

Choosing the Right Reference Manager for You

Reference managers are an extremely useful tool for saving sources, implementing citations and bibliographies in to your work, and keeping your research organized. Below are four popular citation tools available to you with a comparison of their respective features. Use this guide to determine what manager will work for you and your discipline. Taking the time to select the right citation software will help you not only in the Undergraduate Research Scholars program, but also in any future research endeavors. Use of a reference manager is expected of Undergraduate Research Scholars in order to assist in the proper formatting and citing of sources. Discuss with your faculty advisor the appropriate citation style for your field

RefWorks

RefWorks is a 100% web-based citation software that is very easy to use compared to other software on this list and students at A&M receive a free license for personal use.

TAMU Libraries Link: <http://guides.library.tamu.edu/RefWorks>

	RefWorks
Cost	Free via TAMU License
Web Access to Saved Citations	Yes
Offline Access to Saved Citations	No
Contains several Citation styles	Yes
Can save Screen Captures	No
Mobile App	No
Ability to share references	Yes
Base Storage Space	100MB
Browser Capability	Firefox and Chrome Plugins
Search Capabilities	By Author, Descriptor or Periodical
Open Source	No
LaTex Compatible	Yes
PDF's Searchable	No
Sync Options	NA
Word Processor Plug-in	Yes
Annotate PDFs	Yes

EndNote

EndNote is an extremely popular reference manager. Version X7 is free through software.tamu.edu. While EndNote is web-based offline access is available through the desktop application. EndNote's popularity allows for plenty of resources for support should you run into any issues.

TAMU Libraries Link: <http://guides.library.tamu.edu/EndNote>

EndNote	
Cost	Free through A&M
Web Access to Saved Citations	Yes
Offline Access to Saved Citations	Yes (With Desktop version)
Contains several Citation styles	Yes
Can save Screen Captures	No
Mobile App	No
Ability to share references	Yes
Base Storage Space	2GB
Browser Capability	Firefox and Chrome Plugins
Search Capabilities	Any field on Desktop only; by Author on Web
Open Source	No
LaTeX Compatible	Yes
PDF's Searchable	Yes, but not intuitive
Sync Options	Endnote Desktop to Endnote Web
Word Processor Plug-in	Yes
Annotate PDFs	Yes

Zotero

Zotero is an open source reference manager. Zotero allows you to save PDF's, snapshots of webpages, and contains advanced search capabilities. As an open source product, Zotero allows for third party add-ons to tailor fit your project. That being said, Zotero can be somewhat difficult to install and third part add-ons can cause unintended consequences; use at your own discretion.

TAMU Libraries Link: <http://guides.library.tamu.edu/zotero>

	Zotero
Cost	Free
Web Access to Saved Citations	Yes
Offline Access to Saved Citations	Yes
Contains several Citation styles	Yes
Can save Screen Captures	Yes
Mobile App	Yes (3 rd party)
Ability to share references	Yes
Base Storage Space	300MB web; Unlimited on Desktop
Browser Capability	Firefox and Chrome Plugins
Search Capabilities	Advanced search by any field
Open Source	Yes
LaTeX Compatible	Yes
PDF's Searchable	Yes
Sync Options	Zotero Desktop to Zotero Web; Google Drive and Dropbox
Word Processor Plug-in	Yes
Annotate PDFs	Yes, with 3 rd party add on

Mendely

Mendely is a relatively new and powerful reference manager. Mendely is free, available on and offline, and allows you to annotate and search PDF's. However, there is no official support for Mendely through the TAMU Libraries and as such you may be on your own for technical support.

Mendely Main Page: <https://www.mendeley.com/features/reference-manager/>

	Mendeley
Cost	Free
Web Access to Saved Citations	Yes
Offline Access to Saved Citations	Yes
Contains several Citation styles	Yes
Can save Screen Captures	No
Mobile App	Yes
Ability to share references	Yes
Base Storage Space	2GB; Unlimited on Desktop
Browser Capability	Firefox and Chrome Plugins
Search Capabilities	By Author, title, Publication, Names, Years, and Notes
Open Source	No
LaTex Compatible	Yes
PDF's Searchable	Yes
Sync Options	Mendeley Desktop to Mendely Web
Word Processor Plug-in	Yes
Annotate PDFs	Yes