LUNCHTIME DISCOVERY

GORGAS INFORMATION SERVICES & ALABAMA DIGITAL HUMANITIES CENTER

SCHOLAR'S CHOICE: REFWORKS OR ZOTERO

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COMPARISON BETWEEN REFWORKS & ZOTERO

How do they work?

- RefWorks is a web-based tool licensed by The University of Alabama and is available to all students, faculty, retired faculty, staff and alumni. There is no software to download. For more information: http://refworks.ua.edu/.
- Zotero works as a standalone tool or a plugin for browsers Firefox, Safari and Chrome. The standalone tool is available for Mac OS X, Windows, and Linux. Both can be downloaded from http://www.zotero.org.

What are the strengths of each?

- RefWorks:
    o Ability to access citations from any computer you are working from
    o Searches UA Libraries' classic catalog from within RefWorks
    o Ability to attach files to the citation
    o Write-N-Cite allows you to integrate RefWorks information, in the form of in-text citations, footnotes and bibliographies, into a document
    o RefGrab-it: a plugin or bookmarklet that allows you to capture bibliographic information working within the Firefox or Explorer browser
    o Citations from most of the Libraries' databases can be easily exported into RefWorks
- Zotero:
    o Easy to access and use within your browser
    o Easily captures information on web resources
    o Ability to save and annotate websites
    o Automatically saves a PDF, if available, with the citation
    o Plug-in for word processing software allows you to integrate Zotero information into a document in the form of in-text citations, footnotes and bibliographies
    o Zotero groups allow you to share citations with other users and the public
    o Data syncing allows you to access all your information (with the exception of attachments) from any computer with Zotero installed on it
    o Is not tied to a university license

What are the weaknesses of each?

- RefWorks:
    - If faculty or staff leave the University or the University's license is not renewed, access to RefWorks is no longer be available. You can purchase an individual subscription or export your citations to another reference management tool.
- Zotero:
    - Zotero tends to make more errors importing the metadata and creating the references than RefWorks does.

How do I get help?

- Both tools have extensive, and easy to use, help sites. RefWorks also offers webinars.
    - RefWorks: http://www.refworks.com/refworks2/help/RefWorks2.htm
    - Zotero: http://www.zotero.org/support/
- Gorgas Library Information Desk: gorgasinfo@ua.edu, 348- 6047
- Ask a Librarian: http://www.zotero.org/support/, text 205-377-0920

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Scholar's Choice: RefWorks
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❖ <u>What is RefWorks?</u>

RefWorks is a web-based application accessed from the UA Library website that will help you…
Gather references automatically from article databases while you research, including Google Scholar
Format manuscripts and citations instantly in over 3000⁺ styles: MLA, APA, specific journal styles like Pain or Journal of Marketing
Access your information online from any computer, anywhere, anytime
Share your databases with colleagues on campus and around the world
Transfer references among applications.

❖ <u>What is Write-n-Cite?</u>

A downloadable utility companion software that allows you to cite your sources from within a Microsoft word document. It will format both the in-text citations, and the reference list/bibliography automatically. Allows for reformatting form one style to another.

❖ <u>What is Ref-Grab-It?</u>

A downloadable utility companion software for capturing bibliographic information from web pages.

❖ UA students, staff and faculty will maintain access to their RefWorks account even if they graduate or retire from UA.

❖ RefWorks is compatible for Internet Explorer 7.0⁺, FireFox 3.0⁺, Safari 3.0⁺. It does not work with Google Chrome on Macs.

❖ RefWorks citations are only as good as the information exported from the database or website.

❖ Refworks has direct export from about 280 of UA's 350⁺ databases. Notably: EBSCOhost databases (MLA, PsycINFO, Academic Search Premier), Web of Science, Scopus, ARTStore.

❖ Exclusions for direct Export: Sage publications, ACM Online, Books in Print, PubMed (MedLine), Hoover's Online.

❖ RefWorks has a manual input feature for statistical information databases like Hoover's.

❖ RefWorks has a search feature that makes exporting PubMed a direct export process.

❖ From off Campus: Make sure you tab open not multiple window open.

Scholar's Choice: Zotero
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- Registration -- creating your account at www.zotero.org

- Downloading Zotero locally
  - Firefox extension
  - Stand-alone
  - Chrome or Safari plugins

- Syncing local library with account/server
  - Gear Menu > Preferences > Sync

- Item-level entry
  - Metadata
  - URLs and PDFs
  - Notes
  - Tags
  - Folders

- Saving new references
  - eResources (JSTOR, EBSCO, ProQuest, Thomas Reuters, SciVerse)
  - Proprietary sites (Amazon, YouTube, Google Books)
  - Manual entries
  - PDF dropping (!)

- Creating bibliographies
  - Right-click "Create Bibliography…"
  - Citation styles
  - Gear Menu > Preferences > Cite

- Inserting citations
  - Word processor plugins (Firefox or stand-alone)

- Groups – getting your research out there
  - Viewing group content
  - Managing your group

Summary: Strengths
  - PDF storage (100 MB)
  - Groups
  - Adaptability – range of formats; proprietary sites
  - Open source
  - Offline content