

Reference Management Software Comparison - 8th Update (June 2020)



Reference Management Software Comparison

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Content:

- > Key questions
- > General: Provider / URL, current version, licence model, cost, language
- > Technical Specifications: Installation, platform / operating system, mobile app, character coding, max. number of records, max. online storage space for web-based applications
- > Import I: Database search, import of references
- > Import II: Import from databases, capturing metadata from websites, other import options
- > Data Format: Document types, fields
- > Editing I: Indices, completion of metadata, interconnections
- > Editing II: Linking / connecting references, duplicate checking, global changes, folders / groups
- > View, Search: View, sort, search
- > Collaboration: Sharing, jointly editing, social networking
- > Citing: Citation styles, generating bibliographies (static), word processor integration (dynamic)
- > Miscellaneous: Export, other features, remarks
- > Ease of Use: Performance, ease of use, help / guides
- > Overview
- > Final evaluation
- > Imprint

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

All information for this software comparison was 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

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?
- > 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 texts?
- > PDF editing?
- > Creating reference lists?
- > Managing citations?
- > 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>		
Bibsonomy	Department of Knowledge Processing at the University of Kassel, Data Mining and Information Retrieval Group at the University of Würzburg, Institute for Library and Information Science - Information Processing and Analytics Group, Humboldt University https://www.bibsonomy.org/	Release 3.9.2	> Open-source software with different GNU licenses for individual software components https://bitbucket.org/bibsonomy/bibsonomy/wiki/Home > Free software, free user account or registration with OpenID account	--	German, English, Russian
Citavi	Swiss Academic Software, http://www.citavi.com	6.4 Citavi for Windows	> 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 licences	> Single user licenses (different prices and quantity discounts) > Commercial users from € 415,31 incl. VAT > Academic institutions € 284,41 incl. VAT > Students / Personal use € 119 incl. VAT > Alumni of licensing universities for half price	English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Polish
EndNote	Clarivate Analytics, http://www.endnote.com	X9.3.1	> Commercial (distributed by Clarivate Analytics) > Single user licences; Multiple User licences (> 5 users); Student licences; Campus licences; Business licences; Crossgrades (from Reference Manager to EndNote); Research & Teaching licences > Free EndNote Online version "EndNote Basic" with limited functionality and limited storage space (50,000 references, 21 citation styles, 2 GB storage space) > EndNote Online Institutional (included in Web of Science license): limited functionality and limited storage space (2 GB storage space, unlimited number of references >3.300 citation styles -approx. half of the available citation styles)	> Single user licence from € 208 excl. VAT > Students from € 94 excl. VAT > Multiple User licence (from 5 users) price on request > Crossgrades (single user) from € 98 excl. VAT > License for research and teaching (single user) price on request > for EndNote Online: Basic (free), Institutional (via Web of Science License), Premium (included in Desktop License)	English
JabRef	JabRef-Open-Source-Community https://www.jabref.org Coordination: Oliver Kopp	5.0	> Free software, Open-source, and free of charge > MIT-License, used libraries partially Apache, LGPL, CC...	> Free	English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Chinese plus 14 other languages
Mendeley	Mendeley Ltd. http://www.mendeley.com (belongs to Elsevier)	1.19.4 (Desktop)	> Commercial > Free model with up to 2 GB storage space > Fee-based models for individual users, groups and institutions	> Free of charge, storage space expansions from \$ 5 / month > Up to 5 private groups with up to 25 members each	English
Papers	Readcube https://www.papersapp.com	4.0.15 (Desktop)	> Commercial > Fee-based licences: Single user licences and Volume Licenses (e.g. campus licences)	> Single user licence (annual payment): > Students \$ 3 / month > Academic \$ 5 / month > Commercial use ("Corporate") \$ 10 / month > Volume, multi-year and campus licenses on request	English
Microsoft Word-Literaturverwaltung	Microsoft Office https://www.office.com/	Microsoft Word in Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2016	> Commercial > Single user licences; Multiple User licences (< 6 users); Business licences > Free licence for students and lecturers from registered Universities > Free trial month possible	> One-time purchase of classic Microsoft applications (Word, Excel, Powerpoint; "Office Home & Student"): € 149 > Single user licence with Premium-Office-Applications ("Microsoft 365 Single"): € 69 / year > Multiple user licence with Premium-Office-Applications ("Microsoft 365 Family") up to 6 User: € 99 / year > For businesses prices per month / user possible > Free license for students and teachers from registered Universities through identification with university mail	Currently 92 languages; Full list see: https://support.microsoft.com/de-de/office/in-welchen-sprachen-ist-office-verf%C3%BCqbar-26d30382-9fba-45dd-bf55-02ab03e2a7ec
Zotero	Corporation for Digital Scholarship https://www.zotero.org/	5.0.88	> Free Open-source software > Free web service (up to 300 MB) > Expandable storage space (subject to charge)	> 2 GB for \$ 20 / year > 6 GB for \$ 60 / year > Unlimited for \$ 120 / year	Currently 54 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
	<i>Desktop / Web based</i>			<i>Unicode / Special</i>		
Bibsonomy	> Web based	+ > Web: platform independent	> Usage via web browser > Android application "Bibsonomy Poster"	Unicode support	+ > No limitation mentioned	> max. size of files as attachment: 50 MB
Citavi	> Desktop	- > Windows > Use on Mac only through simulations of Windows environment via "Parallels" or "VMWare" (free)	- > No	Unicode support	+ > max. 50.000 titles per project (depending on memory)	> Storage space in the cloud unlimited, but fair use- Principle: Projects should not be larger than 5 GB > Individual PDF files max. 100 MB, other files max. 50 MB
EndNote	> Desktop > Web based	+ > Desktop: Windows, Mac > Latest Mac versions (from MacOS 10.15 Catalina): no compatibility with EndNote x8 and earlier > Web: platform independent	+ > EndNote for iPad > EndNote Web Mobile (browser version for mobile devices)	Unicode support	+ > Desktop version: unlimited > EndNote Basic: 50,000 references > EndNote Online Institutional: not given	> Web: 5 GB > Basic: 2 GB > Institutional: not given
JabRef	> Desktop	+ > 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	> 2 GB for free > Fee-based Upgrades to 5 GB, 10 GB or unlimited storage
Papers	> Stand-alone-licence > Web based	+ > Desktop: Windows, Mac > Web: platform independent	+ > App for iOS and Android > Synchronisation with web account and app	Unicode support	+ > Unlimited	> Single user licences : unlimited, but max. 5 "Shared Libraries" with max. 30 users > Enterprise licence: unlimited
Word	> Desktop > Depending on licence incl. Cloudstorage > Web based ("Word Online", not tested)	+ > Windows, Mac > Web version "Word Online", not all features of the desktop version available	+ > "Office-App" for iOS and Android (not tested) > Synchronisation with web account and app via Microsoft OneDrive possible	Unicode support	+ > No limitation mentioned > File max. 512 MB, so it can be opened by Word	> Depending on licence 1 TB Cloudstorage included > After free registration at Microsoft OneDrive additional 5 TB of Cloudstorage
Zotero	> Desktop-App with browser extension for Firefox, Safari, Chrome > Web based	+ > Desktop version: Windows, Mac, Linux > Web: platform independent	+ > Mobile version by zotero.org > Various third party apps, for full list see: https://www.zotero.org/support/mobile > Official iOS version is currently (June 2020) under development	Unicode support	+ > Unlimited > Sync: free storage space limited for attachments and full texts > External web storage embeddable via WebDAV	> Free version: 300 MB > External web storage embeddable via WebDAV

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 filter supported?</i>	<i>Which import filters are available? (bibliographic databases and other reference management software)</i>
Bibsonomy	- No	> Research on the Bibsonomy-Plattform	+ Yes	> Import in BibTeX-Format, from EndNote files
Citavi	+ Yes	> Access to over 4,600 resources (Online search > Add database or catalog) > Access to additional resources can be requested	+ Yes	> Different reference management software (EndNote, Mendeley, Reference Manager, RefWorks, Word Quellenverwaltung, Zotero) > RIS, BibTeX, EndNote Tagged etc. > approx. 4,600 database specific filters > Editable import for tables, textfiles, special formats or databases > Additional filters can be requested
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 630 database specific filters
JabRef	+ Yes	> Access to selected search engines and databases (e.g. Springer, IEEEExplore, Medline / Pubmed, arXiv, Google Scholar, CiteSeerX, Crossref)	+ Yes	> BibTeX, RIS, Tab Delimited, EndNote etc. > Creation of personal import filters supported
Mendeley	- Only from web version	> Article research in the Mendeley catalogue; articles of various publishers can be researched (however, it is not clear, which sources are searched)	+ Yes	> BibTeX (.bib), RIS (.ris), EndNote XML, Zotero (zotero.sqlite)
Papers	+ Yes	> Mainly Crossref	+ Yes	> BibTeX (.bib), RIS (.ris), EndNote XML
Word	- No	> No interfaces available, all information must be entered manually	+ Yes	> An already existing list of sources (xml-file) from another Word document can be chosen and included > otherwise there are no possibilities to import classical file formats as eg. BibTeX
Zotero	+ Yes, limited	> Only search for an identifier possible (ISBN, DOI, arXiv-ID or PubMed-ID)	+ Yes	> 20 data formats, incl.: RIS, BibTeX, MODS, RDF, Refer / BibIX, etc. > Full list see: https://www.zotero.org/support/kb/importing_standardized_formats

Import II

	Import 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>
Bibsonomy	+ Yes	> All databases, that offer export as BibTeX- or EndNote-files resp. support export via browser plug-in (see information on capturing metadata from websites)	+ > Via clipboard: copy and insert BibTeX snippets > Via browser plug-ins (for Chrome, Firefox, Safari) > Via bookmarklets > List of supporting sites (https://www.bibsonomy.org/scraperinfo) > JavaScript code snippets for websites' operators to enable an easy export of data	+ > Import of bibliographic data by submitting ISBN, ISSN or DOI > Extraction of meta data from an uploaded document > Scanning the barcode of books via webcam	> Yes, via linked services (incl. Google Scholar, WorldCat, BASE) > Inclusion of the link to libraries' OpenURL resolver is possible
Citavi	+ Yes	> Databases with specific export format (e.g. RIS, BibTeX, EndNote); COinS format; or HighWire-Press-Tags	+ > With Citavi Picker (for Firefox, Internet Explorer, Chrome): Import of metadata or content from websites > Using ISBN, DOI or PubMed-, PMC-, arXiv-ID with Citavi Picker > Capturing of selected text as quote, abstract, table of contents or keyword > Capturing of websites screenshot as pdf	+ > Import of bibliographic data by submitting ISBN, DOI, PubMed-, PMC- or arXiv-ID > Import from bibliographies > Pdf documents via Drag & Drop > Import of folders with sub-folders > Import from pdfs via Acrobat Picker	+ > Yes (also in licensed full texts after entering the OpenURL + Ezproxy or HAN)
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 via Drag & Drop > Folder with sub-folders (as groups) > Auto import of documents from auto import folder > Possible auto "Find Full Text" search in auto import folder	+ > Yes, via OpenURL + Ezproxy
JabRef	+ Yes	> All databases with export option in BibTeX format	+ > Via browser plug-in (Chrome, Edge, Firefox, Vivaldi)	+ > Import of bibliographic data by submitting DOI, ISBN, Pubmed-ID and further identifiers > Pasting DOI / ISBN / BibTeX entry from the clipboard to the main window starts automatic import > Import of plain text > Import of pdf-metadata	+ > Yes
Mendeley	+ Yes	> Databases with specific export format (e.g. RIS, BibTeX) or COinS format	+ > With Web Importer (bookmarklet): metadata, abstracts, and full texts (pdf)	+ > 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, in the desktop version, there are web links to the Mendeley catalogue in the individual entries, some of the full texts are linked there, especially for popular journals; if necessary, authentication with Shibboleth to gain access
Papers	+ Yes	> Databases with specific export format (e.g. RIS, BibTeX, XML)	+ > Via Web Importer (browser plug-ins for Chrome, Firefox, Edge)	+ > Auto import via university web > Files via Drag & Drop > Auto import of new documents from "watched folder" > Import of bibliographic data by submitting PubMed ID, arXiv ID or DOI	+ > Yes, if the reference data is already saved in the program
Word	- No	-	- No	- No	- No
Zotero	+ Yes	> Databases with specific export format (e.g. RIS, BibTeX) > Direct capturing via browser plug-in	+ > 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, arXiv-ID 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>
Bibsonomy	22 document types	-	No	Depends on document type, Mandatory fields and extended information (including required and additional fields), up to 34 fields (without freely definable fields)	+	Customisable fields can be added flexibly
Citavi	35 document types	-	No	Depends on document type (16-50 fields)	+	9 fields document specific customisable
EndNote	58 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	BibTeX mode: 19 document types BibLaTeX mode: 35 document types	+	Yes (Modification of available document types and creation of new document types)	Depends on document type; up to 42 fields	+	Unlimited number of fields globally or document specific customisable
Mendeley	20 document types	-	No	Depends on document type; up to 66 fields	-	No
Papers	34 document types	-	No	Depends on source type; approx. 25 fields per document type	-	No
Word	17 document types, are called "Quellentypen"	-	No	Depends on source type, up to 27 fields; always marked as mandatory fields	-	No
Zotero	36 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>Is completion of metadata by using other sources supported?</i>	<i>Is interconnection of references supported (e.g. new editions, translations)?</i>
		<i>Automatic completion from term lists on data input?</i>		
Bibsonomy	Yes > Keywords, called Tags	+ Suggestions while entering the Tags	- No	+ Yes > Via the field "BibTeX-Querverweis"
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	+ Yes > Edited book and its chapters are linked > Two-way referrals between references within a project are supported
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 documents via DOI	- No
JabRef	+ Yes > Customisable	+ Yes	+ > Input of DOI, ISBN or other identifiers completes bibliographical data > Via 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, titels, journal titles, year, tags	+ Yes	+ > Automatic completion of metadata from pdfs > Input of DOI, PubMed-ID or arXiv ID completes bibliographic data > Option to complete declarations reference information from the Mendeley "Research Catalog" (not always accurate)	- No
Papers	+ Yes > Only self-created (Smart Lists)	+ Yes	+ Yes	- No
Word	- No	- No	- No	- 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>
Bibsonomy	+ Yes	- No	+ Yes	+ Yes	+ Yes > Organisation via tags > Concepts: Definition of own concepts to group tags > Related and similar tags are displayed, system tags > Storage folder to store temporary entries
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 (multiple levels) > Groups (one level) > Multiple allocations for categories and groups supported
EndNote	+ Yes, (absolute or relative links to copy in project)	+ > Highlighting, commenting, underlining and striking out text supported	+ Yes (also customisable)	+ Yes	+ Yes > 3 sorts of groups (Custom Groups, Smart Groups, Combined Groups) > Custom Groups: manual assignment > Smart Groups: auto assignment with deposited search > Combined Groups: show joint references and subsets of Custom and Smart Groups > Multiple allocations supported
JabRef	+ Yes	> Adding bibliographic data to the pdf's metadata ("Dokumenteigenschaften") > No content editing (Highlights, comments, etc.)	+ Yes	+ Yes	+ Yes > Multiple levels > Multiple allocations possible > Automatic allocations possible
Mendeley	+ Yes	+ > Annotations and highlighting text supported > Saving text passages to a reference's notes field	+ Yes	+ Yes	+ Yes > Folders; multiple levels > Multiple allocations possible
Papers	+ Yes	- No	+ Yes (duplicates are not imported)	- No	+ Yes (here called lists) > Automatic lists ("Smart Lists"), which update themselves automatically (as with iTunes), can be generated according to predefined criteria
Word	- No	- No	+ Yes (only with completely identical input, differences in e.g. upper / lower case trigger no warning)	- No	- No, > only division into master list (sources from all Word documents) and current list (sources from current document) possible
Zotero	+ Yes	- > No, only with external editors	+ Yes, duplicates can be merged	- Only for tags	+ Yes > Folders e.g. for single projects > Multiple levels > Multiple allocations possible > Automatic allocations possible

View / Search

	Viewing	Sorting	Searching	Can searches be saved?	Search in full texts supported? Per document or across all documents?
	What options to view references are available? (short view / full view / customisable)	What options to sort references are available?	Is quick search and search in selected field with Boolean operators supported?		
Bibsonomy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > List view > Full view > Tags: can be displayed as a cloud or list 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Simple sorting through selection, advanced sorting can be configured 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Quick search > Complex search queries configurable > Boolean operators supported > Firefox: Bibsonomy search can be integrated into Firefox address bar 	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Search in document via browser > No information on cross-document search
Citavi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Tab view (tabs customisable) > List view (formatted) > Table view (displayed fields customisable) > View of reference in selected citation style 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Click on field headers (Table view) > Separate sort function by title, year, location or customised filter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Quick search > Search in selected fields (both with Boolean operators) > Search in pdfs > Filters for reference type, keyword, person and more 	+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Yes, also cross-document
EndNote	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > List view (customisable) > Full view > View of reference in selected citation style 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Click on field headers > "Sort Library" function enables sorting across several criteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Quick search > Advanced search with Boolean operators > Search in attached pdfs and commentaries 	+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Yes, also cross-document
JabRef	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > List view (fields customisable) > Full view with tabs > BibTeX source code view > Preview for selected citation styles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Click on field header > Sorting by multiple criteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Quick search > Advanced search (Boolean operators and general terms can be used) > Global search within all open databases 	+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Yes (as dynamic group)
Mendeley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > List view > Citation view (in desktop version) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Click on field header 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Quick search > Advanced search by author, title, publication, year, notes > Search with Boolean operators 	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Yes, also cross-document
Papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > List view > Table view > Full view 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Ascending and descending by 12 fields 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Quick search > Advanced search by author, title, publication, year, notes > Search with Boolean operators 	+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Yes, also cross-document
Word	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In "Quellen-Manager" (under "Quellen verwalten"): > List view for "Masterliste" and "aktuelle Liste" > View as citation in preview field > When editing a source: full display of all fields possible > Short display = mandatory fields 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > No sorting possible, subdivision in "Masterliste" and "aktuelle Liste" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Search in the list of sources not supported > Alternative: if already quoted, searching the entire text document via CTRL+F 	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > No
Zotero	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > List view (customisable) > Timeline view - visualisation with timeline and colour tagging by topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Click on field headers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Quick search > Advanced search (any / all / phrase search) > Tag search > Search in attached pdfs 	+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Yes, in pdf files, also cross-document

Collaboration

	Sharing	Collaboration	Social Networking
	<i>Can references be shared (read only) with other users ?</i>	<i>Can multiple users edit references ?</i>	
Bibsonomy	+ > Yes, entries can be marked as public	+ > Friends: Entries are only visible and copyable for friends and are displayed as "Einträge von Freunden" > Groups: all group members can edit entries > Attached documents are generally private, but can be shared	+ > Discuss, comment, and evaluate entries > Following: Follow users with similar interests > Friends: Find and add friends; Send entries to friends or receive entries from friends > Group functions: Create, search, join a group; Create / view a group page; share, and discuss entries > Create own user profile and CV > Browse the most popular entries (grouped by entries, tags, authors, concepts, discussions) > Analysis of similar users (calculated using different algorithms)
Citavi	+ > Yes, titles via email (also pdfs); add-on "Send References by Email" necessary	+ > Yes, store on drives or in the cloud = team usage (different rights can be assigned) > 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	+ > Chat in team projects
EndNote	+ > Yes, via email (also pdfs)	+ > Yes, individual folders (groups) or the whole library can be shared > Share folder: multiple users have reading and editing permission (only references, not full texts) > Share-Library feature: Users have reading and editing permission for whole library incl. full texts (only via desktop version)	- > No
JabRef	- > Yes, via email	+ > Joint processing of data stock by integration of an external SQL database possible (Postgres, MySQL, Oracle) > Warnings and merge function, if the BibTeX file was changed by an external program	- > 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)	+ > Publication of personal profile > Following other users > Possibility to publish research data > Information on open positions, funding
Papers	+ > Yes, via email, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn	+ > Yes, only in the Enterprise version (campus or company license)	- > No
Word	- No	- > No, collaborative editing of records in Word not possible; editing via external programs: Microsoft Teams or Microsoft Office Online possible	- > No
Zotero	- No	+ > Yes, for registered users > Editing in shared groups with different privacy modes	+ > 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>
Bibsonomy	+ > Important styles are predefined > Upload JabRef layout files or CSL layout files for more styles	+ > Yes, via Citation Style Editor: https://editor.citationstyles.org	+ > Yes	+ > Yes	+ > Export of entries to the Microsoft Word source manager > (BETA) add-on for Google Docs > Integration in various programs, especially for LaTeX-Environments https://www.bibsonomy.org/help_de/Integration/IntegrationProgramme	> Depending on the integration of the external system partly possible	
Citavi	+ > More than 11,000 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 > LaTeX-Editors (LEd, Lyx, Texmaker, TeXnicCenter, TeXstudio, TeXworks, WinEdt, WinShell)	+ > Word Add-In: Yes, automatic update > LaTeX: bibliography is being updated at next BibTeX/LaTeX run	
EndNote	+ > More than 7,000 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 9,500 styles can be added (incl. user generated and modified styles), see: https://citationstyles.org	+ > Yes (via Citation Style Editor: https://editor.citationstyles.org/about/)	+ > Yes, by copying (from Mendeley) / pasting (into Word etc.)	+ > Yes, via clipboard, BibTeX, RIS or Endnote XML	+ > Yes (with plug-in for Word and OpenOffice)	+ > Automatic update	
Papers	+ > Word add-in with online connection, thus direct use of over 8,000 CSL styles plus 5,400 additional styles from scientific journals	+ > Yes, upload via Word add-in possible > CSL-layout	+ > Yes, single or multiple > Copy formatted into clipboard	+ > Yes, in BibTeX- or RIS-format	+ > Yes > Word add-in, LaTeX-Support	- > Only by clicking on "Refresh References"	
Word	+ > 12 citation styles, incl. APA, MLA and Harvard	- No	- No	- > No, source list is deposited as xml file, can only be exported via file manager	+ Word reference management is automatically included via tab "Verweise" in Microsoft Word, can not be used separately, depending on the version also called "Referenzen"	- Bibliography and Source Manager / Source management separated, as soon as bibliography is inserted, automatic update should be available, but doesn't work reliably (must always be checked!)	
Zotero	+ > 11 citation styles with installation > More than 9,000 styles can be added (incl. user generated and modified styles), see: http://www.zotero.org/styles	+ > Yes (via Citation Style Editor: editor.citationstyles.org)	+ > Yes	+ > Yes	+ > Yes (Word Plug-In; OpenOffice / LibreOffice / NeoOffice extension and Google Docs)	+ > Automatic update	

Miscellaneous

	Export	Other Features	Remarks	What's new?
	<i>Is export of references in specific file format supported?</i>			
Bibsonomy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Yes > BibTeX, Endnote, XML, RDF, ... > Support at data export / import from / to Zotero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Link to the OpenURL resolver of libraries can be included > Search for full texts can be initiated via linked services (incl. Google Scholar, WorldCat, BASE) > Automatic generating of BibTeX keys possible > BibSonomy genealogy: dissertation-based family tree of research at German universities > RSS feeds: Subscribe to publication lists as RSS feeds > Support of the RFC-7089 specification: Web sources can be displayed at the time of saving with the browser's Memento plug-in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Bookmark management is an important part of the system > Very flexible configuration > With basic technical knowledge numerous integrations in external programs and platforms / websites possible 	
Citavi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Yes > BibTeX- / Biblatex-Export customisable > Export in table formats (.xls, .odt) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Adding of quotations (linked to text passage) and thoughts > Creation of outline in Word from Citavi's categories > Via Word add-in access to categories, references, and quotations > Task planner (organising of tasks, deadlines, etc.) > Auto generation of BibTeX key > Citation Style Finder (supports search for styles also after formatting single elements in reference) > Automatic back-up of Citavi files when quitting project > Import / export of categories as mindmap (MindManagerPro from version 6, FreeMind, ConceptDraw) > RSS-Reader > Citavi Compilation: Compilation of knowledge items by category to a Word document > Working in a team in the cloud (tasks can be delegated, rights assignment possible, communication via chat) > Various features can be added via add-ons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Online version planned (incl. Word add-in for Mac) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > New design of the Citavi Picker for Firefox and Chrome > New feature in Word add-in: Create a bibliography per chapter
EndNote	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Yes > BibTeX, RIS, Tab Delimited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > "Manuscript Wizard" offers Word templates for publication in various journals (https://endnote.com/downloads/templates) > Automatic renaming of pdfs at import > Automatic search for full text of titles new in the Auto Import Folder possible > "Manuscript Matcher" in EndNote Web: suggesting journals for publication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Support through Clarivate Analytics > Distribution in Germany by Clarivates Analytics, Afasoft und Bilaney Consultants > BibTeX keys must be entered manually for each record 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Library sharing with up to 1.000 people > Library sharing with read-write or read-only rights > Sharing of custom groups with EndNote Online users from within EndNote Desktop > Manuscript Matcher can now be started directly from EndNote to search for journals that are related to the titles of a single group (right click on group to be matched, then click "Manuscript Matcher")
JabRef	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Yes > BibTeX, RIS, EndNote, several HTML-variations, csv, ... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Auto generation of BibTeX key > Export filter editor > 5-level ranking, 3-level prioritisation and relevance marking as well as quality marking > Check for duplicates and merging of entries > Integrity check > Batch processing of multiple datasets > Search for citations in LaTeX projects > Creation of a sub-library based on the sources used in the LaTeX project (aux parser) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Selection of the databases or search engines aligned to MINT field 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Display where sources are cited in a LaTeX project > Import plain text > Import bibliographic data from websites via browser plug-in (Chrome, Edge, Firefox, Vivaldi) > revised user interface (e.g. dark theme)
Mendeley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Yes > BibTeX, RIS, EndNote XML 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Synchronisation of BibTeX file supported > Automatic import from Zotero possible (zotero.sqlite) > Incomplete references are marked for manual or automatic completion > Full synchronization desktop client - online client > Pdfs can be stored locally and renamed immediately or at a later time > Further information on vacancies and funding opportunities > Possibility to publish research data > Social Web functions for self-presentation and for finding and following peers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Number of downloads is being counted by Altmetrics services (altmetric.com, ImpactStory, etc.) > Statistics on citations, downloads to Mendeley and statistics on own publications (via Scopus author ID or ORCID) > For some data sources, the Web Importer only provides mixed results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Mendeley Desktop will be replaced in the medium term by Mendeley Reference Manager and Mendeley Cite. These are already available, but do not have the full functionality of Mendeley Desktop yet. E.g. the search in full texts is still missing. Explanations to the transition to Mendeley Reference Manager and the further timetable see: https://service.elsevier.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/30107/supporthub/mendeley/p/16088/
Papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Yes > BibTeX, RIS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Display of bibliometric data on articles (number of citations, RCR number) with the possibility to directly access and download cited articles > Recommendations for further articles on the basis of the already existing reference entries 		
Word	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Creation of reference list, table of contents, index, list of figures and list of legal sources in one tab ("Verweise"/"Referenzen") possible > All other Word functions are easily accessible in the other tabs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Word is a word processing system, reference management is an additional function, no independent program (the focus is also on the development / bug fixing on word processing functions) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Microsoft Office App and web version "Word Online", not all features of the desktop version available
Zotero	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Yes > BibLaTeX, RDF, BibTeX, Bookmarks, COinS, CSL JSON, CSV, Endnote XML, MODS, Refer / BibX, RefWorks Tagged, RIS, Simple Evernote, TEI, Wikipedia Citation Templates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Generating of reference independent notes > Colour tagging > Creating publication lists in the zotero.org account > Subscribe to RSS feeds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Many plug-ins available > Regular back-up or usage of the online sync function recommended > RSS feeds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Collaboration with Google Docs > Import directly from Mendeley Reference Management > PDF retrieval with Unpaywall add-on > Import via arXiv ID > When importing with the Zotero browser add-on, the folder in which the title should be saved, can be selected directly

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>
Bibsonomy	+ Good	+ > Good, intuitively operable and configurable > Geared towards BibTeX / LaTeX users > With basic technical understanding very flexibly adaptable	> Context sensitive help for manual input > Help pages for beginners, advanced users, and software developers > Wiki and Blog about the development of the system for those, who are interested in the technical aspect
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 > FAQs > Forum (English and German) > Contact form > Trainer network > Citavi blog: "Nützliche Irrtümer" > Training courses
EndNote	+ Good	- > Ease of use is medium - many functions rather "technical", need for explanation (e.g. input fields, RIS export, syntax for citation style customisation, import via import filters)	> Manual > Manual for writing a research paper > Online training documents > Online tutorials > Mailinglist > Forum > E-Mail support / contact form
JabRef	+ Good	+ > Good, intuitive and customisable > Designed for LaTeX users	> Online manual and FAQ > Support forum > Issue tracker
Mendeley	+ Good	+ > Good	> Online help pages > "Getting Started Guide" > Feedback forum > Video tutorials > There are good starting aids and many explanations. For specific detailed questions the help pages sometimes are a bit confusing
Papers	+ Good	+ > Good	> Online database with numerous articles > "Bootcamp" for beginners with short documentation and several videos
Word	+ Good	+ > Good, intuitive, mostly already known before working with reference management	> Help in Word: using search "What do you want to do?" > Microsoft Office Support and FAQ > Aids are geared towards Word in general, reference management is only a small part of the programme, therefore not always detailed > Help only with technical problems, no help with questions about citation etc.
Zotero	+ Good	+ > Good	> Video tutorials (e.g. Quick Start Guide) > Help pages / documentation > Forum with large community, questions are often answered quickly and directly by the developers

Overview

	<u>Licence Model</u>		<u>Installation</u>		<u>Operating System</u>			Mobile App	Database Search	Data Import	Export from Databases	Capturing of Metadata from Web Pages	Other Import Options	Completion of Metadata	Linking of References	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																	
Bibsonomy	○	●	○	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Citavi	●	●	●	○	●	○	○	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	○	●	
EndNote	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	○	●	○	●	●	○	○	
JabRef	○	●	●	○	●	●	○	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	●	●	●	●	
Mendeley	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Papers	●	○	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Word	●	○	●	●	●	○	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
Zotero	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	

- available
- not available

Final Evaluation

Criteria for Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Licence model and price > Platform / Operating system > Database search > Import options > Full text search > Completion of metadata > Attaching / integrating of documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > 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>		
Bibsonomy	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-weight: bold; margin-right: 5px;">Positive</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Free service > Web-based and therefore platform-independent > Support in searching for full texts in external sources (incl. SFX service from libraries) > Numerous social functions for exchange (friends, group, following ...) > Bookmark management as part of the system > Very flexibly customisable > Very good help pages and context sensitive help for manual data entry > Good cooperation with various LaTeX editors </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-weight: bold; margin-right: 5px;">Negative</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > No Word Plug-In > No research in external data sources from Bibsonomy > Strong focus on BibTeX as exchange format > Technical knowledge helpful to fully exploit the possibilities </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Especially appropriate for LaTeX-users > For technically experienced users flexibly configurable and integrable into other systems and programs
Citavi	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-weight: bold; margin-right: 5px;">Positive</div> <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 > Very intuitive interface > Jointly editing in small teams using the same drive or in the cloud supported; for larger groups external server and Citavi DBServer > 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 </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-weight: bold; margin-right: 5px;">Negative</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Windows only > No online version </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Windows user > Beginners to professionals
EndNote	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-weight: bold; margin-right: 5px;">Positive</div> <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 and search for full texts supported > Search in metadata, full text pdf and pdf comments supported </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-weight: bold; margin-right: 5px;">Negative</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Not very intuitive > Web version: documents can not be shared between members of a shared group (only references) > People with the latest Mac versions (from MacOS 10.15 Catalina) cannot use EndNote x8 and earlier anymore </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Windows and Mac users > With some training for all user groups

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 > No size limitation, performance even at databases with > 10.000 entries good > Ranking, relevance, and priority data > Open-source, free > Intuitive usage > Full text search > Uses native BibTeX format and is therefore easily usable for LaTeX users without data conversion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > No social networking options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > For LaTeX users > For large reference collections > Especially for STM field (database selection) > Beginners to professionals 	
Mendeley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Desktop version for Windows, Mac, and Linux; additionally web version, thus platform independent > Free (up to 2 GB storage) > comfortable metadata search and full text search across all documents > Collaboration in groups > Social networking features and e.g. proposals for further literature > Due to synchronisation access to data everywhere 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Coexistence of web version, Mendeley Desktop, and Mendeley Reference Manager is sometimes confusing, as not all functions are available in every version > The web importer does not always deliver optimal results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Especially suitable for users who predominantly work with pdf full texts 	
Papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Good team function > Tidy and intuitive interface > Many platforms > Good import function of full texts > Synchronisation function between different platforms and devices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > No free version > No automatic import of books possible, focus on articles ("Papers") > Word add-in improvable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > More suitable for disciplines which mainly use articles > Good for beginners, as the surface appears to be very tidy and intuitive 	
Word	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Intuitive user interface, Word widely used as a word processor > Usable on Windows, Mac, Andoid and iOS > Reference management integrated in word processing, no switching between programs necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > No import options, all fields must be filled manually > No automatic completion of data via identifiers > No attaching of pdfs, or similar, to the references possible > No team work possible with "Standard" Word version 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Especially appropriate for smaller scientific papers, beginners, and smaller literature collections > Very automated > Word as a program very intuitive and very widely distributed > For larger scientific work it is helpful, to use the reference management software and Word only as a word processor, mainly because of the automation, the data reconciliation and the storage options. > All in all, independent reference management softwares clearly have more functions than Word reference management 	
Zotero	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Desktop version for Windows, Mac, Linux and web version, therefore platform independent > Firefox extension integrated in web browser where literature search is performed > 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 search 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 was 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.