



Open Access Reference Management: Zotero & Mendeley

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Abstract

Mendeley as an open access tool has added benefits for your institution's research community. At its basic version it is free for all to use with limited features and functionalities but still robust enough to help with citation management. This will in turn enhance the quality of their research. Zotero on the other hand is a free, open source research tool but without the robustness observed in Mendeley. Since both use the same format type .ris, you can seamlessly upload all of your Zotero citations into Mendeley. Google Scholar helps you search scholarly literature, that in many cases, is open access. If configured, it will also recognize those sources that your institution subscribes to making it quite effortless to import references into Mendeley. By creating awareness of these tools, librarians provide time-saving, open access research tools that help researchers during their information gathering step. In addition, Mendeley also works as an academic social network where researchers can collaborate on similar research topics. This is a feature available even at the basic, open access version as are other time-saving features like searching within the Mendeley catalog and annotating PDFs in you library.