**Comparison of organizing and collaboration features in five common citation management tools**

**Zotero, Mendeley, RefWorks, EndNote (Desktop and Web versions) are five common citation management tools among UBC graduate students and faculty members, from a survey in 2011. These citation management tools provide the four basic functions including capturing, organizing, citing and sharing references. All these tools have almost similar features in capturing (adding) and citing references, but the major differences are in organizing and sharing (collaboration) features. Therefore, in this article, we compare these five citation management tools in term of organizing and sharing/collaboration features in Table 1 and Table 2, respectively.**

**Table 1. Collaboration features in citation management tools**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Zotero** | **Mendeley** | **RefWorks** | **Endnote Desktop** | **EndNote Web** |
| **Price** | Free (costs for upgraded storage) | Free (costs for upgraded storage & private groups) | $100 (for UBC student is free) | $299 ($100 student version) | **2 year subscription included for EndNote users and not publicly accessible** |
| **Free space** | 300 MB (2 GB ~$1.67/month) | 2 GB ($4.99 /month ~ 2GB) | 100MB | 1 GB online space on EndNote web | 500 MB personal & 500 MB shared |
| **PDF annotation and reader** | No (plug ins) | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| **Snapshot** | Yes | Yes | No | Yes |  |
| **Retrieve PDF citation data** | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| **Full text PDF search** | Yes (should be activated) | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| **Mobile** | 3rd party provider for android and iPhone | iPhones and iPads and 3rd party providers for Android | mobile-optimized sites | mobile-optimized sites | mobile-optimized sites |

**Table 2. Major organizing features in citation management tools**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Zotero** | **Mendeley** | **RefWorks** | **EndNote Desktop** | **EndNote Web** |
| Personal profile1 | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | **Yes** |
| Private group2 | Unlimited (groups & members) | Only one group with max 3 members ( a plane of one group of 5 members $49 /month) | Unlimited (simultaneous editing of an account) Share folders and/or database  via RefShare | Unlimited group  using EndNote Web | Share EndNote Web account with other EndNote Web users |
| Public group3 | Unlimited | Unlimited | No (but the URLs are sharable) | No | **No** |
| Note taking and annotation on shared references4 | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | **Yes** |
| Social network (follower & following lists) 5 | Yes | Yes (has a like button) | No | No | **No** |
| Collaboration newsfeed6 | Yes | Yes | No | No | **No** |
| Group page and discussion forum7 | Yes | Yes | No | No | **No** |

**1) Personal Profile: In your profile you can write about your academic background, publications, and your research interests. You can also search and see others’ profile and add them to your contact list or send them a message. Almost it is like a basic version of Facebook profile for your academic stuffs and connections. The personal profile usually can be customized based on your preferences in the setting section.**

**2) Private group: This feature lets you to share your references with specific people such as your supervisor and colleagues and the references in a private group are not publicly accessible.**

**3) Public group: You can create a library publicly accessible for everyone under your name.**

**4) Note taking and annotation on shared references: This feature allows you to annotate your references on the shared references.**

**5) Follower & Following lists:** You can follow some researchers in your following list or you can be followed by others for any post and update.

**6) Collaboration newsfeed:** If you are a member of a public or private group and you want to be informed for any update in those groups by email or embedded message, newsfeed feature would be the answer for you.

**7) Group page and discussion forum: This feature provides an independent webpage and forum for a group where people can discuss and have conversations in the form of posted messages.**