Citation Management Tools Comparison: Organizing & Collaborating

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 & Table 2** below.

Table 1. Organization Features

	Zotero	Mendeley	Endnote	EndNote Basic
Download Price As of December 2023	Free (Costs for upgraded storage)	Free (Costs for upgraded storage & private groups)	$275 USD (Student version available for $120 USD)	Free (Free for UBC students through Clarivate Analytics/ Web of Science)
Storage Cost As of December 2023	300 MB Free (2 GB ~$20 USD/year 6 GB ~$60 USD/year Unlimited ~120 USD/year)	2 GB Free (5GB ~ $55 USD/year 10GB ~ $110 USD/year Unlimited ~ $165 USD/year)	Unlimited	2 GB of documents +50,000 references
Accessibility	- 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 & Reader	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Extract PDF Metadata	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Full Text PDF	Yes (Activate in settings)	Yes (Mendeley Web Importer)	Yes	No

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Search Integration with Word Processors	- MS Word - Google Docs - OpenOffice - LibreOffice	- MS Word - OpenOffice - LibreOffice	- MS Word - OpenOffice - LibreOffice	- MS Word
UBC Microsoft Word for Students: Plug-in Installation	- Available; Zotero Word plug-ins are **installed automatically** into Word for most Mac and PC users. - For manually installation support, click here.	**PC users:** Microsoft Office 365 – MS Word Desktop Microsoft Office 365 – MS Word Online **Mac users:** *No option for MS Word Desktop* Microsoft Office 365 – MS Word Online	Available; information on compatibility and system requirements is available online.	Available; information on system requirements is available online. **Mac users:** Endnote Online: Using the Cite While You Write (CWYW) plug-in on a Mac
Desktop Software	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	iOS only	No	iOS only	iOS only
Unique Features	- Flags retracted publications. - Save print books to library by scanning barcode - Open-access PDF search - "Snapshot" feature: automatic screenshot with citation	- Access to Mendeley Research Catalogue - Focus on collaboration	- "Manuscript Matcher" feature for journal recommendations	- Portable: references stored online - "Find Your Best Potential Journal" Feature

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Table 2: Collaboration Features

	[More Information]	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.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Private Group	Share your references with specific people such as your supervisor and colleagues. References not publicly visible.	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.	Unlimited	Unlimited	Yes	No
Annotate Shared References	Group members can annotate shared references.	Yes	Yes (in private group)	Yes	Yes
Followers	Follow other researchers, be followed, and see posts and updates.	Yes	Yes	No	No
Collaboration Newsfeed	Be informed of updates in public or private groups through email or embedded message.	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Group Page & Discussion Forum	An independent webpage and forum for a group where people can discuss and have conversations in the form of posted messages.	Yes	Yes	No	No