

DIKTUON: *Bibliographic Managers*

by Andrew Keck

Proper citations have long been a hallmark of academic writing. They ascribe proper credit to others as well as allowing the reader to further explore the topic. Direct quotations are documented, ideas are credited, and allusions are made explicit through the use of in-text citations, endnotes, footnotes, and bibliographies.

While citations often share common purposes, they can be expressed in thousands of different styles with variations in abbreviation, conventions, and syntax. *EndNote*, one of the more popular bibliographic management tools, has over three thousand different output styles. Many of these styles are specific to a single journal or publication and are subtle variations of popular variations of popular styles such as APA, MLA, CBE, and *The Chicago Manual of Style*.

A bibliographic manager seeks to do three things: to allow researchers to collect citations, to manage and search their citations, and to plug them into their papers using the correct style.

SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS

EndNote, *ProCite*, and *Reference Manager* are software-based solutions which can be licensed and installed on individual computers. The advantages of these software-based managers include the ability to use off-line, added functionality to customize styles and other features, and the lack of any arbitrary limitations in the number of records or size of attachments. *EndNote*, *ProCite*, and *Reference Manager* are all part of the Thomson Reuters corporate family through a series of corporate acquisitions in the last 10-15 years. Each has its own dedicated user-base but *Endnote* tends to be more common in religion and broader humanities disciplines.

WEB-BASED SOLUTIONS

RefWorks and *EndNoteWeb* are web-based products which can be used on any computer connected to the Internet. Users typically login to a website to collect and manage their citations but continue to use a plug-in to Microsoft Word that allows the proper formatting of citations within the word processor. *EndNoteWeb* has some integration with both the ISI Web of Science and with regular *EndNote* software. *RefWorks* was developed by Cambridge Scientific Abstracts but is now part of ProQuest Corporation. One notable feature of *RefWorks* is its ability to share or collaboratively build a database of citations. *RefWorks* is available through individual and institutional subscribers while *EndNoteWeb* is available only through institutional subscription.

OTHER SOLUTIONS

Zotero also provides functionality for collecting, managing, and using citations that integrates into a popular web browser as a *Mozilla Firefox* extension. Similar to the other software solutions, this product is currently limited to use on a particular computer. With *Zotero*, a user can transfer citations, or even their entire library from one computer to another. A forthcoming version is expected to support synchronization between individual computers through a central *Zotero* server. Other advantages of *Zotero* include its price (free!) and integration with other free or open-source projects such as *OpenOffice*, *NeoOffice*, and *COinS*.

Andrew Keck, Section Editor for Columns, is Associate Director of Duke Divinity School Library, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina.

THE FUTURE OF BIBLIOGRAPHIC MANAGEMENT

Almost all of the current bibliographic solutions provide some facility for storing full-text content (typically PDFs of journal articles). Recent advances include ways of automatically finding full-text content, making that content searchable, and providing more ways to organize and find information in a growing database. New web-based services like *LibraryThing*, *CiteULike*, and *Connotea* are providing new ways to connect users reading and citing similar books, articles, and papers. In the future, we may expect to see a blurring and merging of these web-based services with traditional bibliographic managers.

