Columbia University Libraries Digital Science Center

Artifact for quick selection of reference management tool

This document provides an overview of their basic features of citation / reference management tools and can be helpful for students to compare BibDesk, EndNote, Mendeley, RefWorks and Zotero at Digital Science Center. Choosing the right citation / reference management tool can be tricky because of the difference in features provided by them. Chose the citation management tool on the basis of what is important to you, If necessary, reevaluate based on what is essential to you.

Research Habits

Q. I like to take notes on my PDFs and I want see / store the PDFs of my citations.
A. Mendeley, Papers, Zotero
Q. Sometimes I have to work without an internet connection but I'd like to update them back to my Web citation database.
A. EndNote, Mendeley, Zotero

Field of Study

Q. I need to capture the screens and web content for my citations.
A. Zotero

Compatibility

Q. I need to work from Mac and PC both.
A. EndNote, Mendeley, RefWorks, Zotero
Q. Does it work with MSword and OpenOffice?
A. EndNote, Mendeley, Papers, Zotero

Collaboration

Q. I need to collaborate with other authors and want a communal citation database.
A. EndNote, Mendeley, Papers, RefWorks, Zotero

Price

Q. I want to know what tools are available on DSC computers and what are free for my personal use?
A. BibDesk and EndNote are available on DSC computers and you can use BibDesk, EndNote (UNI required), Mendeley, RefWorks and Zotero on your personal computers.

Miscellaneous

Q. I am concerned about changes when I leave Columbia? [more of a license question - updates? license restrictions?
A. ?????
Q. I want more information.
A. (1). Information about all above software at DSC: http://library.columbia.edu/content/libraryweb/indiv/dsc/software_biblio.html
   (2). A detailed comparison of features is available at: <Link to the detailed document>