

Citation Management Tools Comparison: Organizing and Collaborating

RefWorks, Zotero, Mendeley and Endnote all provide four basic functions: capturing, organizing, citing, and sharing references. The major differences between these tools are their organization and collaboration features compared in Table 1 and Table 2 below.

Table 1. Organization Features

	RefWorks	Legacy RefWorks	Zotero	Mendeley	Endnote	EndNote Basic
Download Price <small>As of October 2021</small>	Free (Free for UBC students, faculty, staff, and alumni \$100 otherwise)	Free (Free for UBC students, faculty, and alumni)	Free (Costs for upgraded storage)	Free (Costs for upgraded storage & private groups)	\$279.94 USD (Student version available for \$129.86 USD)	Free (Free for UBC students through Clarivate Analytics/ Web of Science)
Storage Cost <small>As of October 2021</small>	Unlimited	Unlimited	300 MB Free (2 GB ~\$20 USD/year 6 GB ~\$60 USD/year Unlimited ~120 USD/year)	2 GB Free (5GB ~ \$55 UDS /year 10GB ~ \$110 USD/year Unlimited ~ \$165 USD/year)	Unlimited	2 GB of documents +50,000 references
Accessibility	Screen reader compatibility	Screen reader compatibility	- Stated screen reader compatibility on desktop. Occasional issues that can be addressed in Zotero forums . - Third party plug-ins exist for custom keyboard commands and more screen reader accessibility	Text magnification and high-contrast settings	- ADA compliant - Screen reader compatibility	Screen reader compatibility
PDF Annotation and Reader	Yes	No	Yes, with third-party plug-ins like Zotfile	Yes	Yes	No
Extract PDF Metadata	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Full Text PDF Search	No (Except UBC eLinks)	Yes	Yes (Activate in settings)	Yes	Yes	No
Integration with Word Processors	- MS Word - Google Docs	- MS Word	- MS Word - Google Docs - OpenOffice - LibreOffice	- MS Word - OpenOffice - LibreOffice	- MS Word - OpenOffice - LibreOffice	- MS Word
Desktop Software	No * Internet connection is required for in-text citation and working with your account	No * Internet connection is required for in-text citation and working with your account	Yes (required for in-text citation)	Yes * If you use "Mendeley Cite" plugin you don't need to install the software	Yes (required for in-text citation)	Yes (required for in-text citation)
Mobile App	No	No	Yes (third-party apps, \$1.39 CAD)	No	iOS only	iOS only

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Unique Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Portable: references stored online - Multi-lingual interface 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advanced screening tools for systematic reviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flags retracted publications. - Save print books to library by scanning barcode - Open-access PDF search - “Snapshot” feature: automatic screenshot with citation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to Mendeley Research Catalogue - Focus on collaboration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Manuscript Matcher” feature for journal recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Portable: references stored online - “Find Your Best Potential Journal” Feature
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Table 2. Collaboration Features

	[More Information]	RefWorks	Legacy RefWorks	Zotero	Mendeley	EndNote	EndNote Basic
Personal profile	Your academic background, publications, and your research interests. Search others' profiles and add them to your contact list or send them a message.	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Private group	Share your references with specific people such as your supervisor and colleagues. References not publicly visible.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (Free accounts: 2GB storage, limits on how many groups free users can make and join)	Yes	Yes
Public group	Share your references with the public.	Yes (within UBC)	Yes	Unlimited	Unlimited	Yes	No
Annotate shared references	Group members can annotate shared references.	Yes	No	Yes	Yes (in private group)	Yes	Yes
Followers	Follow other researchers, be followed, and see posts and updates.	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Collaboration newsfeed	Be informed of updates in public or private groups through email or embedded message.	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Group page and discussion forum	An independent webpage and forum for a group where people can discuss and have conversations in the form of posted messages.	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No