

Citation Management with Zotero

Citing properly requires you to know a lot of rules and to keep track of a lot of information. This process is difficult for many students and researchers throughout their academic careers.

A citation management process or software can help save you time and effort as you gather, organize, and store sources for your research work.

A common and low-tech citation management method is note taking. Note taking with your own organizational system can work well, especially when you have a relatively small number of sources. When managing a large number of sources, there are tools that can simplify the process.

At Columbia University Libraries, we recommend Zotero, a free and open source software for citation management.

Citation Management Software: Zotero

Zotero allows you to collect, organize, cite and share your research sources and enables the download, capture, and indexing of full text from catalogs, databases, websites, and PDFs. The Libraries recommend the use of Zotero because it's an open source application and is widely popular, with a robust user community. The program also integrates with Microsoft Word, Google Docs, and some open source word processors to generate citations while you write. Click on the following link to visit Zotero's website:

<https://www.zotero.org/>

Download the Zotero standalone version as well as browser extensions for Firefox, Chrome, or Safari. Keep in mind that Zotero works particularly well with Firefox; however, Google Docs users will need to download the plugin for Chrome. To learn more about citation management, refer to the Columbia Libraries website:

<https://bit.ly/CULCitationManagementB2B>

Additional Resources on Zotero

- **Download Zotero:** Click on the following link for a free download of Zotero and related browser plugins (for Firefox, Chrome, or Safari):
<https://www.zotero.org/download/>
 - **Word processor plugins:** Word processor plugins allow you to make the fullest use of Zotero and come prepacked with the browser plugins. For more information visit:
<https://bit.ly/WordProcessorPluginsB2B>
 - **Quick Start Guide:** Consult the Quick Start Guide for tips and videos on how to get started using Zotero:
<https://bit.ly/ZoteroQuickstartGuideB2B>
 - **Hands-on workshops on using Zotero:** The Libraries offer free hands-on workshops on using Zotero. Find information about dates and times as well as register online to attend one of these sessions on the Libraries Workshops page:
<https://bit.ly/CULWorkshopsB2B>
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