

Reference Management Software Comparison - 6th Update (June 2016)



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Reference Management Software Comparison

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"Reference Management for LaTeX Newbies" <http://mediatum.ub.tum.de/node?id=1315979>

All information for this software comparison is compiled after comprehensive software testing. However, due to the complexity and continuing development of applications we can not assume any guarantee for the accuracy of the information. If you detect any errors or omissions please contact us at literaturverwaltung@ub.tum.de.

Key questions to select the right reference management software

Answers to many of the following questions can be found in this software comparison document. However, some question will be answered only by testing the program yourself.

Ease of Use / Usability

- > Do I like the interface? Is it intuitive to me?
- > Do I easily find the functions I'm looking for?

Operating system

- > Which software can I use with my operating system (Linux, Mac, Windows)?
- > Which software offers an online version?
- > Which software offers a mobile version/app?

Help

- > Are there any training courses for beginners?
- > Are there any materials for self training (e.g. videos, manuals)?
- > Is there any support if I need help (library, company, IT hotline, forums etc.)?

Compatibility

- > What external programs should my reference management software support (e.g. word processor)

Costs

- > Does the software cost anything?
- > Is there a campus licence at my institution (university/company)?
- > Are there potentially additional costs (e.g. after leaving institution, need for more storage space)?

What features should my reference management software offer?

- > Catalogue and database search from within the program?
- > Indexing and structuring of content?
- > Searching for full text?
- > Pdf editing?
- > Generating bibliographies?
- > Managing quotes / ideas?
- > Online access?
- > Sharing and/or jointly editing references?
- > Task planning?
- > LaTeX support?

Where do I usually work?

- > Do I use always the same computer or do I switch sometimes?
- > Do I have permission to install software on the computer I use?
- > What reference management software do my colleagues/collaborators use?

General

	Provider / URL	Tested Version	Licence Model	Cost (approx.) Might differ in different countries due to taxation	Language
			<i>Open Source, freeware or commercial? Single user or multi user licence?</i>		
Citavi	Swiss Academic Software, http://www.citavi.com/	5.3.1 Citavi for Windows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Commercial > Free version "Citavi Free", limited to 100 references per project > Citavi for Windows (single users and small groups) > Citavi for DBServer (large groups and businesses) > Single user licences; student licences; site licences; alumni licenses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Single user licences (discount for more than 4 licences) > Commercial users from € 356 incl. VAT > Academic institutions € 237 incl. VAT > Students / Personal use € 119 incl. VAT > Alumni of licensing universities for half price 	English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Polish
Colwiz	Colwiz PVT. Ltd. Oxford University Start-Up http://www.colwiz.com	2.15.0208 (Desktop) 3.16.0331 (Android)	> Free web service + desktop version	> Currently no additional offers	English
EndNote	Thomson Reuters, http://www.endnote.com	X7.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Commercial > Single user licences; Multiple User licences (5 users); Student licences; Campus licences; Business licences; Crossgrades (from Reference Manager to EndNote); Research & Teaching licences > Free version "EndNote Basic" with limited functionality and limited storage space (50,000 references, 20 citation styles, 2 GB storage space, 6 databases) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Single user licence from € 200 excl. VAT > Students from € 95 excl. VAT > Multiple User licence (5 users) € 170 p.P. excl. VAT > Crossgrades (single user) from € 85 excl. VAT 	English
JabRef	Different developers http://jabref.org/	3.4	GPL v2 or higher (open source)	--	English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Chinese plus 10 other languages
Mendeley	Mendeley Ltd. http://www.mendeley.com	1.16.1 (Desktop)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Free web service (up to 2 GB) + desktop version > Personal Storage (Plus / Pro / Max) + Team Plans: more storage + more private groups = higher cost > Campus licence for private groups + additional storage space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Personal: from 5 GB for € 4,99/month to unlimited storage for € 14,99/month, one private group > Team Plans: unlimited private groups and storage; from 5 collaborators for € 49/month to 50 collaborators for € 274/month; for education and non-profit use (double charge for commercial and government use) 	English
Paperpile	Paperpile https://www.paperpile.com		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Single and campus licences > 30 days trial version 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Students / Personal use \$ 2.99/month incl. VAT > other: \$ 9.99/month 	English
RefWorks	RefWorks, http://www.refworks-cos.com/refworks/	2.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Commercial > Single user licences and campus licences > 30 days trial version 	Single user licence \$ 100/year	English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Korean ...
Zotero	Center for History and New Media at George Mason University, http://www.zotero.org/	4.0.29.10	> Free web service (up to 300 MB) and open source software (desktop version and Firefox extension)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > 2 GB for \$ 20/year > 6 GB for \$ 60/year > unlimited for \$ 120/year 	Currently 49 languages incl. most European languages; Full list see: https://www.transifex.com/zotero

Technical Specifications

	Installation	Platform / Operating System	Mobile App	Character Encoding	Max. Number of References	Max. Online Storage Space
	Desktop / Web based			Unicode / Special		
Citavi	> Desktop	- > Windows > Use on Mac only through simulations of Windows environment via "Parallels" or "VMWare" (free)	- > No	Unicode support	+ > Unlimited (Recommendation: max. 100,000 references per project, depending on memory)	--
Colwiz	> Desktop > Web based	+ > Desktop: Windows, Mac, Linux > Web: platform independent > requires older Java version > Google Docs add-on (new, untested)	+ > App for Android and iOS	Unicode support	- > 5,000, can be extended upon request	> max. 3 GB (depending on completion of profile, invitation from colleagues, Facebook linking etc.)
EndNote	> Desktop > Web based	+ > Desktop: Windows, Mac > Web: platform independent	+ > EndNote for iPad > Synchronisation with EndNote Web > EndNote Web Mobile (browser version for mobile devices)	Unicode support	+ > Desktop version: unlimited > Web version: unlimited > EndNote Basic: 50,000 references	> Web: 5 GB > Basic: 2 GB
JabRef	> Only desktop > Development of web version discontinued	+ > Windows, Mac, Linux > Java required	- > Only for Windows tablets	Unicode support	+ > Unlimited	--
Mendeley	> Desktop > Web based	+ > Desktop: Windows, Mac, Linux > Web: platform independent	+ > App for iOS and Android > Synchronisation with web account and app	Unicode support	+ > Unlimited	> Free version: 2 GB for personal library > Campus licence: 5 GB for personal library > 20 GB for private groups
Paperpile	> Chrome extension	- > Chrome extension for Windows, Mac and Linux	- > No	Unicode support	+ > Unlimited	> 15 GB on Google Drive
RefWorks	> Desktop > Web based	+ > Web: platform independent	+ > RefMobile (pared-down RefWorks version)	Unicode support	+ > Unlimited	> Depending on institutional licence (usually 10 GB)
Zotero	> Firefox Extension > Desktop-App with browser extension for Firefox, Safari, Chrome > Web based	+ > Firefox extension and standalone version for Windows, Mac, Linux > Web: platform independent	+ > Mobile version of zotero.org > Various third party apps, for full list see: https://www.zotero.org/support/mobile	Unicode support	+ > Unlimited > Sync: free storage space limited	> Free version: 300 MB

Import I

	Database Search		Data Import	
	<i>Is database search from within the software supported?</i>	<i>What resources are available?</i>	<i>Is data import via import filters supported?</i>	<i>Which import filters are available? (bibliographic databases and other reference management software)</i>
Citavi	+ Yes	> Access to over 4,600 resources (Online search > Add database or catalog) > Access to additional resources can be requested	+ Yes	> 13 reference management programs (LiteRat, EndNote, Bibliographix, ProCite etc.) > RIS, BibTeX > approx. 4,600 database specific filters > Editable import for tables or databases > Additional filters can be requested
Colwiz	+ Yes	> 30 resources for online search via desktop version	+ Yes	> Reference management software (Zotero, Mendeley, CiteULike) > RIS, BibTeX, XML
EndNote	+ Yes	> Access to over 6,000 resources; installation kit incl. approx. 400 > Access to additional resources can be requested or downloaded from EndNote website (http://endnote.com/downloads/connections)	+ Yes	> RIS, Tab Delimited > over 700 database specific filters
JabRef	+ Yes	> Access to selected databases (e.g. Springer, IEEEXplore, Medline)	+ Yes	> BibTeX, RIS, Tab Delimited, EndNote etc. > Creation of personal import filters supported
Mendeley	- No		+ Yes	> BibTeX (.bib), RIS (.ris), EndNote (.xml, .enw), Zotero (zotero.sqlite), ReadCube, RefMe etc. > all major databases > new filters may be requested
Paperpile	+ Yes	> Google Scholar, PubMed, arXiv, Google Books, CrossRef (title, author, journal, ISBN, DOI, arXiv and PubMed ID)	+ Yes	> BibTeX, RIS > more than 1,000 database specific filters
RefWorks	+ Yes	> Access to over 800 resources > Access to additional resources can be requested or added by administrator	+ Yes	> Bibliographix, EndNote > RIS, BibTeX, MAB, MARC > 1,000 database specific filters > Additional filters can be requested
Zotero	- No	--	+ Yes	> 18 data formats incl. RIS, BibTeX, MODS, RDF, Refer / BibIX etc.

Import II

	Export from Databases		Capturing Metadata from Web Pages	Other Import Options	Full Text Search
	<i>Is direct export from databases into software supported?</i>	<i>From which databases?</i>			<i>Is full text search supported?</i>
Citavi	+ Yes	Databases with specific export format (e.g. RIS, BibTeX, EndNote); or COinS format	+ > With Citavi Picker (for Firefox, Internet Explorer, Chrome): Import of metadata or content from websites > Using ISBN or DOI with Citavi Picker > Capturing of selected text as quote, abstract, table of contents or keyword > Capturing of websites screenshot as pdf > Importing pdfs via Citavi Picker from open pdf	+ > Import of bibliographic data by submitting ISBN, DOI or PubMed-ID > Import from bibliographies > Import from pdfs with Acrobat Picker > Pdf documents via Drag & Drop > Import of folders with sub-folders	+ Yes
Colwiz	+ Yes	Databases with specific export format (e.g. RIS, BibTeX, XML)	+ > With Web Importer (bookmarklet)	+ > Import of bibliographic data by submitting ISBN, DOI, PubMed-ID or arXiv ID > Import of folders with sub-folders	+ Yes
EndNote	+ Yes	Databases with specific export format (e.g. RIS, BibTeX, XML)	+ > With Capture-Button: Import of metadata from websites > Bookmarklet / Firefox extension	+ > Import of bibliographic data by submitting ISBN or DOI via "Online Search" or "Find Reference Updates" function > Files per Drag & Drop > Folder with sub-folder (keeping folder structure) > Auto import of new documents from auto import folder	+ Yes, via OpenURL
JabRef	+ Yes	All databases with export option in BibTeX format	> via Firefox Add-on "JabFox" (requires Zotero Add-on)	+ > Import of bibliographic data by submitting DOI. > ISBN-to-BibTeX feature was reactivated > pasting DOI / ISBN / BibTeX entry from the clipboard to the main window starts automatic import	+ Yes, but data pool is limited
Mendeley	+ Yes	Databases with specific export format (e.g. RIS, BibTeX) or COinS format	+ > With Web Importer (bookmarklet): metadata, abstracts and full texts (pdf) > Capturing of website screenshots	+ > Files (pdf) and folders via Drag & Drop > Auto import of new documents from "watched folder" > Import of bibliographic data by submitting PubMed ID, arXiv ID or DOI	+ Yes, from Mendeley's Research Catalog
Paperpile	+ Yes	Databases with specific export format (e.g. RIS, BibTeX, XML)	+ > Via Chrome extension	+ > Files (pdf) and folders via Drag & Drop > Import of bibliographic data by submitting PubMed ID, arXiv ID or DOI	+ Yes, via proxy e.g. from the universities licenced databases or e-journals
RefWorks	+ Yes	Direct export supported, see: http://www.refworks-cos.com/refworks/DEPartners/	+ > With RefGrab-It (completion of metadata)	+ With subscription to RSS feeds	- No
Zotero	+ Yes	Databases with specific export format (e.g. RIS, BibTeX)	+ > Via icons in the toolbar; see http://www.zotero.org/translators/ > Capturing screenshot of websites > Bookmarklet for basic functions for other browsers	+ > Files via Drag & Drop > Import of bibliographic data by submitting ISBN, DOI or PubMed ID	+ Yes, via Google Scholar, CrossRef and OpenURL (other search services can be added; full texts not automatically added)

Data Format

	Document Types		Fields	
	<i>How many document types (book, book chapter etc.) are supported?</i>	<i>Are user generated document types supported?</i>	<i>How many fields are assigned to each document type?</i>	<i>Are user generated fields supported?</i>
Citavi	35 document types	- No	Depends on document type (16-50 fields)	+ 9 fields document specific customisable
Colwiz	20 document types	- No	Depends on document type (at least 13 fields)	- No
EndNote	51 document types	+ Yes (Modification of available document types / customisation of three "unused" document types)	Depends on document type (20-60 fields, incl. "Custom Fields")	+ 8 "Custom Fields" customisable
JabRef	19 document types	+ Yes (Modification of available document types and creation of new document types)	Depends on document type; ca. 37 fields	+ Unlimited number of fields globally or document specific customisable
Mendeley	20 document types	+ Yes (Modification of available document types and creation of new document types)	Depends on document type; up to 66 fields	- No
Paperpile	31 document types and up to 9 subtypes	+ Yes (Modification of available document types and creation of new document types)	Depends on document type; between 20 and 35 fields	- No
RefWorks	31 document types	- No	Depends on document type; up to 71 fields	+ 15 free text fields customisable
Zotero	33 document types	- No	Depends on document type; ca. 35 fields	- No

Editing I

	Indices		Completion of Metadata	Interconnections
	<i>Do newly added data (authors, journal titles, keywords) automatically generate term lists / indices?</i>	<i>Automatic completion from term lists on data input?</i>	<i>Is completion of metadata by using other sources supported?</i>	<i>Is interconnection of references supported (e.g. new editions, translations)?</i>
Citavi	+ Yes (keywords, categories, authors, institutions, place published, publishers, journal and newspaper titles, series, libraries, optional for custom fields)	+ Yes	+ > Input of ISBN, DOI or PubMed-ID completes bibliographic data and adds book cover > Automatic completion of metadata from pdfs	+ > Edited book and its chapters are linked > Two-way referrals between references within a project are supported
Colwiz	- Yes, only for keywords	- No	+ > Input of DOI, PubMed-ID or arXiv ID completes bibliographic data > Completion of metadata from pdfs	- No
EndNote	+ Yes (authors, keywords, journal titles); users can create new term lists; pre-defined journal term list available	+ Yes	+ > Completion of metadata with function "Find Reference Updates" > Automatic completion of metadata from pdfs	- No
JabRef	+ Yes (customisable)	+ Yes	+ > Input of DOI completes bibliographical data > Per URL of database Citeseer (if already known) > Completion of metadata from pdfs	+ Yes, via the field "Crossref" by using the BibTeX-Key of the parent publication
Mendeley	+ Yes (authors, keywords, journal titles, tags)	+ Yes	+ > Automatic completion of metadata from pdfs > Input of DOI, PubMed-ID or arXiv ID completes bibliographic data > "Needs Review" search in Google Scholar, arXiv, PubMed and CrossRef using bibliographic data or IDs	- No
Paperpile	+ Yes (title, author, journal titles, coloured tags)	- No	+ > Input of DOI, PubMed ID, author, keyword or year completes bibliographical data	+ Yes with direct link via browser
RefWorks	+ Yes (authors, keywords, journal titles)	+ Yes	+ > Via RefGrab-It	- No
Zotero	+ Yes > Lists for keywords / tags and publication date / timeline > Auto-completion for authors, place published, publisher, journal titles	+ Yes	+ > Completion of metadata from pdfs (manually with right click)	+ Yes, by using the function "Related" (no hierarchical relations)

Editing II

	Linking / Integration of Documents	Editing Documents (pdfs)	Duplicate Checking	Global Changes	Folders / Groups
	<i>Is linking / integration of documents supported?</i>				<i>Is creation and allocation of folders/groups supported?</i>
Citavi	+ Yes	+ > Commenting and highlighting in pdfs supported > Copying of text blocks as citations or tasks > Import of images as image citation > Highlights from external pdf readers can be imported as quotations	+ Yes	+ Yes	+ Yes (categories and groups; within categories multiple levels; multiple allocations possible)
Colwiz	+ Yes, only in desktop version	+ > Annotations, highlighting text and colored drawing elements supported > Saving text passages to a reference's notes field	+ Yes, automatically	- No	+ Yes (multiple levels; automatic allocations and multiple allocations possible)
EndNote	+ Yes, (absolute or relative links to copy in project)	+ > Annotations and highlighting text supported	+ Yes (also customisable)	+ Yes	+ Yes (groups; one level; automatic allocations and multiple allocations possible)
JabRef	+ Yes	- No	+ Yes	+ Yes	+ Yes (multiple levels; automatic allocations and multiple allocations possible)
Mendeley	+ Yes	+ > Annotations and highlighting text supported > Saving text passages to a reference's notes field	+ Yes, references can be marked "no duplicate"	+ Yes	+ Yes (folders; multiple levels; multiple allocations possible)
Paperpile	+ Yes	- > numerous features still in beta stadium, f.e. highlighting, copying and annotating text passages	+ Yes, references can be marked "no duplicate"	- only for tags	+ Yes (multiple levels; automatic allocations and multiple allocations possible)
RefWorks	+ Yes	- > No	+ Yes ("exact" and "close" duplicates)	+ Yes	+ Yes (folders; multiple levels; multiple allocations possible)
Zotero	+ Yes	- > No, only with external editors	+ Yes, only manually	- Only for tags	+ Yes (folders; multiple levels; automatic allocations and multiple allocations possible)

View / Search

	Viewing	Sorting	Searching		
	<i>What options to view references are available? (short view / full view / customisable)</i>	<i>What options to sort references are available?</i>	<i>Is quick search and search in selected field with Boolean operators supported?</i>	<i>Search performance?</i>	<i>Can searches be saved?</i>
Citavi	+ > Tab view (tabs customisable) > List view (formatted) > Table view (displayed fields customisable)	+ > Click on field headers > Separate sort function by title, year, location or customised	+ > Quick search > Search in selected fields (both with Boolean operators) > Search in pdfs > Filters for reference type, keyword, person and more	+ Good	+ Yes: in catalogues / databases and in own project
Colwiz	+ > List view > Table view	+ > Click on field headers > Separate sort function	- > Quick search	- Prone to errors	- Yes, but only within session
EndNote	+ > List view (customisable) > Preview > Full view	+ > Click on field headers > "Sort Library" function	+ > Quick search > Advanced search with Boolean operators > Search in attached pdfs and commentaries	+ Good	+ Yes
JabRef	+ > List view (customisable) > Full view with tabs > BibTeX source code view	+ > Click on field header > Sorting by multiple criteria	+ > Quick search > Advanced search (Boolean operators and general terms can be used) > Global search within all open databases	+ Good	+ Yes (as dynamic group)
Mendeley	+ > List view > Citation view (in desktop version)	+ > Click on field headers (in desktop version), tags and other field content (author key word, author, journal) depending on the selected part of the library (folder)	+ > Quick search > Advanced search by author, title, publication, year, notes, tags, open access, time period > Search with Boolean operators > Search in attached pdfs	+ Good	- No
Paperpile	+ > List view > Full view	+ > Click on linked field content > Click on lateral headings and tags > Separate sort function for references with(out) pdf, incomplete, duplicate or unfiled references, notes, other file attachments, restricted pdfs or document type	+ > Click on linked field content > Click on lateral headings and tags	+ Good	- No
RefWorks	+ > List view > Full view > Short view	+ Pulldown menu	+ > Quick search > Search by using controlled vocabulary > Field search	+ Good	+ Yes
Zotero	+ > List view (customisable) > Timeline view - visualisation with timeline and colour tagging by topic	+ Click on field headers	+ > Quick search > Advanced search (any / all / phrase search) > Tag search > Search in attached pdfs	+ Good	+ Yes

Collaboration

	Sharing	Collaboration	Social Networking
	<i>Can reference be shared (read only) with other users ?</i>	<i>Can multiple users edit references ?</i>	
Citavi	+ Yes, via email (also pdfs)	+ > Yes (max. three simultaneous users advised, only on same drive, permission to write for all users) > For larger groups via Citavi for DBServer; data storage to Microsoft sql server, local hard drive or network drive; different rights for readers, editors and project managers available	- > No
Colwiz	+ > Yes, via email (only pdfs) > Sharing of groups and papers in online version (Drive)	+ > Yes, in shared groups	+ > Communication in interest groups > Sharing of own publications > Creating of own researcher profile > People search > Discussion stream
EndNote	+ > Yes, via email (also pdfs)	+ > Yes, in shared folder in EndNote Web or Share-Library feature in EndNote desktop > Share folder: multiple users have reading and editing permission (only references, not full texts) > Share-Library feature: Users have permission for whole library	- > No
JabRef	- > No	+ > Yes; warnings and confirmations when changing BibTeX file with references	- > No
Mendeley	+ > Sharing folders: in public groups only references > Yes, via email	+ > Yes, in private groups (pdfs can be shared, commented on etc by all members of the group)	+ > Communication in interest groups > Sharing of own publications > Creating of own researcher profile > People search > Discussion stream
Paperpile	+ > Yes, via email (incl. pdfs)	+ Yes, via groups	- > No
RefWorks	+ > Yes, via "RefShare" (only with campus licence)	+ > Yes, in "RefShare" (only with campus licence)	- > No
Zotero	+ > Sharing of groups and papers in online version > Sharing of own library in online version	+ > Yes, in shared groups	+ > Communication in interest groups > Creating of own researcher profile > People search

Citing

	Citation Styles		Generating Bibliographies (static)		Integration with Word Processing System	Generating Bibliographies (dynamic)
	<i>What citation styles are available? Are common styles such as MLA, APA, Harvard available?</i>	<i>Are citation styles editable?</i>	<i>Is export of single (formatted) references supported?</i>	<i>Can bibliographies be generated and exported as text file?</i>	<i>Is export of references into word processing systems supported?</i>	<i>Automatic update of bibliography when adding new reference?</i>
Citavi	+ > More than 6,000 citation styles > New citation styles can be requested from provider (http://www.citavi.com/stylerequest)	+ > Yes	+ > Yes	+ > Yes (also annotated and grouped)	+ > Yes > Word Add-In > "Publication assistant" for OpenOffice, LibreOffice and 8 TeX editors	+ > Word Add-In: Yes, automatic update > LibreOffice / OpenOffice: No, bibliography is being created and added by formatting of text document > LaTeX: bibliography is being updated at next BibTeX/LaTeX run
Colwiz	+ More than 8,000 citation styles can be added (incl. user generated styles), see: http://www.citationstyles.org	+ > Yes (with Citation Style Editor: editor.citationstyles.org)	+ > Yes, with BibTeX	+ > Yes, with BibTeX	+ > Yes, (with Plug-Ins for Microsoft Word, OpenOffice, LibreOffice, StarOffice and NeoOffice; automatic LaTeX export)	+ > Yes
EndNote	+ > More than 6,000 citation styles installed > Installation kit incl. approx. 500, further styles available at http://endnote.com/downloads/styles	+ > Yes	+ > Yes	+ > Yes, (with export function and "Subject Bibliography")	+ > Yes ("Cite While You Write") (Word, Apple Pages, OpenOffice Writer)	+ > Automatic update
JabRef	> Formatting and citation styles with BibTeX / BibLaTeX	> See BibTeX / BibLaTeX	> See BibTeX / BibLaTeX	> See BibTeX / BibLaTeX	+ > Yes, direct support for some LaTeX editors > Direct support for LibreOffice > External plug-in for Microsoft Word (only Windows)	+ > Updating of bibliography after next BibTeX / LaTeX run > Automatic update in LibreOffice
Mendeley	+ > 16 citation styles with installation > More than 8,000 styles can be added (incl. user generated and modified styles), see: http://www.citationstyles.org	+ > Yes (with Citation Style Editor: editor.citationstyles.org)	+ > Yes	+ > Yes, via clipboard, BibTeX and LaTeX	+ > Yes (with Plug-In for Word and OpenOffice)	+ > Automatic update
Paperpile	+ > More than 8,000 styles can be added (incl. user generated and modified styles), see: http://www.citationstyles.org	+ > Yes (with Citation Style Editor: editor.citationstyles.org)	+ > Yes, via clipboard, BibTeX and LaTeX	+ > Yes, via clipboard, BibTeX and LaTeX	+ > only Google Docs	+ > Yes
RefWorks	+ > More than 1,600 citation styles > New citation styles can be requested	+ > Yes (can also be shared with other RefWorks users)	+ > Yes	+ > Yes	+ > Yes (WriteNCite for Word + Word for Mac; online and offline version); for other word processors: One Line / Cite View	+ Automatic update
Zotero	+ > 16 citation styles with installation > More than 7,000 styles can be added (incl. user generated and modified styles), see: http://www.zotero.org/styles	+ > Yes (with Citation Style Editor: editor.citationstyles.org/)	+ > Yes	+ > Yes	+ > Yes (Word Plug-In; OpenOffice / LibreOffice extensions)	+ Automatic update

Miscellaneous

	Export	Other Features	Remarks
	Is export of references in specific file format supported?		
Citavi	+ > Yes (BibTeX-/Biblatex-Export customizable) > Export in table formats (.xls, .odt)	+ > Adding of quotations (linked to text passage) and thoughts > Categorising and tagging with keywords of references, quotes and thoughts > Creation of outline within categories > Using Citavi Picker for Adobe Acrobat/Reader to copy texts from pdfs > Via Word add-in access to categories, references and quotations > Predefined search for references with attachment / quotation etc. > Task planner (organising of tasks, deadlines etc.) > Auto generation of BibTeX key > Citation Style Finder (supports search for styles also after formatting of single elements in reference) > Automatic renaming of pdfs at import > Automatic back-up of Citavi files when quitting project > Import/ export of categories as mindmap > Compilation of thoughts by category to Word document > RSS reader	> Installing on a USB Flash Drive possible > Online version planned (incl. Word add-in for Mac)
Colwiz	+ > Yes (RIS, EndNote, BibTeX)	+ > Adding notes to references > Drive application for data sync and messages (Colwiz cloud) > Surveys in groups	> Not clear if applications remains free (at the moment option to upgrade for more storage space by providing personal data and inviting colleagues) > Project management feature was removed
EndNote	+ > Yes (BibTeX, RIS, Tab Delimited)	+ > "Manuscript Wizard": structuring of documents > Automatic renaming of pdfs at import > "Manuscript Matcher" in EndNote Web: suggesting journals for publication	> Support and training through Alfasoft > Integration into other Thomson Reuters products (ISI Web of Science, ResearcherID)
JabRef	+ > Yes (BibTeX, RIS, EndNote, XML)	+ > Auto generation of BibTeX key > Export filter editor > merging of entries > 5-level ranking, 3-level prioritisation and relevance marking as well as quality marking > Batch processing of multiple datasets	> Plugins are now embedded into the program > Interface was modernised
Mendeley	+ > Yes (BibTeX, RIS, EndNote, XML)	+ > Synchronisation of BibTeX file supported > Automatic import from Zotero possible (zotero.sqlite) > Incomplete references are marked for manual or automatic completion > Marking references as favorites, read / unread > Synchronisation with cloud on folder level possible (incl. attached full texts and other files) > Pdfs can be stored locally and renamed immediately or at a later time > Dynamic reference lists can be published as Widgets (HTML code)	> Number of downloads is being counted by Altmetrics services (altmetric.com, ImpactStory, etc.), broken down to discipline, academic status and country > Statistics on citations, downloads to Mendeley and statistics on own publications (via Scopus author ID) > Web: direct access to Mendeley Data to publish research data (F11, allocation of DOIs, embargo)
Paperpile	+ > Yes > BibTeX, RIS > JSON	+ > Journal articles which are already in one's own Mendeley library are colourmarked in some databases (e.g. PubMed or Scopus) > Dynamic bibliographies may be linked (access via browser, without Paperpile)	> Login requires Google account
RefWorks	+ > Yes (BibTeX, RIS, Tab Delimited, RefWorks Tagged, XML)	> Chapter structure reflected in folder structure	Campus licence: > Administrator area for institutional settings > Usage statistics > RSS feeds > Subscription based "RefAware Awareness Service" can be added; see http://www.refaware.com/
Zotero	+ > Yes > BibLaTeX, RDF, BibTeX, Bookmarks, COinS, CSL, JSON, CSV, EndNote XML, MODS, Refer / BibTeX, RefWorks Tagged, RIS, Simple Evernote, TEI, Wikipedia Citation Templates	+ > Generating of reference independent notes > Colour tagging	> Many plug-ins available > Regular back-up recommended > RSS feeds

Ease of Use

	Performance	Ease of Use	Help / Guides
	<i>Speed, response time</i>	<i>How intuitive is user interface?</i>	<i>What help / guides are available?</i>
Citavi	+ Good	+ > Very good (very intuitive; individual steps and options are explained)	+ > Getting Started Guide > Manual > Manual for academic work > Videos and slide shows > Very good context sensitive help > Forum (English and German) > Ticket system > Trainer network
Colwiz	- Ok	+ > Good, focus is on Mac users	+ > Online help pages > "Getting Started Guide" > Feedback forum
EndNote	+ Good	- > Ease of use is medium - many functions rather "technical", need for explanation (e.g. input field, RIS export, syntax for citation style customisation) > Two share options at different location in programme are confusing	+ > Manual > Manual for writing a research paper > Online training documents > Online tutorials > Mailinglist (only english) > Forum in English > Phone support (Mo-Fr 9.00 - 13.00) > E-Mail support
JabRef	+ Good	+ > Good, intuitive and customisable > Designed for LaTeX users	> Online manual (multilingual) and FAQ > Support forum since June 2016 > old mailing list remains accessible > issue tracker
Mendeley	+ Good	+ > Good	+ > Online help pages > "Getting Started Guide" > Feedback forum > Video tutorials > Advisor > Certificate
Paperpile	+ Good	+ > Good	+ > Help, FAQs in English > Cheat sheet > Forum in English > E-Mail support in English and German
RefWorks	+ Good	+ > Good	+ > Manuals for beginners, advanced and experts > Online help pages > Tutorials, YouTube channel > Email and phone support > Online help > Online training
Zotero	+ Good	+ > Good	> Video tutorials (e.g. Quick Start Guide) > Help pages > Forum with large community

Overview

	Licence Model		Installation		Operating System			Mobile App		Database Search		Data Import		Export from Databases		Capturing of Metadata from Web Pages		Other Import Options		Completion of Metadata		Linking of Metadata		Duplicate Checking		Folders and Groups		Sharing Privately or Publicly		Jointly Editing		Social Networking		Separate Bibliographies		Word Processor Intergration		Synchronisation of BibTeX file		Intuitive User Interface	
	Commercial	Free	Desktop	Web based	Windows	Mac OS	Linux																																		
Citavi	●	●	●	○	●	○	○	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	○	●	●	○	●	○	●	○	●	○	●	○	●	○	●	○	●	○	●		
Colwiz	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	○	●	○	●		
EndNote	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	○	●	○	●	○	●	○	●	○	●	○	●	○	●	○	●	○	●	○	●	○	●	
JabRef	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	●	●	●	○	○	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Mendeley	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Paperpile	○	●	○	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
RefWorks	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	○	●	○	●	○	●	○	●	○	●	○	●	○	●	○	●	○	●	○	●	
Zotero	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	

● available
○ not available

Final Evaluation

- Criteria for Evaluation**
- > Licence model and price
 - > Platform / Operating system
 - > Database search
 - > Import options
 - > Full text search
 - > Completion of metadata
 - > Attaching / integrating of documents
 - > Sharing, jointly editing
 - > Social networking options
 - > Word processor integration
 - > Other features
 - > Ease of use
 - > Help, guides

Under "Strength" and "Weakness" we have listed features which stand out very positive or negative.

Strength	Weakness	User Group
<i>For which user group is the software appropriate?</i>		
Citavi <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + > Commercial and free version with full functionality (limited to 100 references per project) + > Full text search + > Comprehensive knowledge management and task planning + > Jointly editing in small teams using the same drive supported; for larger groups external server and Citavi DBServer + > Very intuitive interface + > Extensive help options and very good individual support + > Easy to use Word Add-In with useful functions + > Pdf reader with comprehensive editing options + > Unique Citation Style Finder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - > Windows only - > No online version - > When working with the publication assistant (OpenOffice / LibreOffice) the reference list will be added after formatting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Windows users > Beginners to professionals
Colwiz <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + > Platform independent and free + > Many collaboration options: Calendar, drive, groups, profile + > Usability + > App for iOS and Android + > Synchronisation + > Pdf reader with many editing tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - > Prone to errors (synchronisation) - > References limited to 5,000 - > No OpenURL - > Import of some data (txt, XML, etc.) could be problematic - > Only Quick search within own library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > All user groups, very intuitive
EndNote <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + > For Windows and Mac + > Web version free for subscribers to Web of Science and with purchase of desktop version + > Free web version EndNote Basic (limited functionality) + > Manuscript Matcher to search for appropriate journals for publication + > iPad app + > Automated import of pdfs supported + > Search in metadata, full text pdf and pdf comments supported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - > Not very intuitive - > Web version: documents can not be shared between members of a shared group (only references) - > Confusing share options for groups and libraries with different sharing permissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Windows and Mac users > With some training for all user groups

- Criteria for Evaluation**
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 - > Sharing, jointly editing
 - > Social networking options
 - > Word processor integration
 - > Other features
 - > Ease of use
 - > Help, guides

Under "Strength" and "Weakness" we have listed features which stand out very positive or negative.

	Strength	Weakness	User Group
	<i>For which user group is the software appropriate?</i>		
JabRef	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + > When using Java: available for Windows, Mac and Linux + > Good integration with several LaTeX editors + > Ranking, relevance and priority data + > Open Source, free 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - > No collaborative editing possible - > No social networking options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > For LaTeX users > For large reference collections > Especially for STM field (database selection)
Mendeley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + > Desktop and web based version + > Platform independent (Windows, Mac, Linux) + > Free (up to 2 GB storage) + > Collaboration in groups + > Social networking features + > One of the data sources for altmetrics services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - > Long demanded Pages integration (Mac) is still missing - > No ISBN look-up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > For all user groups
Paperpile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + > Integration of Google Docs + > Focus on simultanour collaborative working + > Innovative functions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - > Restriction to Chrome and Googel Docs - > No standalone version 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > For all user groups > especially for collaborative and simultaneous writing in science
RefWorks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + > Platform independent and web based + > Easy to use Word Add-In + > Comprehensive help + > Collaboration in RefShare possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - > Attaching of documents (images, pdfs) only with campus licence - > No editing of full texts; no import of quotes from database 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > For all user groups > especially for collaborative and simultaneous writing in science
Zotero	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + > Desktop version, Firefox extension and web based + > Firefox extension integrated in web browser where literature search is performed + > Platform independent (Windows, Mac, Linux) + > Open Source, free + > Social Networking; sharing of papers in groups + > Creation of separate notes (unrelated to references) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - > No database seach from within the program - > No editing of full texts - > No linking between different levels - > Only basic structuring and sorting options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > For undergraduates (free) > For smaller reference collections > All research areas

Imprint

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Disclaimer:

All information for this software comparison is compiled after comprehensive software testing. However, due to the complexity and continuing development of applications we can not assume any guarantee for the accuracy of the information.

If you detect any errors or omissions please contact us at literaturverwaltung@ub.tum.de.

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