**Reference Management System/Bibliographic Management System/Citation Management System**

Reference management systems are used for storing, organizing and sharing reference collections. A particular advantage is the simple formatting of citations and bibliographies in scientific papers. The popular reference management systems that are being used world –wide today are:

1. EndNote
2. Mendeley
3. Zotero

Of these, EndNote is fee-based whereas the Zotero and Mendeley are free. Mendeley is a free reference manager and academic social network that can help you organize your research, collaborate with others online, and discover the latest research:

* Automatically generate bibliographies
* Collaborate easily with other researchers online
* Easily import papers from other research software
* Find relevant papers based on what you're reading
* Access your papers from anywhere online

**Advantages of Using Reference/Bibliographic Management Systems**

**Reference Management System** allow you to organize your research, collect and cite sources, create bibliographies in a variety of styles, add your own notes and keywords to your citations. Many reference managers work with word processing software to format in-text citations and bibliographies for papers and theses, allow you to share references, and enable you to attach or link PDFs to a citation record. The major features/advantages are listed below.

1. **Database Searching**: Helps in searching the databases directly from inside the Reference Manager and download the references directly to the manager.
2. **Saving the References**: Once citations are captured, they can be stored, organized and manipulated in personal mini-databases called "libraries" or groups. Many “groups” can be created and re-organized to meet changing needs.
3. **Insert Citations into Word Processing Documents:** Using the "cite-while-you-write" feature, the software allows citations, **footnotes or endnotes** to be inserted into their proper place as we write a paper or manuscript in MS Word. As they are inserted, a **bibliography** is automatically generated and updated as we change the citations. The newest software versions can permit tables and figures to be inserted as "citations".
4. **Link the Citations to Images or PDF files:** Many reference managers permit to create link between the full-text PDF or image files stored on the hard drive of the computer. Add notes to images, figures and tables. Linked images and PDF files can be inserted into word documents as if they were citations.