 seperately.) |
| 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 Firefox, Chrome, and Microsoft Edge. Not compatible with Safari or Internet Explorer. |
| 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. |