

Technical Topic #8: Bibliographic Management Software

Purpose: This Tech Topic describes software that can be used to manage bibliographic references.

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Introduction

Generating bibliographies can be a time-intensive aspect of writing research papers. Compiling accurate and thorough bibliographies is required for an article to be accepted for publication, and it is also important for the peer-review process. Bibliographic management software (BMS) can be used to assist in compiling bibliographies. In general, these software packages allow you to enter bibliographic information into a standardized form, and offers multiple style options for generating formatted bibliographies from this data. In addition to generating publication-quality bibliographies, bibliographic management software can help to organize large, key-word searchable databases of citations. This kind of software can be used to import bibliographic citations saved from searches conducted in PubMed Medline or other

databases. Once a group of citations is imported, they can be sorted by the various fields of the record (author, title, keywords, etc.) Records can also be manually entered into a database.

Main features

There is a wide range of bibliographic software packages. In general, they are designed to assist in the following tasks:

- manual cataloguing of bibliographic references
- automated collection and organization of references from bibliographic databases, library catalogues, etc;
- search and retrieval of bibliographic subsets
- integration with word-processing software to automatically insert and format citations and bibliographies;
- formatting of references according to particular bibliographic styles
- formatting of references for exporting to other packages and for data-sharing

The most common features include:

- Search / Retrieve / Sort options
- Field flexibility
- Import / Capture options: the software could import references from a variety of electronic resources (on-line, CD-ROM-based, etc.).
- Direct "Internet search" capabilities.
- Linking options: links to text files and images (both web-based and saved on your PC)
- Bibliographies & References styles : a predefined collection of journal formats which can be used to generate appropriately formatted bibliographies
- Compatibility with your word processor
- Support: most of these packages have help desks, mailing lists and web sites.

BMS usually support the following data types:

- monographs
- journal articles
- conference proceedings
- theses
- unpublished work
- magazine and newspaper articles
- web-based publications

Bibliographic software packages

There are a number of packages available and they all vary in terms of cost, features, and available platforms. Among the most well-known are:

Biblioscape – Research information manager

“Biblioscape is designed to help researchers collect and manage bibliographic data, take notes while doing research, search and capture bibliographic data on the Internet, and generate citations and bibliographies for publication. Biblioscape Professional can compile your notes into a final draft with a table of contents and an index. Biblioscape Librarian can be used to manage a small library”. Free trial of a full-functional copy is available.

URL: <http://www.biblioscape.com>

Biblioexpress - Free bibliographic software

BiblioExpress is a simple reference manager for researchers. It is small and easy to install. BiblioExpress can be used to collect literature references of different types, to explore bibliographic resources on the Internet, as well as to serve as a free viewer of bibliographic data. BiblioExpress can format records in several popular styles. If you are a student, or cannot afford to buy full blown bibliographic software, BiblioExpress is an ideal solution. It has the same look as Biblioscape. You can use it to collect reference data, and generate formatted references in popular styles such as APA, MLA, etc. When you are ready to upgrade to Biblioscape, your reference collection can be easily imported into the Biblioscape database. If you need to send your colleague some bibliographic data, you can use BiblioExpress as a viewer. It has basic search capability, and can group records based on column data by using drag-and-drop. BiblioExpress can import records in EndNote Refer format, RIS format, etc. So EndNote, ProCite, and Reference Manager users can use it as well. If you need to distribute a bibliographic database on CD or DVD, you can use BiblioExpress. The database can be built with Biblioscape or BiblioExpress. It can be distributed with the database as-is.

URL: <http://www.biblioscape.com/biblioexpress.htm>

BiblioPocket -Reference management software for Pocket PC

BiblioPocket is a reference management software for the PocketPC OS - Windows CE. It is developed with Visual CE program. BiblioPocket includes a subset of the fields in a Biblioscape database. BiblioPocket database includes all the commonly used fields like Authors, Title, Year, Notes, Abstract, etc. BiblioPocket doesn't support database sync between PocketPC and desktop database, but it allows user to exchange data between PocketPC and desktop databases through export and import. The special import routine allows you to merge data from PocketPC to desktop database when the same records already exist. BiblioPocket lets you search, sort, and lookup records

URL: <http://www.biblioscape.com/bibliopocket.htm>

Citation - Bibliographic and research note software

Citation's easy to use system helps writers with two tasks that are essential to research writing: organizing notes, and composing bibliographic references - easily and efficiently. With Citation, all references and notes can be entered on notecard-like forms, from within Word (2003, 2007 or 2010) - along with keywords, abstracts, and links to original documents or web sites. Free trial version is available.

URL: <http://www.citationonline.net/citationinfo.asp>

EndNote

The product is widely used by researchers, students and librarians to search online bibliographic databases, organize their references, images and PDFs in any language, and create bibliographies and figure lists instantly. EndNote Web is included with EndNote so you can collaborate with others easily. EndNote for Windows and Macintosh is a valuable all-in-one tool that integrates the following tasks into one program: Search bibliographic databases on the Internet, Organize references, images, PDFs and other files, Watch the bibliography and figure list appear as you write, Collaborate using EndNote Web, the Web-based research and writing component of EndNote. Free trial version available.

URL: <http://www.endnote.com/eninfo.asp>

GetARef

This package has several additional interesting and useful features. GetARef makes it possible to associate one or several links to individual references. Such links may refer to a page on a web-site or a file located on the local computer or in a local area network. It offers well-structured dialogs that makes it easy to enter new references also for a beginner, and by always checking that entered information is reasonable. GetARef automatically recognizes the origin of a downloaded file and accordingly suggests an appropriate import routine. In addition to standard Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT), GetARef offers advanced variants (ANY, NONE, ALL, NEAR). It is possible to search specific 'fields', e.g., the title, author names, editor names and the abstract. It is also possible to search for references published in a certain time span, and to find references similar to a particular reference and sort them by similarity. One of the additional useful options is a Search Thesaurus by which a user can create useful synonyms.

URL: http://www.getaref.com/index_en.htm

Nota Bene - Software for academic research

Nota Bene's products - Scholar's and Lingua Workstations - are integrated suites of programs designed to help students, academics, researchers, and writers in "managing and formatting of references, searching through notes to find quotations or other relevant material, structuring the argument, entering links to related texts, making sure footnotes and/or endnotes wrap properly, ensuring that cross-references are correct, formatting the resulting paper according to the dictates of the journal or press, and producing back-of-manuscript indexes." One of the most important features is Extended Alphabets: these modules enable you to work in the

supported language in Nota Bene proper, in Ibidem (the bibliographic database program) and Orbis (the text-retrieval system), just as you can already do in Greek, Hebrew, and Cyrillic. You must have Lingua Workstation to use these alphabets. 30-days trial version is available.
URL: <http://www.notabene.com/products.html>

Papyrus – Bibliography system and knowledge manager

This program allows to store and cross-link your references, notes and graphic images, import bibliographic references from anywhere, instantly locate references by any field, link your references to the Internet, and to combine with your word processor to produce perfectly-formatted manuscripts and bibliographies. Available for free (version 7, 2004)
URL: <http://www.researchsoftwaredesign.com/>

ProCite

This program allows searching the Internet for references, organizing your data using standard Windows navigational tools in ProCite, linking to the web and capturing web pages into your ProCite database. You can format bibliographies for hundreds of journal styles, or create your own. ProCite for Windows captures the URL and the page's title information and stores it in your reference collection (with Netscape or Internet Explorer), then you can use the Express Paste feature to copy text information from the web page directly into the ProCite record. ProCite includes 39 different reference types each with 45 fields. ProCite is also available as a network program. Free trial available

URL: <http://www.procite.com/pcinfo.asp>

Zotero

Zotero is a free, browser-based easy-to-use tool to help you collect, organize, cite, and share your research sources. You can collect information on books, journal articles, and other resources with a single click in your location bar, Archive entire web pages in your library, Store related PDFs, files, images, and links in your library. To use Zotero you must be using FireFox 2.0 or Flock as your browser.

URL: <http://www.zotero.org/>

Web-based reference management tools

Web-based reference management software provides some interesting new options (besides the standard set of features) – this include possibility of group work through the Internet, automatic updates of new/edited records, and access to bibliographic DBs, created by other users. Some of these products are available for free.

BiblioWeb

BiblioWeb was the first web enabled bibliographic software. All the basic functions of bibliographic software are delivered through web browser. A web user can be assigned "Read" or "Write" privileges. Users with "Read" accounts can search, browse, display, and export bibliographic records. Users with "Write" accounts can add, edit, delete, import, even format document through web browser. BiblioWeb is the solution for a research group to share a common bibliographic database on the Web. It also supports a threaded discussion forum. If you want to charge users for access, BiblioWeb can keep an access log recording every request made by users. BiblioWeb is installed as part of Biblioscape.

URL: <http://www.biblioscape.com/bibliohost.htm>

Mendeley

Mendeley is a free reference manager and academic social network that can help you organize your research, collaborate with others online, and discover the latest research: Automatically generate bibliographies, Collaborate easily with other researchers online, Easily import papers from other research software, Find relevant papers based on what you're reading, Access your papers from anywhere online, Read papers on the go, with iPhone app.

URL: <http://www.mendeley.com/>

refbase

Refbase is a free web-based, platform-independent, multi-user interface for managing scientific literature and citations. Users can get automatic email announcements for newly added records, and dynamic RSS feeds for recently added/edited records as well as for any custom user query. You can link records to other records in the database (using static or dynamic links). Refbase can import and export references in various formats (including BibTeX, Endnote, RIS, PubMed, ISI Web of Science, CSA Illumina, RefWorks, MODS XML, OpenOffice, and MS Word). It can make formatted lists of citations in HTML, RTF, PDF, or LaTeX, and offers powerful searching, and RSS support.

URL: http://www.refbase.net/index.php/Web_Reference_Database

RefWorks - Online personal database and bibliography creator

RefWorks -- an online research management, writing and collaboration tool -- is designed to help researchers easily gather, manage, store and share all types of information, as well as generate citations and bibliographies. There are two purchase options for RefWorks: an individual subscription and an institution-wide subscription. RefWorks automatically creates author, descriptor and periodical indexes when importing so you just click on the word to perform the retrieval. Use Quick Search to search all fields for the most comprehensive results or Advanced Search to narrow your search to specific terms and fields. 30-day free trial.

URL: <http://www.refworks.com/>

WIKINDEX

WIKINDEX is a single or multi-user Virtual Research Environment storing searchable references, notes and citations and integrated with a WYSIWYG word processor to author publication-ready articles automatically formatted to chosen citation styles. It allows to add unlimited file attachments to each resource, and catalogue resources by categories and keyword(s). The package also provides multiple export options (to other bibliographic software). It is available for free.

URL: <http://wikindx.sourceforge.net/index.htm>

Additional resources

Tools to Manage References for Research and Writing

<http://library.humboldt.edu/~rls/references.html>

Bibliographic/Software and Standards Information

http://wiki.services.openoffice.org/wiki/Bibliographic/Software_and_Standards_Information

Comparison of bibliographic software (This page includes comparison information on three of these packages: Papers, Zotero, and Mendeley)

<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/iss/nhs/it/bibsoftcomparison.html>

Best Free Bibliographic Database Software

<http://www.techsupportalert.com/content/best-free-bibliographic-database-software-stub-only.htm>

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