University of Idaho
Library

INTRODUCTION TO CITATION MANAGERS

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What we're covering today

- What are citation managers and why use them?
- Key differences between Zotero and Mendeley
- Demonstration of both tools
  - Accounts and installation
  - Collecting and organizing sources
  - Creating reference lists and using word processor plugins
  - Sharing and collaborating with group libraries

What are citation managers

- "Citation managers are tools that enable you to store and organize references to journal articles, websites, and any other sources you are using for projects. They integrate with word processors such as Microsoft Word so that you can insert correctly formatted citations directly into your documents while you're writing, and generate a formatted bibliography at the end" (University of Maryland, 2022)

What should you use citation managers

- They can help you:
  - Save time
  - Reduce errors in citations
  - Organize and tag sources
  - Collaborate with others

Why Zotero and Mendeley?

- Other tools, like EndNote and RefWorks, exist
- Zotero and Mendeley are what I recommend because they are:
    o Free
    o Not inherently connected to your U of I credentials
    o Widely used
    o Good for academic use

Zotero vs. Mendeley: Key differences (1)

Feature	Zotero	Mendeley
Cost	Free, open-source	Free (with optional premium plans)
Platforms	Windows, macOS, Linux, iOS, Android, web	Windows, macOS, Linux, web
Layout	Simple, file-explorer style	Sleek, modern UI
Learning curve	Easiest for beginners	Easy for beginners

Zotero vs. Mendeley: Key differences (2)

Feature	Zotero	Mendeley
Browser plugin	Zotero Connector	Mendeley Web Importer
Supported browsers	Chrome, Firefox, Safari, Edge	Chrome, Firefox
Capture accuracy	Highly accurate, customizable	Sometimes less precise, may require manual editing

Zotero vs. Mendeley: Key differences (3)

Feature	Zotero	Mendeley
Group libraries	Yes	Yes
Group size	Unlimited (public/private options)	Limited (private groups, limited to 25 members)
Permissions	Read/write control	Shared library access, but less customizable

Zotero vs. Mendeley: Key differences (4)

Feature	Zotero	Mendeley
PDF storage	300 MB free (Zotero sync)	2 GB free
PDF annotation	Built-in reader with annotations	Built-in PDF viewer with advanced annotation tools
Highlights across PDFs	No	Yes, via the Mendeley Notebook
Third-party sync	Can use Google Drive, Dropbox, WebDAV	Mendeley cloud storage only

Zotero vs. Mendeley: Key differences (5)

Feature	Zotero	Mendeley
Microsoft Word plugin	Yes (Zotero Word Plugin)	Yes (Mendeley Cite)
Google Docs integration	Yes (via browser extension)	No
LibreOffice	Yes	No

PREVIOUS WORKSHOPS

https://www.lib.uidaho.edu/services/workshops/resources.html

FALL 2025 LIBRARY WORKSHOPS

WHEN: Mondays from 1:30pm – 2:30pm

WHERE: Library Data Hub (Room 107) and live via Zoom

- ~~Sept. 8: Geographic Information System (GIS) Resources for Graduate Students (GSE)~~

- ~~Sept. 15: Creating Geographic Animation Using Google Earth Studio (Tech Talk)~~

- ~~Sept. 22: Markdown and Pandoc for Academic Writing (GSE)~~

- ~~Sept. 29: Introduction to Citation Managers (GSE)~~

- Oct. 6: Introduction to ModelBuilder in ArcGIS Pro (Tech Talk)

- Oct. 13: Managing Research Data (GSE)

- Oct. 20: Introduction to Version Control with Git and GitHub (Tech Talk)

- Oct. 27: Generative-AI Capabilities and Ethics in Qualitative Research (Tech Talk)

- Nov. 3: Finding and Using Print and Online Government Information Resources in the U of I Library (GSE)

- Nov. 10: Introduction to Building Autonomous AI Agents (Tech Talk)

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THANK YOU!

Please email me (jylisadoney@uidaho.edu) if you have questions or need help with library research in this class or others