

## Use of Citation Management Software for Bibliography and Citation in Medical Writing

Iqbal Hussain Udaipurwala

Bibliography also known as bibliology, is traditionally defined as the academic study of the books as a physical and cultural object. This word is derived from a Greek word bibliographia, which literally mean "book writing". The word bibliographia was used by the Greek writers in the first three centuries AD to mean the copying of books by hand. In the 12th century, the word started being used for "the intellectual activity of composing books". While in the 17th century, there was an emergence of a modern meaning and that is "description of books". Currently, the field of bibliography has expanded to include studies that consider the book as a material object.

Bibliographic work differs in the amount of details depending on the purpose and it is generally divided into two categories: enumerative bibliography and analytical bibliography. Enumerative bibliography is also called compilative, reference or systematic bibliography. It is a systemic list of books, journal or any other research work. Analytical bibliography is also called as critical bibliography and it is the study of production of books. In the earlier times, bibliography was mostly focused on books but now it also includes audio recordings, motion pictures, videos, graphic objects, databases, CD-ROMs and websites.

A citation is a reference to a published or sometimes unpublished material and it is not always necessarily the original source. More precisely, a citation is an abbreviated alphanumeric expression embedded in the body of an intellectual work that denotes an entry in the bibliographic references section of the work for the purpose of acknowledging the relevance of the work of others to the topic of discussion at the spot where the citation appears. Generally the combination of both the in-body citation and the bibliographic entry constitutes what is commonly thought of as a citation. Citation has several important purposes like to uphold intellectual honesty, to avoid plagiarism, to attribute prior work, to allow the reader to determine independently whether the referenced material supports the author's argument in the claimed way, and to help the reader gauge the strength and validity of the material.

There are two main types of citation systems, Vancouver referencing system and Harvard referencing system. Vancouver referencing system is a group of styles that involve the use of sequential numbers in the text which refer to either footnotes (notes at the end of the page) or endnotes (a note on a separate page at the end of the paper) which gives the source detail. They are either bracketed or superscript. In Harvard referencing system also known as parenthetical referencing system, full or partial, in-text citations are enclosed within parenthesis and embedded in the paragraph. Depending on the choice of style, fully cited parenthetical references may not require a section at the end. Alternately a list of the citations with complete bibliographical references may be included in the end which is sorted alphabetically by author's last name. There are so many citation styles which are broadly divided into styles common to the humanities and the sciences, though there is a considerable overlap between them. A number of organizations have created styles to fit their own needs and consequently a number of different guides exist. Individual publishers often have their own in-house variations as well, and some works are so long-established as to have their own citation methods too. Thus there is a lot of confusion for an author who wants to send research articles in any specific medical journal as the citation style of different journals are different. He prepares an article for a journal and suppose if it does not publish there and he now wants to send it to a second journal. Now he has to update and change citation style according to the format of the second journal. Secondly a researcher may want to publish many papers on a particular subject and want to use same citation in multiple papers.

To solve these problem many software have been developed so that a researcher can make his own database on a particular subject and use different citations in different papers. These software are collectively called 'reference management software', 'citation management software' or 'personal bibliographic management software'. These software are for scholars and authors to use for recording and utilizing bibliographic citations or references. Once a citation has been recorded, it can be used time and again in generating bibliographies, such as lists of references in books or

articles. The development of reference management software has been driven by the rapid expansion of scientific literature.

These software are normally consist of a database in which full bibliographic references can be entered, plus a system for generating selective lists of articles in the different formats required by publishers or journals. Modern reference management packages can also be integrated with a word processors so that a reference list in the appropriate format is produced automatically as an article is written, reducing the risk that a cited source is not included in the reference list. They will also have a facility for importing the details of publications from bibliographic database. Apart from managing references, most reference management software also enables users to search references from online libraries. Reference management software does not do the same job as a bibliographic database, which tries to list all articles published in a particular discipline or group of disciplines e.g medline. These databases are large and have to be housed on major server installation. Unlike reference management software collects a much smaller database, of the publications that have been used or are likely to be used by a particular author or group, and such a database can easily be housed on an individual's personal computer.

There are so many software available like bibloscope, endnote, bookends, bibliographix, cite smart, reference manager and so on. One of these software is 'endnote' which is very popular among the researchers. I am also personally using this software and found to be very useful for managing all citation related problem. It is very user friendly and can be learned in a very short time. Some of the common tasks that can be very easily performed by the endnote are briefly summarized as follows:

1. It can search online bibliographic references and retrieve them directly into your endnote library. This will be saved in your computer and you can use it anytime in future.
2. It can also import data files saved from a variety of online services, CD-ROMs, and library databases.
3. You can manage your endnote library and can group different references according to your research project.
4. Endnote can locate free full text PDF file and can create a reference when importing a PDF file.
5. Endnote can be integrated with the microsoft word file. You can cite the reference while you write and your reference will automatically come is the reference section at the end.
6. You can automatically change the format or referencing style quickly according to the style of any medical journal.
7. EndNote is a reference and figure database and you can organize images including charts, tables, figures, and equations.

#### SUGGESTED READING AND WEB SITES

1. <http://www.endnote.com>
2. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison\\_of\\_reference\\_management\\_software](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_reference_management_software)
3. [http://wiki.openoffice.org/wiki/Bibliographic\\_Software\\_and\\_Standards\\_Information](http://wiki.openoffice.org/wiki/Bibliographic_Software_and_Standards_Information)

### 2ND WORLD CONGRESS ON THYROID CANCER

July 10th- 14th, 2013

Tel: +1 519 263 5050

Email: [info@thyroidworldcongress.com](mailto:info@thyroidworldcongress.com)

Web: [www.thyroidworldcongress.com](http://www.thyroidworldcongress.com)

### INTERNATIONAL SURGICAL WEEK

Aug 25th - 29th, 2013

Helsinki, Finland

Email: [surgery@iss-sic.ch](mailto:surgery@iss-sic.ch)

Web: [www.isw2013.org](http://www.isw2013.org)