

ELABORATION 2: TESTING

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Introduction

Elaboration 2: Testing is the second step after Elaboration 1: Planning. In the planning part, the scoping was narrowed down to find referencing and citation tools that could assist in accurate citation and formatting the references. There are a lot of options in reference managing tools. At that point I considered Endnote, Zotero and Mendeley. As endnote is not a free source, I am not considering that as an option. I want to choose the best from the very beginning of my Research as it would be difficult to change the software afterwards. A good managing tool aids sourcing other's material with citing accurately and efficiently. For me the pre-requisites for a good referencing and citation tool are:

- ❖ It must provide multiple options for citation format.
- ❖ Generate citations for various materials like journals, books, magazines, etc.
- ❖ Provide features that organize research and source information.
- ❖ That supports MLA citation style.
- ❖ That works with LaTeX.
- ❖ Easy to use and not very expensive.

Prominent Features of Zotero and Mendeley

I sifted through the abovesaid two tools which perform the same task. The main features of these tools, as per my requirements, are:

Zotero

- Free and open source, the design is publicly accessible
- It runs as both a web service and an offline service on personal device (laptop, ipad, cell phone, etc)
- It stores and formats the bibliographic information and also organizes, tags and search this information
- The process of creating a reference list seems effortless as it automatically extracts information from books, journals, and other online sources
- It is very easy to grab sources while surfing the internet through Chrome or Firefox
- Supports MLA citation style
- Works with LaTeX

Mendeley

- It allows to generate citation and bibliographies in Microsoft Word, and LaTeX.
- Supports MLA citation style
- Free tool but not an open source
- Mendeley has an integrated PDF viewer and can create citation records just from importing a PDF file.
- It usually provides both versions desktop and web

PROBLEMS FACED AFTER TESTING

There are always downsides to things that sounds awesome, especially which involve technology. Both these programmes seem good for my research but I faced few technical

problems with both of them so selecting the best for me required proper attention and diligence.

Mendeley

- Was not able to cite government publications correctly
- Annotations made in Mendeley were not being exported with my PDF files
- Difficulty in supporting Google Docs
- While citing references it stopped working. The Mendeley plug-in was still there and I could select the reference which I wanted to cite but after pressing okay to cite the reference nothing appeared. That was a mess.
- I tried my hand a bit (with someone's help) with LaTeX and used Mendeley for bibliography. If the citation was already there in the LaTeX file it was compiling it, but if I was trying to add a citation from the Mendeley library the result was (?,?)

Zotero

- When I added a citation lots of codes were there instead of regular citation. When I created a bibliography there was an error message (Zotero experienced an error updating your document). But that was solved as I deleted that complete bibliography and re-inserted it.

Conclusion

Both seems equally good, but I selected **Zotero** as my research content will be diverse and Zotero is the easiest method to gather citation records for non-PDF content. A single click captures work with more databases, catalogues and websites than Mendeley's browser

extension. Moreover, it's an open source and cannot be acquired by a company. Mendeley, a good tool, but as I faced few problems with it, I am not going to consider it for my research referencing and citation.