

Reference Management Tools: EndNote, Zotero & Mendeley

Comparison of Basic Features & Functions

Basics	EndNote/EndNote Online	Zotero	Mendeley
Cost	SI has institutional license, so free to SI staff & affiliates	Free basic account (fee to upgrade)	Free basic account (fee to upgrade)
Storage	EndNote desktop: Unlimited references and 5GB file attachment storage on Endnote Online. EndNote Online only: 50,000 in reference storage and 2GB file attachment storage.	Free account = 300 MB of Web storage (\$20/year for 2 GB, \$60/year for 6 GB, \$120/year for unlimited)	Free account = 2 GB of Web storage (\$55/year for 5 GB, \$110/year for 10 GB, \$165/year for unlimited)
Mobile Apps for iPad, iPhone, Android, smart phones	Yes, iPad App that allows PFD annotation. Can access EndNote Online on devices via browser.	Yes, created by 3 rd parties. For info, go to http://www.zotero.org/support/mobile	Yes, Mendeley created its own iPad/iPhone app and Android app
Citation/bibliography plug-ins for word processing programs	Yes – for MS Word, OpenOffice, Apple Pages, and LibreOffice	Yes – for MS Word and LibreOffice	Yes – for MS Word, OpenOffice, BibTeX/LaTeX, and LibreOffice
Types of items that can be saved	Book/article citations, PDFs, Text files, webpages (URLs only)	Book/article citations, PDFs, webpages (URLs + snapshots), video, images	Book/article citations, PDFs, webpages (URLs + snapshots), video, images
Tools to help capture online items	Yes, in EndNote Online – download the Capture button	Yes, with Chrome, Safari, Firefox extensions – icons shown in browser bar	Yes – download the Web Importer bookmarklet
Accessible from more than one computer	Yes, EndNote can now sync across EndNote Online and all computers where you have installed EndNote desktop x7/x8	Yes – Web-based and can download Zotero on multiple computers	Yes – Web-based and can download Mendeley Desktop on multiple computers
Share your library with others	Yes, in EndNote Online (citations only, not full-text documents)	Yes (with or without attached files)	Yes
Pros	- Many research databases (ex. Web of Science) offer export options specifically for EndNote.	- User-friendly, esp for saving online info. Can auto-detect items to save in Chrome and Firefox. - Unlimited # of private or public groups.	- User-friendly. - Free searchable online library of papers & citations. - Good tools for adding annotations to PDFs.
Cons	- Not as user-friendly, but improving. - Not able to save webpage snapshots.	- Very limited storage space w/free account.	- Only 1 private group (3 members) w/free acct. - Still mainly popular in scientific communities.
Good choice if you want to:	- Manage a massive number of references. - Collaborative work and communication.	- Work in multiple groups and freely share resources. - Easily save webpages + snapshots.	- Communicate online with colleagues. - Work in a small group w/ good collaboration tools.

Additional Details

Useful Links

Other comparison charts, compiled by university libraries:

- MIT: <https://libguides.mit.edu/cite-write/citertools>
- Penn State: <https://guides.libraries.psu.edu/CitationStyles/Tools>
- UW-Madison: <https://www.library.wisc.edu/services/citation-managers/comparison-chart/>

EndNote

- **EndNote Version X8 (Windows/MacOS)** is available for free download via OCIO from this page: <http://prism2.si.edu/OCIO/Pages/ResearchSoftware.aspx>.
- **EndNote Web** is accessible via any Internet-connected computer/device, go to www.myendnoteweb.com. Tip: Going to Web of Science to create your EndNote Web account (look for the link at the very top) will link the two accounts for seamless integration.
- **EndNote video tutorials:** <http://www.youtube.com/user/EndNoteTraining>
- **EndNote X8 online guide:** https://clarivate.libguides.com/endnote_training/users/enx8

Zotero

- Create a free account at Zotero.org. If you use Firefox as your Internet browser, download [Zotero for Firefox](#); Chrome users should add [Zotero Connector](#) from the Chrome Web Store. Alternatively, you can download Zotero Standalone to use with any browser.
- You also can access your Zotero library via the Internet by logging in at Zotero.org.
- **Zotero video tutorials:** https://www.zotero.org/support/screencast_tutorials
- **Zotero Quick Start Guide:** http://www.zotero.org/support/quick_start_guide

Mendeley

- Create a free Web account at Mendeley.com. You will be prompted to download the Desktop version of Mendeley as you are creating your Web account.
- Download the Chrome extension [here](#) or the Firefox extension [here](#).
- **Mendeley video tutorials:** <http://www.mendeley.com/videos-tutorials/>
- **Mendeley Guides:** <https://www.mendeley.com/guides>

Questions?

- Smithsonian Libraries' How Do I...Manage Citations & Bibliographies: <https://library.si.edu/research/create-manage-citationsbibliographies> (includes a link to this handout)
- Still have questions? Contact Ask-a-Librarian by email at AskALibrarian@si.edu.