Reference Management Software Comparison - 4th Update (June 2014)

EndNote
Docear
Mendeley
Zotero
Citavi
JabRef
RefWorks
Colwiz

Reference Management Software Comparison

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All information for this software comparison is compiled after comprehesive software testing. However, due to the complexity and continuing development of applications we can not assume any guarantee for the accuracy of the information. If you detect any errors or omissions please contact us at literaturverwaltung@ub.tum.de.

Key questions to select the right reference management software

Answers to many of the following questions can be found in this software comparison document. However, some question will be answered only by testing the programme yourself.

Ease of Use / Usability
> Do I like the interface? Is it intuitive to me?
> Do I easily find the functions I'm looking for?

Operating system
> Which software can I use with my operating system (Linux, Mac, Windows)?
> Which software offers an online version?
> Which software offers a mobile version/app?

Help
> Are there any training courses for beginners?
> Are there any materials for self training (e.g. videos, manuals)?
> Is there any support if I need help (library, company, IT hotline, forums etc.)?

Compatibility
> What external programmes should my reference management software support (e.g. word processor)

Costs
> Does the software cost anything?
> Is there a campus licence at my institution (university/company)?
> Are there potentially additional costs (e.g. after leaving institution, need for more storage space)?

What features should my reference management software offer?
> Catalogue and database search from within the programme?
> Indexing and structuring of content?
> Searching for full text?
> PDF editing?
> Generating bibliographies?
> Managing quotes / ideas?
> Online access?
> Sharing and/or jointly editing references?
> Task planning?
> LaTeX support?

Where do I usually work?
> Do I use always the same computer or do I switch sometimes?
> Do I have permission to install software on the computer I use?
> What reference management software do my colleagues/collaborators use?

		Provider / URL	Tested Version	Licence Model	Cost (approx.) Might differ in different countires due to taxation	Language
				Open Source, freeware or commercial? Single user or multi user licence?		
Citavi		Swiss Academic Software, http://www.citavi.com/	4.3	> Commercial > Free version "Citavi Free", limited to 100 references per project > Single user licences; student licences; site licences	Single user licences (discount for more than 4 licences) > Commercial users from € 260 > Academic institutions € 180 > Students / Personal use € 119	English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Polish
Colwiz		Colwiz PVT. Ltd. Oxford University Start-Up http://www.colwiz.com	2,14	> Free web service (up to 2 GB) + desktop version		English
Docear		Different developers, funded by BMWI http://www.docear.org	1,1	> Free > GPL 2 and BSD Licence	--	English, German, French, Dutch ...
EndNote		Thomson Reuters, http://www.endnote.com	X7.1	> Commercial > Single user licences; Multiple User licences (5 users); Student licences; Campus licences; Company licences; Crossgrades (from Reference Manager to EndNote); Research & Teaching licences > Free version "EndNote Basic" with limited functionality and limited storage space (50,000 references, 20 citation styles, 2 GB storage space, 6 databases)	> Single user licence € 180 - € 265 > Students € 110 - € 140 > Research & Teaching licence from € 220 > Multiple User licence (5 users) € 1050-1260 > Crossgrades € 100-170	English Web version also German, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Japanese, Korean
JabRef		Different developers http://jabref.sourceforge.net/	2.10	Free web service (with Java Web Start) + open source software (General Public Licence)	--	English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Chinese ...
Mendeley		Mendeley Ltd. http://www.mendeley.com	1.11 (Desktop)	> Free web service (up to 2 GB) + desktop version > Personal Storage (Plus / Pro / Max) + Team Plans: more storage + more private groups = higher cost	> Personal: from 5 GB for € 4,99/month to unlimited storage for € 14,99/month, one private group > Team Plans: unlimited private groups and storage; from 5 collaborators for € 49/month to 50 collaborators for € 274/month; for education and non-profit use (double charge for commercial and government use)	English
RefWorks		RefWorks, http://www.refworks-cos.com/refworks/	2.0	> Commercial > Single user licences and campus licences	Single user licence $ 100/year	English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Korean ...
Zotero		Center for History and New Media at George Mason University, http://www.zotero.org/	4.0.21	Free web service (up to 300 MB) and Open-Source Software	> 2 GB for $ 20/year > 6 GB for $ 60/year > unlimited for $ 120/year	Language setting in Firefox (Firefox extension) or of operating system (Standalone version)

Technical Specifications

	Installation		Platform / Operating System		Mobile App	Character Encoding		Max. Number of References	Max. Online Storage Space
	Desktop / Web based					*Unicode / Special characters*			
Citavi	> Desktop	−	> Windows > Use on Mac only through simulations of Windows environment	−	no	Unicode support	+	Unlimited (Recommendation: max. 20,000 references per project)	--
Colwiz	> Web based > Desktop	+	> Desktop: Windows, Mac, Linux > Web: platform independent > Java and Adobe AIR required	+	> App for Android and iOS	Unicode support	−	> 5,000	> max. 3 GB (depending on completion of profile, Facebook linking etc.)
Docear	> Desktop	+	> Desktop: Windows, Mac, Linux > Java required	−	no	Unicode support	+	Unlimited	--
EndNote	> Desktop > Web based	+	> Desktop: Windows, Mac > Web: platform independent	+	> EndNote for iPad > Synchronisation with EndNote Web > EndNote Web Mobile (Browser version for mobile devices)	Unicode support	+	> Desktop version: unlimited > Web version: unlimted > EndNote Basic: 50,000 references	> Web: 5 GB > Basic: 2 GB
JabRef	> Web based > Desktop	+	> Desktop: Windows, Mac, Linux > Web: platform independent > Java required	−	For tablets with Windows 8	Unicode support	+	Unlimited	--
Mendeley	> Web based > Desktop	+	> Desktop: Windows, Mac, Linux > Web: platform independent	+	> Mendeley for iPhone / iPod Touch / iPad (limited functionality) > Synchronisation with Web Account	Unicode support	+	Unlimited	Free version 2 GB
RefWorks	> Web based	+	> Web: platform independent	+	RefMobile (pared-down RefWorks version)	Unicode support	+	Unlimited	Depending on institutional licence (usually 10 GB)
Zotero	> Firefox Extension > Standalone Version > Web based	+	> Firefox Extension > Web: platform independent > Standalone Version: Windows, Mac, Linux	+	Third party apps, e.g. Zandy, ZotPad	Unicode support	+	Unlimited	> Free version 300 MB "file storage" (PDFs etc.) > Unlimited for "data syncing" (references)

Import I

	Database Search		Data Import	
	Is database search from within the software supported?	*What resources are available?*	*Is data import via import filter supported?*	*Which import filters are available? (bibliographic databases and other reference management software)*
Citavi	+ Yes	> Acces to over 4,600 resources > Access to additional resources can be requested	+ Yes	> 15 reference management software (LiteRat, EndNote, Bibliographix, ProCite etc.) > RIS, BibTeX > approx. 4,500 database specific filters > Editable import for tables or databases > Additional filters can be requested
Colwiz	+ Yes	> 30 resources	+ Yes	> Reference management software (EndNote, Zotero, Mendeley, CiteULike) > RIS, BibTeX
Docear	− No		− No	
EndNote	+ Yes	> Access to over 4,00 resources > Access to additional resources can be requested or downloaded from EndNote website	+ Yes	> RIS, Tab Delimited > over 600 database specific filters
JabRef	+ Yes	Access to selected databases (e.g. JSTOR, IEEEXplore, Medline)	+ Yes	> BibTeX, RIS, Tab Delimited, EndNote etc. > Creation of personal import filters supported
Mendeley	− No	--	+ Yes	BibTeX, RIS, EndNote XML, Zotero
RefWorks	+ Yes	> Access to over 800 resources > Access to additional resources can be requested or added by administrator	+ Yes	> Bibliographix, Endnote > RIS, BibTeX, MAB, MARC > 1,000 database specific filters > Additional filters can be requested
Zotero	− No	--	+ Yes	RIS, BibTeX, MODS, RDF, Refer / BibIX, RDF etc.

Import II

	Export from Databases		Capturing Metadata from Web Pages	Other Import Options	Full Text Search
	Is direct export from databases into software supported?	*From which databases?*			*Is full text search supported?*
Citavi	+ Yes	Databases with specific export format (e.g. RIS, BibTeX, EndNote); or COinS format	+ > With Citavi Picker (for Firefox, Internet Explorer, Chrome): Import of metadata or content from websites > Usng ISBN or DOI with Citavi Picker > Capturing of selected text as quote, abstract, table of contents or keyword	+ > Import of bibliographic data by submitting ISBN, DOI or PubMed-ID > Import from bibliographies > Import from PDFs with Acrobat Picker > PDF documents via Drag & Drop > Import of folders with sub-folders	+ Yes
Colwiz	+ Yes	Databases with specific export format (e.g. RIS, BibTeX)	+ > With Web Importer (bookmarklet)	+ > Import of bibliographic data by submitting ISBN, DOI, PubMed-ID or ArXiv ID > Import of folders with sub-folders	+ Yes (beta version)
Docear	+ Yes	All databases with export option in BibTeX format	− No	+ Import by combining PDF metadata and Google Scholar search	− No
EndNote	+ Yes	Direct export supported, see: http://endnote.com/en/online-databases + others	+ > With Capture-Button: Import of metadata from websites > Bookmarklet / Firefox extension	+ > Files per Drag & Drop > Folder with sub-folder (keeping folder structure) > Auto import of new documents from auto import folder	+ Yes, via OpenURL
JabRef	+ Yes	All databases with export option in BibTeX format	− No	+ Import of bibliographic data by submitting ISBN or DOI	− No
Mendeley	+ Yes	Databases with specific export format (e.g. RIS, BibTeX)	+ > With Web Importer (bookmarklet) > Capturing of website screenshots	+ > Files and folders per Drag & Drop > Auto import of new documents from "watched folder" > Import of bibliographic data by submitting PubMed ID, ArXiv ID or DOI	+ Yes, but only from Mendeley's Research Catalog, not in Desktop version
RefWorks	+ Yes	Direct export supported, see: http://www.refworks-cos.com/refworks/DEPartners/	+ With RefGrab-It (completion of metadata)	+ With subscription to RSS feeds	− No
Zotero	+ Yes	Databases with specific export format (e.g. RIS, BibTeX)	+ > Icons in URL bar; see http://www.zotero.org/translators/ > Capturing screenshot of websites > Bookmarklet for other browsers (Safari, Chrome)	+ > Files per Drag & Drop > Import of bibliographic data by submitting ISBN, DOI or PubMed ID	+ Yes, via Google Scholar, CrossRef and OpenURL (not automatically added)

Data Format

	Document Types			Fields	
	Which document types (book, book chapter etc.) are supported?		*Are user generated document types supported?*	*How many fields are assigned to each document type?*	*Are user generated fields supported?*
Citavi	35 document types	–	No	Depends on document type (16-50 fields)	+ 9 fields document specific customisable
Colwiz	12 document types	–	No	Depends on document type (at least 16 fields)	– No
Docear	19 document types	–	No	Depends on document type; ca. 37 fields	– No
EndNote	51 document types	+	Yes (Modification of available document types / customisation of three "unused" document types)	Depends on document type (20-60 fields, incl. "Custom Fields")	+ 8 "Custom Fields" customisable
JabRef	19 document types	+	Yes (Modification of available document types and creation of new document types)	Depends on document type; ca. 37 fields	+ Unlimited number of fields globally or document specific customisable
Mendeley	20 document types	–	No	Depends on document type; up to 66 fields	– No
RefWorks	31 document types	–	No	Depends on document type; up to 71 fields	+ 15 free text fields customisable
Zotero	34 document types	–	No	Depends on document type; ca. 25 fields	– No

Editing I

		Indices		Automatic completion from term lists on data input?		Completion of Metadata		Interconnections
		Do newly added data (authors, journal titles, keywords) automatically generate term lists / indices?		*Automatic completion from term lists on data input?*		*Is completion of metadata by using other sources supported?*		*Is interconnection of references supported (e.g. new editions, translations)?*
Citavi	+	Yes (authors, institutions, keywords, place published, publishers, journal titles, series, categories, libraries)	+	Yes	+	Input of ISBN, DOI or PubMed-ID completes bibliographic data and adds book cover	+	> Edited book and its chapters are linked > Two-way referrals between references within a project are supported
Colwiz	–	No	–	No	+	Input of DOI, PubMed-ID or ArXiv ID completes bibliographic data	–	No
Docear	+	Yes (customisable)	+	Yes	–	No	+	Yes, via the field "Crossref" by using the BibTeX-Key of the parent publication
EndNote	+	Yes (authors, keywords, place published, publisher, journal titles); users can create new term lists; pre-defined journal term list available	+	Yes	+	Completion of metadata with function "Find Reference Updates"	–	No
JabRef	+	Yes (customisable)	+	Yes	+	> Input of ISBN or DOI completes bibliographical data > Per URL of database Citeseer (if already known) > Completion of metadata from PDFs	+	Yes, via the field "Crossref" by using the BibTeX-Key of the parent publication
Mendeley	+	Yes (authors, keywords, journal titles)	+	Yes	+	> Automatic completion of metadata from PDFs > "Needs Review" search in Google Scholar	–	No
RefWorks	+	Yes (authors, keywords, journal titles)	+	Yes	+	Via RefGrab-It	–	No
Zotero	+	Yes (authors, keywords, place published, publisher, journal titles, tags)	+	Yes	+	Completion of metadata from PDFs (manually with right click)	+	Yes, by using the function "Related"

Editing II

	Linking / Integration of Documents	Editing Documents (PDFs)	Duplicate Checking	Global Changes	Folders / Groups
	Is linking / integration of documents supported?				*Is creation and allocation of folders/groups supported?*
Citavi	+ Yes	Only with external editor; comments and highlighted text is displayed in Citavi preview	+ Yes	+ Yes	+ Yes (categories; within categories multiple levels and multiple allocations possible)
Colwiz	+ Yes	+ Annotations and highlighting text supported	– No	– No	+ Yes (multiple levels; automatic allocations possible, no multiple allocations)
Docear	– No, only relative links supported	– Only with external editor; then import of comments and highlighting into Mindmaps	– At import of Bib TeX entries	+ Yes	+ Yes (multiple levels; also multiple and automatic allocations possible)
EndNote	+ Yes, (absolute links and relative links to copy in project)	+ Annotations and highlighting text supported	+ Yes (also customisable)	+ Yes	+ Yes (groups; one level; also multiple and automatic allocations possible)
JabRef	– No, only relative links supported	– No	+ Yes	+ Yes	+ Yes (multiple levels; also multiple and automatic allocations possible)
Mendeley	+ Yes	+ Annotations and highlighting text supported	+ Yes	+ Yes	+ Yes (folders; multiple levels; multiple allocations possible)
RefWorks	+ Yes	– No	+ Yes ("exact" and "close" duplicates)	+ Yes	+ Yes (folders; multiple levels; multiple allocations possible)
Zotero	+ Yes	– No, only with external editors	+ Yes	– Only for tags	+ Yes (folders; multiple levels; also multiple and automatic allocations possible)

View / Search

	Viewing		Sorting		Searching		Search performance?		Can searches be saved?
	What options to view references are available? (short view / full view / customisable)		*What options to sort references are available?*		*Is quick search and search in selected field with Boolean operators supported?*		*Search performance?*		*Can searches be saved?*
Citavi	> Tab view (tabs customisable) > List view (formated) > Table view (displayed fields customisable)	+	Click on field headers or separate sort function	+	> Quick search > Search in selected fields (both with Boolean operators)	+	Good	−	> Yes: in catalogues / databases > No: in own project
Colwiz	> List view >Table view	+	Click on field headers or separate sort function	−	> Quick search	+	Good	−	Yes, but only within session
Docear	> Short view > Full view	+	Click on category, also sorting by multiple criteria	+	> Quick search > Advanced search (Boolean operators can be used) > Global search within all open databases	+	Good	+	Yes
EndNote	> List view (customisable) > Preview > Full view	+	Click on field headers or separate sort function	+	> Quick search > Advanced search with Boolean operators > Search in attached PDFs and commentaries	+	Good	+	Yes
JabRef	> Short view > Full view	+	Click on category, also sorting by multiple criteria	+	> Quick search > Advanced search (Boolean operators can be used) > Global search within all open databases	+	Good	+	Yes
Mendeley	> List view > Citation view	+	Click on field headers	+	> Quick search for author, title, publication, year, notes (with Boolean operators) > Search in attached PDFs	+	Good	−	No
RefWorks	> List view > Full view > Short view	+	Pulldown menu	+	> Quick search > Search by using controlled vocabulary > Field search	+	Good	+	Yes
Zotero	> List view (customisable) > Timeline view - visualisation with timeline and colour tagging by topic	+	Click on field headers	+	> Quick search > Advanced search > Tag search > Search in attached PDFs	+	Good	+	Yes

Collaboration

		Sharing		Collaboration		Social Networking
		Can reference be shared (read only) with other users?		*Can multiple users edit references?*		
Citavi	+	Yes, via email (also PDFs)	+	Yes, in "Team Project"	–	No
Colwiz	+	> Yes, via email > Sharing of groups and papers in online version (Drive)	+	Yes, in shared groups	+	> Communication in interest groups > Sharing of own publications > Creating of own researcher profile > People search > Discussion stream
Docear	–	No	+	Yes; warnings and confirmations when changing BibTeX file with references	–	No
EndNote	+	Yes, via email (also PDFs)	+	Yes, in shared folder in online version with editing permission for other registered users	–	No
JabRef	–	No	+	Yes; warnings and confirmations when changing BibTeX file with references	–	No
Mendeley	+	> Sharing of groups and papers in online version > Yes, via email	+	Yes, in shared groups	+	> Communication in interest groups > Sharing of own publications > Creating of own researcher profile > People search
RefWorks	+	Yes, via "RefShare" (only with campus licence)	+	Yes in "RefShare" (only with campus licence)	–	No
Zotero	+	> Sharing of groups and papers in online version > Sharing of own library in online version	+	Yes, in shared groups	+	> Communication in interest groups > Creating of own researcher profile > People search

	Citation Styles		Generating Bibliographies (static)		Word Processor Integration	
	What citation styles are available? Are common styles such as MLA, APA, Harvard available?	*Are citation styles editable?*	*Is export of single (formated) references supported?*	*Can bibliographies be generated and exported as text file?*	*Is export of references into word processors supported?*	*Automatic update of bibliography when adding new reference?*
Citavi	> More then 2,700 citation styles > New citation styles can be requested from provider (http://www.citavi.com/stylerequest)	Yes	Yes	Yes	> Yes > Word Add-In > "Publication assistant" for OpenOffice, LibreOffice and 9 TEX editors	> Word Add-In: Yes, automatic update > LibreOffice / OpenOffice: No, bibliography is being created and added by formatting of text document > LaTeX: bibliography is being updated at next BibTeX/LaTeX run
Colwiz	More than 7,000 citation styles can be added (incl. user generated styles), see: http://www.zotero.org/styles	Yes (with Citation Style Editor: editor.citationstyles.org)	Yes	Yes	Yes, (with Plug-Ins for Word, OpenOffice, NeoOffice and StarOffice; automatic LaTeX export)	Yes
Docear	> Formatting and citation styles with BibTeX > 19 default styles with Word Add-In, another 7,000 styles can be added	see BibTeX	see BibTeX	> see BibTeX > Word Add-In: Yes	Yes (Support for some LaTeX editors and Word Add-In)	> Updating of bibliography after next BibTeX / LaTeX run > Automatic update in Word
EndNote	More than 5,000 citation styles installed	Yes	Yes	Yes, (with export function and "Subject Bibliography")	Yes ("Cite While You Write") (Word, Pages, OpenOffice)	Automatic update
JabRef	Formatting and citation styles with BibTeX	see BibTeX	see BibTeX	see BibTeX	Yes (Support for some LaTeX editors and OpenOffice / LibreOffice)	> Updating of bibliography after next BibTeX / LaTeX run > Automatic update in LibreOffice
Mendeley	> 12 citation styles with installation > More then 6,400 styles can be added (incl. user generated and modified styles), see: http://www.citationstyles.org	Yes (with Citation Style Editor: editor.citationstyles.org)	Yes	No	Yes (with Plug-In for Word and OpenOffice)	Automatic update
RefWorks	> More then 1,600 citation styles > New citation styles can be requested	Yes (can also be shared with other RefWorks users)	Yes	Yes	Yes (WriteNCite for Word + Word for Mac; online and offline version); for other word processors: One Line / Cite View	Automatic update
Zotero	> 16 citation styles with installation > More then 7,000 styles can be added (incl. user generated and modified styles), see: http://www.zotero.org/styles	Yes (with Citation Style Editor: editor.citationstyles.org/)	Yes (with "Drag-and-drop Quick Copy")	Yes (highlight reference, right click, create bibliography)	Yes (Word Plug-In; OpenOffice / LibreOffice extensions)	Automatic update

Miscellaneous

	Export	Other Features	Remarks
	Is export of references in specific file format supported?		

Citavi	Yes (BibTeX, EndNote, RIS); Exports as MS Access file; Export in table formats (.xls, .odt)	> Knowledge management:
		  > Adding of personal thoughts / ideas
		  > Categorising of references, quotes and thoughts
		  > Creating of hierarchy within categories
		  > Using Citavi Picker to copy Adobe Acrobat-Reader / Word texts into documents
		> Task planner (organising of tasks, deadlines etc.)
		> Auto generation of BibTeX key
		> Citation Style Finder (supports search for styles also after formatting of single elements in reference)
		> Automatic renaming of PDFs at import
		> Automatic back-up of Citavi files when quitting project
		> Import/ export of categories as mindmap
			> Installation from USB key possible
			> Online version planned

Colwiz	Yes (RIS, EndNote XML, Mod XML, BibTeX)	> Adding notes to references > Drive application for data sync (Cloud) > Calendar in groups > Task planner > Statistics for own Library	> Application crashes and data sync is often overloaded > Not clear if applications remains free (at the moment option to upgrade for more storage space by providing personal data)
Docear	Yes (RIS, EndNote, HTML and table formats)	> Organising of notes, thoughts and quotes in Mindmaps > Recommender System for literature suggestions (registration required) > Import of PDF annotations into Mindmaps > Generating of hierarchy by exporting Mindmaps in different formats > Task planner with notes and reminders	> Reference management only part of software, focus on knowledge management > Online and mobile version planned > Knowledge management segment works also with other, external reference management software such as JabRef, Mendeley and Zotero
EndNote	Yes (BibTeX, RIS, Tab Delimited)	> "Manuscript Wizard": structuring of documents > Automatic renaming of PDFs at import	> Support and training through Adept Scientific > Integration into other Thomson Reuters products (ISI Web of Science, ResearcherID)
JabRef	Yes (BibTeX, RIS, EndNote, XML)	> Auto generation of BibTeX key > Export filter editor > 5-level ranking, 3-level prioritisation and relevance marking as well as quality marking > Batch processing of multiple datasets	> Creation and addition of plug-ins possible > Mobile version available
Mendeley	Yes (BibTeX, RIS, EndNote XML)	> Synchronisation of BibTeX file supported	Number of downloads is being used for Altmetrics services (altmetrics.com, ImpactStory, etc.)
RefWorks	Yes (BibTeX, RIS, Tab Delimited, RefWorks Tagged, XML)	> Chapter structure reflected in folder structure	Campus licence: > Administrator area for institutional settings > Usage statistics > RSS feeds > Subscription based "RefAware Awareness Service" can be added; see http://www.refaware.com/
Zotero	Yes (BibTeX, RIS, MODS, RDF)	> Generating of reference independent notes	> Many plug-ins vavailable > Regular back-up recommended > RSS feeds

Ease of Use

	Performance	Ease of Use	Help / Guides
	Speed, response time	*How intuitive is user interface?*	*What help / guides are available?*
Citavi	+ Good	+ Very good (very intuitive; individual steps and options are explained)	+ > Getting Started Guide > Manual > Manual for academic work > Videos and slide shows > Very good context sensitive help (customisable / editable) > Forum > Ticket system > Chat > Trainer network
Colwiz	− Not good, many crashes	+ Good, focus is on Mac users	+ > Online help pages > "Getting Started Guide" > Feedback forum > Video tutorials
Docear	− Unstable for larger PDF collections	− Ease of use is medium, confusing; Word Add-In is intuitive	> Online manual and FAQ > User forum
EndNote	+ Good	− Ease of use is medium - many functions rather "technical", need for explanation (e.g. input field, RIS export, syntax for citation style customisation)	+ > Manual > Manual for academic work > Online training docments > Online tutorials > Mailinglist (only english); forum > Phone support (Mo-Fr 9.00 - 13.00) > E-Mail support
JabRef	+ Good	+ Good (designed for LaTeX users)	> Online help pages and FAQ > User forum
Mendeley	+ Good	+ Good	+ > Online help pages > "Getting Started Guide" > Feedback forum > Video tutorials
RefWorks	+ Good	+ Good	+ > Manuals for beginners, advanced and experts > Online help pages > Tutorials > Email and phone support > Online training
Zotero	+ Good	+ Good	> Video tutorials > Help pages > Forum

Overview

	Licence Model		Installation		Operating System																		
	Commercial	Free	Desktop	Web based	Windows	Mac OS	Linux	Mobile App	Database Search	Data Import	Export from Databases	Capturing of Metadata from Web Pages	Other Import Options	Completion of Metadata	Linking of References	Duplicate Checking	Folders and Groups	Sharing Privately or Publicly	Jointly Editing	Social Networking	Separate Bibliographies	Word Processor Intergration	Intuitive User Interface
Citavi	●	●	●	○	●	○	○	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	○	●	●	●
Colwiz	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Docear	○	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	○	○	●	○	●	○	●	○	●	○	○	○	●	●	○
EndNote	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	○	●	○	●	●	○
JabRef	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	●	●	●	●
Mendeley	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
RefWorks	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●
Zotero	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

Final Evaluation

Criteria for Evaluation

> Licence model and price
> Platform / Operating system
> Database search
> Import options
> Full text search
> Completion of metadata
> Attaching / integrating of documents

> Sharing, jointly editing
> Social networking options
> Word processor integration
> Other functions
> Ease of use
> Help, guides

Under "Strength" and "Weakness" we have listed features which stand out very positive or negative within the respective criterion.

	Strength	Weakness	User Group
			For which user group is the software appropriate?
Citavi	+ Commercial and free version with full functionality (limited to 100 references per project) + Full text search + Comprehensive knowledge management and task planning + Jointly editing in team projects supported + Very intuitive interface + Extensive help options and very good individual support + Easy to use Word Add-In with useful functions + Citation Style Finder	− Using the Publication Assistant: Bibliography will be added after formatting − Windows only (XP no longer supported) − No online version	> Windows users > Beginners to professionals
Colwiz	+ Platform independen and free + Many collaboration options: Calendar, drive, groups, profile + Task management + Usability + App for iOS and Android + Synchronisation + PDF reader with many editing tools	− Many crashes and server overloads − References limited to 5,000 − No OpenURL − References only be added to one group − Only Quick search within own library	> All user groups, very intuitive
Docear	+ Platform independent (Windows, Mac, Linux) + Open Source, free + Very good for excerpting and structuring of literature + Good Word integration	− Relatively high learning curve − Reduced functionality in reference management compared to original JabRef	> Needs some experience with reference management software and some computer "savvyness" due to complexity of programm. > Aimed at users who use PDF annotations

	Strength	Weakness	User Group
			For which user group is the software appropriate?
EndNote	+ For Windows and Mac + Web version free for subscribers to Web of Science and with purchase of desktop version + Free web version EndNote Basic (limited functionality) + Full text search + iPad app + Automated import of PDFs supported + Synchronisation improved	− Not very intuitive − Web version: documents can not be shared between members of a shared group (only references) − Full text sharing only via email	> Windows and Mac users > With some training for all user groups
JabRef	+ Desktop and web based version + Platform independent (Windows, Mac, Linux) + Good integration with several LaTeX editors + Ranking, relevance and priority data + Open Source, free	− No read-only or full sharing option	For all user groups, but primarily aimed at LaTeX users
Mendeley	+ Desktop and web based version + Platform independent (Windows, Mac, Linux) + Free (up to 2 GB storage) + Collaboration in groups + Social networking features + One of the data sources for altmetrics services	− No database seach from within the programme − Creation of bibliographies only with cut & paste − Sharing of documents with wider public could become copyright issue. Check copyright legistlation in your country.	For all user groups
RefWorks	+ Platform independent + Easy to use Word Add-In + Comprehensive help + Collaboration in RefShare possible	− Attaching of documents (images, PDFs) only with campus licence	For all user groups
Zotero	+ Desktop version, Firefox extension and web based + Platform independent (Windows, Mac, Linux) + Open Source, free + Social Networking; sharing of papers in groups + Creation of separate notes (unrelated to references)	− No database seach from within the programme	> For undergraduates (free) > For smaller reference collections > All research areas

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