Comparative guide of bibliographic software

EndNote, JabRef, Mendeley, and Zotero

Sandrine Royer-Devaux, last update: May 24, 2023

Bibliographic software benchmark

EndNote, JabRef, Mendeley et Zotero

	EndNote X20.5	JabRef 5.9	Mendeley	Zotero 6
Free/Not free	✘ Not free	✓ Free	*Freemium*	✓ Free
Platform	Mac, PC, Online	Mac, PC, Linux	Mac, PC, Linux, Online	Mac, PC, Online
Automatic reference import	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes
References automatic update	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes
PDF automatic download with referen	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes
PDF automatic retrieval	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes
Simple PDF manual import	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes
WatchFolders	✓ Yes	✘ No	✘ No	✘ No
PDF renaming	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes
Citing	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes
Exports	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes
References annotation	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes
Post-it pdf	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes
Highlighting	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes
Styles modification	✓ Yes	*Except for Mac*	*Hard*	*Hard*
Styles creation	✓ Yes	*Except for Mac*	*Hard*	*Hard*
Collaboration	✓ Yes	*Hard*	✓ Yes	✓ Yes

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Disadvantages	- Not free. - A little bit complex.	- Not user-friendly	- It is a little bit difficult to modify a style when you write a manuscript.	- It is a little bit difficult to modify a style. - The library could be a mess very quickly.
Advantages	- High level of customization. - Very simple pdf automatic download. - Very flexible Citing module that allows you to completely control this part and avoid manuscript corruption bugs in Word.	- Open Source Software - The only one to work with Latex - Quite fine customization. - Offers a ""Portable"" version that requires no installation on the computer and runs on a usb key.	- Notebook.	- Allows you to import every type of documents. - Very simple to use. - OpenSource Software. - A temporary format for the citations is available wich allows to limit manscript corruption bugs in Word. - The CeRIS subscribed to the unlimited storage plan for the Institut Pasteur.
Why choose this software?	If you write manuscripts with several authors, a thesis, or if you publish in non-English-speaking journals.	If you use Latex. If you want to use an OpenSource Software.	If you want an user-friendly software and no need for customization. If you need to write large notes directly in your bibliographic reference management software.	If you store a lot of documents in a web format and/or if you need to share bibliographic lists. Last but not least, if you prefer to use an OpenSource software.

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