

	EndNote Web	Zotero	Word References	By hand
Technical requirements	Any browser, any word processor. Internet connection.	Firefox, any word processor. Internet connection.	Microsoft Word, recent release.	Pen and paper
Price	Free	Free	Free	Free
Do I need to download anything?	Cite-While-You-Write add-in for word processors	Add-in for Firefox Plug-in for word processors	No additional software needed (if you have Word)	No downloads, but a good stack of reference books will be useful.
URL	www.myendnoteweb.com	www.zotero.org	n/a	n/a
What reference standards are supported?	Over 4500 standards, including pretty much anything...	15 by default (including APA, Chicago, IEEE, Vancouver) Over 1000 others can be added, and you can even make your own.	10 different standards, including APA and Chicago.	Any standard you know (if any...)
Collaboration possibilities	You can make a folder, and give others reading and/or writing access online.	You can make a folder, and give others reading and/or writing access online.	None	None
Does it have a high learning curve? (Is it difficult to learn)	Not at all. Takes a little bit of effort to start, but it quickly becomes second nature, and the time savings make it worth it. LIRU gives assistance and guidance.	Not at all. Takes a little bit of effort to start, but it quickly becomes second nature, and the time savings make it worth it. LIRU gives assistance and guidance.	Not really. Mostly saves work on layout. LIRU provides some assistance.	Yes, a huge one.
Does it save any time?	Yes, and the larger your paper, and the more papers, the more time it saves.	Yes, and the larger your paper, and the more papers, the more time it saves.	You still need to type references in, so this only saves time when citing.	No, this is the most time-consuming way.
Other positive aspects	Is online; no need for back-up taking. You can reuse references between papers with no extra work.	Is online; no need for back-up taking. You can reuse references between papers with no extra work.	Can be used offline	...nope.