Importing BibTeX citation databases into citation management tools

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BibTeX is a file format for lists of bibliographic references. It is generally used with LaTeX documents, but it is also used in other tools because of its relative simplicity. A list of references in a BibTeX file is known as a *database.*

These instructions show you how to import such databases (found online, provided by a colleague, or generated by Google Scholar or other online tools) into two user-friendly citation management tools.

Importing citations into the Zotero Firefox plugin

1. On the Zotero toolbar, click on the gear icon.

2. Select "Import."

3. Navigate to the .bib database you wish to import and select it.

4. The citations from the database will appear in a collection of their own. You may then move these items to other collections or use them to generate bibliographies.

Importing citations into Mendeley Standalone

1. Click the "add files" icon in the top left of your screen.

2. Navigate to the .bib database you wish to import and select it.

3. The citations from the database will appear in the "recently added" section of your Mendeley library.