Making and Managing Citations: Online Tools

What is a citation builder?

Citation builder is an application designed to automatically generate citations based on the information that you enter about a book, article, or other resource.

Online Citation Builders

1. *KnightCite:* http://www.calvin.edu/library/knightcite/

How it works:
a) Select APA or other citation style on the left column.
b) In the "Resource Types" column, select the material you need to cite.
c) After entering as much information as possible, click on "Submit".
d) Copy and paste the citation to your Reference List.

2. *UNC Citation Builder:* http://www.lib.unc.edu/house/citationbuilder/

How it works:
a) On the left side, select the resource you would like to cite.
b) If needed, choose a different citation style (the standard option will be APA).
c) Select the tabs "in print" or "online" according to the resource you need to cite.
d) After entering as much information as possible, click on "Submit".
e) Copy and paste the citation to your Reference List.

3. *Son of Citation Machine:* http://citationmachine.net/

How it works:
a) Select APA or other citation style on the left column.
b) On the left column, select the material you need to cite. You can also use the "Sources by type" beneath the search box.
c) If you are citing a book or a website, you may also type the ISBN number or the site URL in the search box.
d) Type in as much information as you can. Follow the tips available beneath each field.
e) Click on "Make Citation".
f) Copy and paste the citation. You also have the option to copy the in-text citation format.

What is a citation manager?

Citation manager (also known as reference management software and citation management software) is an application designed to gather and organize references, format manuscripts in a variety of styles, and generate bibliographies.

Zotero: http://www.zotero.org/

Zotero is a Firefox plugin. It works as a free utility to help users collect, manage and cite sources.

How it works:

Download Zotero for Firefox on the website. You can also download Zotero Standallone if you are not using Firefox browser (it works on Windows, Mac, and Linux).

a) Create a Zotero account on the website. That will help you sync your references if you are using different computers.

b) From a database, journal site, or other website, look for an icon on the right side of the URL.

📘 Books   📄 Articles   📁 Multiple articles   📄 Websites
Zotero Icons

c) Click on the icon to save to Zotero.

d) To open Zotero, click on the bottom-right corner of your Firefox browser window, or open Zotero Standalone if not using Firefox. Your saved sources will appear here.

e) If you want to save a page but there is no icon beside the URL, open Zotero and click on the page button (to the right of the green plus sign). This will save a new "web page" item to your library.

To make a reference list based on your saved sources:

a) Select the item or items you wish to cite.

b) Right click on the selection, and then choose the option "Create Bibliography from Selected Item".

c) Choose a citation style.

d) Select "Save as RTF" as your output format and save the document. Your bibliography will be automatically formatted according to your preferred style.

Need help using Zotero?

Visit the Zotero support page: http://www.zotero.org/support/