Referencing management software comparison

While you are studying and carrying out research, you will gather references from many different places. To keep everything organised you might decide to use a reference manager.

There are many referencing management tools freely available online that will enable you to store, manage, share and cite your references.

Our subscription to Refworks is ending in September 2021. Existing users will need to migrate their references to a new tool.

Menderley and Zotero are two examples of the types of referencing management tools that are available.

Use this comparison table to help you decide which tool might work for you.

Features	Mendeley	Zotero
Recommended for	Students, researchers and teaching staff.	Student, researchers and teaching staff.
Type of software	Web interface and Mendeley Desktop, which can sync with online account.	Firefox extension (IE, Chrome and Safari can be used with Zotero Standalone). Can sync with online account, but web library not editable.
Cost	Free to all users (there are costs for upgraded storage).	Free to all users; open source (there are costs for upgraded storage).
Storage/maximum number of records	Unlimited on desktop (size restricted by local storage capacity); 1 GB free web space.	Unlimited on desktop (size restricted by local storage capacity); 300 MB free web storage.
Can be used on both PC and Mac?	Yes	Yes
Mobile app?	Yes, see mendeley.com/#mobile)	Yes, see **zotero.org/support/mobile**

	iOS Android	iOS Android
Updates	Updated on the Mendeley server.	Firefox checks by default for updates of extensions, including Zotero.
Export data to and from other citation management programs?	Yes	Yes
Direct export from databases?	Yes	Yes
Duplicate detection?	Yes	Yes
Extracts metadata from PDFs to create citations?	Yes; queries PubMed database for matches.	Yes; queries Google Scholar database for matches.
Creates in-text citations, footnotes and bibliographies in word processor?	Yes	Yes
Number of citation styles	Mendeley comes with 12 of the most popular styles, but allows easy download of other styles.	Zotero comes with 18 of the most popular styles, but more can be downloaded from the Zotero style repository.
Can the user edit or create citation styles?	Yes (using CSL Editor).	Yes (see tutorial)
Create bibliographies from citation library using a variety of data fields?	Basic keyword functionality for searching the citations library, as compared with Zotero.	You can search through your citations (only on the web version) using Publication, Author or Keywords/Tags.
Collaboration with other researchers	Create public and private groups. Automatic	Create public and private groups. Automatic synchronization of

	synchronization of collections among multiple computers. One private group of 3 members is free; see costs for private groups.	collections among multiple computers.
Screen capture of webpages?	Yes	Yes

Table adapted from https://med.mercer.edu/library/mendeley_vs_zotero.htm

MENDELEY

If you wish to explore Mendeley further the first thing you will need to do is create an account at:
https://www.mendeley.com/

Further help guides can be found here:

https://www.mendeley.com/guides/videos
http://resources.mendeley.com/

Zotero

If you wish to explore Zotero further the first thing you need to do is download Zotero at:

www.zotero.org (note: Zotero does not work with Internet Explorer)

Zotero has no dedicated customer support service, but the website provides extensive information, including instructional screencasts, troubleshooting tips, a list of known issues, and user forums. Questions and issues raised in the forums are answered quickly, with users and developers suggesting solutions.

For help and support look to the top left of screen.

For a detailed introduction to using Zotero, this video is very useful.

Learn how to use Zotero in 30 minutes.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQL_7C-YqBk

Library Services

August 2020