Bibliographic Managers

Filed under: [Research](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/category/research/) — mahbub @ 1:26 am

I never realized the scarcity of a good tool for managing personal bibliography database until recently. I was writing a paper and found that it is really difficult to manage hundreds of references and use them in a document. Beside my original research I started researching on this issue and found that no single tool can solve all the required tasks for this purpose. This post is a result of the search for a free tool that will best serve this purpose.

Here is how a bibliographic manager works. An author creates a document and cites his document with entries form a bibliographic database created earlier. After the author completed writing the paper he passes the document and the database through some application and the application incorporates all the references cited in the document from the database. This produces a final version of the document containing the text, graphics, etc. the author created along with the references he cited in a specific format. The entire process is shown in figure 1.



**Figure 1:** The bibliographic citation process

I will present a comparison matrix on all the available bibliographic managers. First I will decompose each bibliographic management requirements into several sub-objectives i.e. feature. Then I will present a table showing the supports for those features in available tools. However, I did not use all the bibliographic managers out there and it is not possible for a single person to use all of them. So I would request you to let me know about any tool you have used.

**Expected Features in a Bibliographic Manager**
There are six basic requirements expected from a bibliographic manager. Listed down below is a functional decomposing of these requirements.

* **Search:** Search all the available academic/non-academic databases.
* **Store:** Store the reference and possibly a soft copy of the reference.
	+ Viewer: View soft copy (doc, pdf, etc.).
* **Annotate:** Keep notes on the reference.
	+ Overall: Just a single note on the reference
	+ Anywhere: A note anywhere in the document
* **Communicate:** Import from and export to different formats.
	+ Import (BibTex, End Note, XML, etc.)
	+ Export (BibTex, End Note, XML, etc.)
* **Platform:** Run on different platforms (Linux, Windows, etc.)
* **Presentation:** Present the data to some standard formats.
	+ Formats (MLA, APA, etc.)
	+ Document (doc, pdf, html, etc.)

**Some Issues about Bibliographic Tools**
The main hurdle in my opinion is to annotate the reference document. There are so many different and complex file formats out there that it is really difficult to add support for all of them. Also pdf, the mostly used format for file exchange is also very difficult to handle. There is no good free application or library to handle pdf. I know about pdf library [iText](http://www.lowagie.com/iText/) and annotation tools like [Jarnal](http://www.dklevine.com/general/software/tc1000/jarnal.htm) and [Multivalent](http://multivalent.sourceforge.net/), but even these are tough to incorporate into any system.

The next problem such software may face is to present the data according to some specific standard. There are so many different organizations and so many different formatting styles that it is really hard to add support for all of them. On the other hand some text processing systems, for example [LaTeX](http://www.latex-project.org/), can produce a final document from a bibliographic database and source document, but others like [Microsoft Word 2003](http://office.microsoft.com/) can not do it. Adding this support for all such systems is important but very difficult.

The platform issue limits the application to communicate between different systems.

The search capability has to deal with the differences in internet connection methods in different operating systems. Another issue is to provide search support for all different bibliographic databases in different research domains.

So it is easy to see why most of the free tools and many of the commercial tools do not support all the required functionalities.

**Free Tools for Bibliographic Management**
There are many different tools available for this purpose. They can be divided into three categories: Application, Web based, and Hybrid. A Google search on [bibliographic tools](http://www.google.com/search?q=bibliographic+tools) returned [this comprehensive survey on bibliographic tools](http://www.ecst.csuchico.edu/~jacobsd/bib/tools/). This list includes even the smallest possible script to count number of bibliographic entries in a database. The purpose of this writing is not to include every possible bibliographic tool but to compare the tools that are decent enough to do the tasks specified earlier. (*update*) Links to some other useful articles submitted by the readers:

* [Bibliographic tools list in wikipedia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reference_management_software) (submitted by [atom prober](http://arc.nucapt.northwestern.edu/))
* [Openoffice.org](http://wiki.services.openoffice.org/wiki/Bibliographic_Software_and_Standards_Information) (submitted by [atom prober](http://arc.nucapt.northwestern.edu/))
* [Open standards and software for bibliographies and cataloging](http://wwwsearch.sourceforge.net/bib/openbib.html) (submitted by [*Matthias*](http://www.extracts.de/))
* [List of bibliographic web applications](http://bibliophile.sourceforge.net/projects.php) (submitted by [*Matthias*](http://www.extracts.de/))
* [Another review of bibliographic managers](http://www.fauskes.net/nb/bibtools/) (submitted by [*Kjell Magne Fauske*](http://www.fauskes.net/))

**Table 1:** Comparison matrix on free bibliography management application.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **AppType** | **Tools** | **Search** | **Store** | **Annotate** | **Communicate** | **Platform** | **Presentation** | **License**\* |
| Application | [JabRef](http://jabref.sourceforge.net/) | Medline, citeseer, IEEExplore | Pdf, ps | Single note | BibTex, RIS, MODS XML | All | HTML, RTF | Open Source |
| [Bibdesk](http://bibdesk.sourceforge.net/)\*\* | Pubmed, Z39.50 | Yes | Single note | BibTex, RIS, MODS XML | Mac | HTML, RTF | Open Source |
| [PBib](http://www.ipsi.fraunhofer.de/~tandler/PBib/) | No | No | No | BibTex, Endnote | All | HTML | Open Source, Copyrighted |
| [pybliographer](http://pybliographer.org/) | Pubmed | No | No | BibTex, Endnote | All | Unkn. | GPL |
| [HyperBIBTEX](http://www.sil.org/computing/catalog/show_software.asp?id=15) | Unkn. | Unkn. | Unkn. | Unkn. | Mac | Unkn. | Free, Copyrighted |
| [KBibTeX](http://www.unix-ag.uni-kl.de/~fischer/kbibtex/) | Unkn. | Unkn. | Unkn. | Unkn. | Linux | Unkn. | GPL 2 |
| [Bibus](http://bibus-biblio.sourceforge.net/wiki/index.php/Main_Page) | yes | no | Single note | RIS, Refer, Medline | Windows, Linux, Mac | Itegrates with Word and OOo | GPL 2 |
| Web based | [Aigaion](http://www.aigaion.nl/) | Unkn. | Yes | Yes | BibTex, RIS | All | HTML, RTF | GPL |
| [bibsonomy](http://www.bibsonomy.org/) | yes | Unkn. | Unkn. | BibTex, RIS | All | Unkn. | X |
| [CiteULike](http://www.citeulike.org/) | yes | Unkn. | Unkn. | Unkn. | All | Unkn. | X |
| [EasyBib](http://www.easybib.com/) | yes | Unkn. | Unkn. | Unkn. | All | Unkn. | X |
| [RefBase](http://refbase.sourceforge.net/) \* | yes | yes | Shared/ Personal | BibTeX, RIS, MODS XML, [COinS](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COinS) | All | ASCII, HTML, LaTeX, MarkDown, PDF, RTF, etc. | X |
| [BibConverter](http://www.bibconverter.net/)! | yes | no | no | [IEEEXplr](http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/),[Eng Vil](http://www.engineeringvillage2.org/) and[ISI](http://portal.isiknowledge.com/portal.cgi?DestApp=WOS). | All | BibTex | X |
| [WIKINDX](http://wikindx.sourceforge.net/)$$ | PubMed | yes | yes | BibTeX, Endnote, RIS | All | Rtf, HTML + format editor | GPL |
| Hybrid | [Zotero](http://www.zotero.org/) | yes | yes | Notes, Snapshots | BibTex, RIS, MODS, RDF, Refer, Bibex, [COinS](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COinS) | All (firefox plugin) | RTF, HTML# | Open Source |

* \*Submitted by [*atom prober*](http://arc.nucapt.northwestern.edu/)
* !Submitted by [*Kjell Magne Fauske*](http://www.fauskes.net/)
* #Submitted by [*Richard*](http://stuwww.uvt.nl/~broekman/)
* $$Submitted by [*Mark Grimshaw*](http://wikindx.sourceforge.net/)
* \*\*Update suggested by AHM

This matrix is however, not complete and perfect. I hope to update it if I find more information. I would appreciate your feedback here.

**Commercial Tools for Bibliographic Management**
There are more applications than you can imagine for solving this problem. Norman listed almost all known commercial packages available in [his website](http://www-writing.berkeley.edu/chorus/eresearch/essays/known.html). He also has a [Bibliographic Grid](http://www-writing.berkeley.edu/chorus/eresearch/reviews/bibgridwin/) comparing almost all the commercial packages. This page, however, does not include [Microsoft Word 2007](http://office.microsoft.com/). Microsoft recently added bibliographic support in Microsoft Word 2007. Although it is still in primitive stage, its conformance with open standard will allow people to come up with solutions in this area. This [Microsoft Word 2007 team blog post on bibliographic feature](http://blogs.msdn.com/joe_friend/archive/2006/07/13/664960.aspx) will help you to know more about it. Also don’t forget to see [this document in msdn2](http://msdn2.microsoft.com/en-us/bb258052.aspx).

I could not find a single resource on free bibliographic tools when I was searching for it. Even the free bibliographic tools do not show up with a moderate Google search. After I found JabRef I promptly started using it. Later I found other tools. I have not used all of them. But the comparison matrix will definitely help me hunt down others and choose which one fits best for me. Hope this helps any avid researcher out there.

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1. 

great sharing!

wish to see the update and ur final findings on the bibliography referral. i used google desktop to keep track of my research document and searching, and used that together with my manual process of referencing.

cheers!

*Comment by* [*Sadiq*](http://mysticsaint.blogspot.com) *— March 4, 2007 @* [*3:10 am*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-5) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=5#respond)

1. 

It’d be useful to have the licenses listed, as some aren’t open source.

[refbase](http://refbase.sourceforge.net/) is a web-based app that:
supports search
supports storage
has short note (either shared or personal) annotations
can import/export BibTeX, RIS, MODS XML, and other formats
Supports all platforms; has ASCII, HTML, LaTeX, MarkDown, PDF, and RTF

*Comment by* [*atom prober*](http://arc.nucapt.northwestern.edu/) *— March 4, 2007 @* [*11:02 pm*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-6) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=6#respond)

1. 

Zotero can support multiple single notes and you can also associate multiple snapshots with a reference, given a unique comment on each one. It also supports MODS, RDF, and Refer/Bibix input/output & a few other formats. Both refbase and Zotero support [COinS](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COinS) metadata.

*Comment by* [*atom prober*](http://arc.nucapt.northwestern.edu/) *— March 4, 2007 @* [*11:08 pm*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-7) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=7#respond)

1. 

[bibus](http://bibus-biblio.sourceforge.net/wiki/index.php/Main_Page) is also worth a mention–it integrates with MS Word and OpenOffice.org Writer.

*Comment by* [*atom prober*](http://arc.nucapt.northwestern.edu/) *— March 4, 2007 @* [*11:13 pm*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-8) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=8#respond)

1. 

More comprehensive lists of software are at [Wikipedia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reference_management_software) and [OpenOffice.org’s wiki](http://wiki.services.openoffice.org/wiki/Bibliographic_Software_and_Standards_Information)

*Comment by* [*atom prober*](http://arc.nucapt.northwestern.edu/) *— March 4, 2007 @* [*11:17 pm*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-9) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=9#respond)

1. 

Thank you very much atom prober. I hope to add the information you provided soon.

*Comment by* [*mahbub*](http://www.asu.edu/~smushed) *— March 5, 2007 @* [*12:11 am*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-10) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=10#respond)

1. 

Interesting read. Your comparison matrix is very nice. I hope you’ll maintain and expand it.

Some time ago I wrote a similar [review of bibliographic managers](http://www.fauskes.net/nb/bibtools/). It mostly covers tools that work natively with BibTeX. You may also be interested in my online tool [BibConverter](http://www.bibconverter.net), for easy conversion of bibliographic data from IEEEXplore, Engineering Village and ISI Web of Science.

*Comment by* [*Kjell Magne Fauske*](http://www.fauskes.net) *— March 5, 2007 @* [*2:57 am*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-11) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=11#respond)

1. 

Building a comprehensive list of bibliographic applications and comparing all their features is quite a task, since there are *many* of them. The links given by atom prober give an idea how diverse the field of bibliographic apps actually is. Adding to the above links, more listings of bibliographic applications are given here:
[Open standards and software for bibliographies and cataloging](http://wwwsearch.sourceforge.net/bib/openbib.html)
[List of bibliographic web applications](http://bibliophile.sourceforge.net/projects.php)

*Comment by* [*Matthias*](http://www.extracts.de/) *— March 5, 2007 @* [*11:08 am*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-12) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=12#respond)

1. 

Thanks to Kjell and Matthias for you input. You are right Matt, it IS a diverse field. IMHO the reason is the complexity to perform the listed tasks.

I will update the page tonight.

*Comment by* [*mahbub*](http://www.asu.edu/~smushed) *— March 5, 2007 @* [*11:14 am*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-13) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=13#respond)

1. 

Zotero supports APA, Chicago style, MLA, and exports to RTF and HTML. (see <http://www.zotero.org/documentation/frequently_asked_questions#how_do_i_create_a_bibliography>)

*Comment by* [*Richard*](http://stuwww.uvt.nl/~broekman/) *— March 7, 2007 @* [*5:46 am*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-14) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=14#respond)

1. 

Updated. Thanks.

*Comment by* [*mahbub*](http://www.asu.edu/~smushed) *— March 8, 2007 @* [*1:12 am*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-15) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=15#respond)

1. 

[Comparison of reference management software](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_reference_management_software) on Wikipedia

*Comment by* [*atom prober*](http://arc.nucapt.northwestern.edu/) *— March 8, 2007 @* [*7:51 pm*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-16) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=16#respond)

1. 

The [comparison of reference management software](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_reference_management_software) on Wikipedia might be an effective way to collaborate on a more extensive comparison (though, due to notability concerns on WP, there are some products which shouldn’t necessarily migrate from your tables to the WP tables).

*Comment by* [*atom prober*](http://arc.nucapt.northwestern.edu/) *— March 8, 2007 @* [*11:55 pm*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-17) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=17#respond)

1. 

WIKINDX (<http://wikindx.sourceforge.net>) is a free, GPL web-based application that:

Imports/exports BibTeX, Endnote, RIS and has plug-ins to handle PubMed.
Exports bibliographic lists to RTF or HTML.
Supports user groups and user bibliographies.
Unlimited and searchable quotes, paraphrases, notes etc.
Unlimited attachments.
Comprehensive search and select criteria.
Comes with several bibliographic/citation styles (APA, Chicago, Harvard, IEEE etc.) and includes a web-based citation style editor to create/edit your own styles.
Integrated WYSIWYG word processor allowing importation of quotes etc. and automatic citation formatting/bibliography appending when exporting the paper to RTF.
A variety of translation/localization plug-in modules.
The plug-in architecture allows for the easy writing of third-party modules.

Used by NASA! 

Mark

*Comment by* [*Mark Grimshaw*](http://wikindx.sourceforge.net) *— March 9, 2007 @* [*5:41 am*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-18) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=18#respond)

1. [...] bit with Derek Baird and reading his blog post from today about it. Derek also has published a nice “Comparison of Free Bibliographic Managers” worth checking out. He reviewed 14 different FREE tools for managing research citations! The [...]

*Pingback by* [*Moving at the Speed of Creativity » Blog Archive » More research tools*](http://www.speedofcreativity.org/2007/03/12/more-research-tools/) *— March 12, 2007 @* [*8:12 pm*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-19) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=19#respond)

1. [...] Comparison of Free Bibliographic Managers « Beyond My Mind It is really difficult to manage hundreds of references and use them in a document. Beside my original research I started researching on this issue and found that no single tool can solve all the required tasks for this purpose. This post is a result of t [...]

*Pingback by* [*Internet (Web2.0) et ophtalmologie » links for 2007-03-18*](http://oph.girmens.fr/2007/03/18/links-for-2007-03-18/) *— March 18, 2007 @* [*3:20 pm*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-20) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=20#respond)

1. [...] Filed under: Research — mahbub @ 1:23 am Inspired from the responses of my post comparing free bibliographic tools, I planned on posting few more articles about different research tools. Here I am presenting a [...]

*Pingback by* [*Comparison of Bibliographic Search Engines « Beyond My Mind*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/19/comparison-of-bibliographic-search-engines/) *— March 19, 2007 @* [*1:23 am*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-21) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=21#respond)

1. 

Hi everybody! 

I used to work with Latex and Jabref for manage my thesis stuff, but for “external reasons”(\*) now I had to migrate everything to Word 2007, therefore I supossed that Endnote X is a good choice (any suggestions??).

But, I don’t have any clue for how use Endnote X within Word 2007 

Or in the other hand, how can I convert from Endnote file format to Microsoft Word 2007 bibligraphic source (XML based)???

Obviously re-write my references is not a choice.

–
(\*) research group motivation, and lack of more persuasive arguments from my side… 

*Comment by Francisca R. — March 24, 2007 @* [*8:35 pm*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-29) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=29#respond)

1. 

sorry, after all I had to read this link:

<http://www.endnote.com/support/faqs/cwyw/faq43.asp>


*Comment by Francisca R. — March 24, 2007 @* [*9:04 pm*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-30) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=30#respond)

1. 

Hi Francisca,
We are writing an export module for JabRef. Thanks for letting us know.
<http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/22/deciphering-microsoft-office-2007-bibliography-format/>

*Comment by* [*S M Mahbub Murshed*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com) *— March 24, 2007 @* [*11:16 pm*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-31) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=31#respond)

1. 

Francisca, if you can (or want) to use the native Word 2007 bibliographic feature instead, you could also try to use Bibutils which has recently added support for conversion of EndNote XML files to Word 2007 bibliography XML format:

<http://www.scripps.edu/~cdputnam/software/bibutils/>

*Comment by* [*Matthias*](http://www.extracts.de/) *— March 26, 2007 @* [*5:19 am*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-32) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=32#respond)

1. 

BibDesk additions:
Search: Z39.50
Store: Any document
Annotate: Single note
Presentation: HTML, RTF

*Comment by AHM — March 26, 2007 @* [*11:30 am*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-34) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=34#respond)

1. [...] of bibliography software Beyond My Mind has a list of what is currently available, and a comparison table. This list is useful especially [...]

*Pingback by* [*academhack » Blog Archive » More Useful Stuff Elsewhere*](http://academhack.outsidethetext.com/home/?p=161) *— March 28, 2007 @* [*8:00 pm*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-35) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=35#respond)

1. 

Thanks AHM. I included your input.

*Comment by* [*mahbub*](http://www.asu.edu/~smushed) *— March 30, 2007 @* [*1:40 am*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-36) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=36#respond)

1. 

Another open-source Java application, hardly mentioned anywhere
<http://www.itp.uni-hannover.de/~saemann/celsius.html>

*Comment by dalai — June 21, 2007 @* [*8:25 am*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-286) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=286#respond)

1. 

I am in search of a better solution to my plans to enrich my project: <http://www.anable.com/MONSON/index.html>
with links to other sites and services as found on search engines such as Google, but I don’t like the idea cutting & pasting the occasional relevant hit into my local XML table, and then integrating it into the appropriate webpage as well as generating a comprehensive list/table on another webpage.

Do you have any suggestions or ideas?

PS: I was a systems librarian who made some modest contributions to the LC MARC-S developments in the 1970s.

*Comment by* [*Richard Anable*](http://anable.com) *— July 11, 2007 @* [*11:40 am*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-330) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=330#respond)

1. 

Keep it up.. nice site for ref. Sri Lanka

*Comment by Supun — August 22, 2007 @* [*11:05 pm*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-801) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=801#respond)

1. [...] mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers [...]

*Pingback by* [*new world order*](http://blog.ebm.org.ua/database-search/new-world-order.html) *— October 22, 2007 @* [*8:12 am*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-1333) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=1333#respond)

1. [...] Useful table highlighting the features of various free bibliographic managing tools. [...]

*Pingback by* [*Blogging IT and EDucation » Blog Archive » Comparison of Free Bibliographic Managers*](http://userweb.port.ac.uk/~duke-wie/blog/2007/10/24/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/) *— October 24, 2007 @* [*8:51 am*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-1359) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=1359#respond)

1. [...] Useful table highlighting the features of various free bibliographic managing tools. [...]

*Pingback by* [*PhD » Blog Archive » Free bibliographic Managers.*](http://userweb.port.ac.uk/~duke-wie/phd/?p=5) *— October 24, 2007 @* [*10:56 am*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-1362) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=1362#respond)

1. 

Excelent analysis. JabRef works perfectly for me.

*Comment by* [*ponzonha*](http://ponzonha.wordpress.com/) *— October 29, 2007 @* [*5:11 am*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-1417) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=1417#respond)

1. 

Many articles on the internet provide instructions for citing the article and given options such as APA, MLA, … The ironic thing about this article on citations is that it doesn’t give any citation information – not even the name of the author. How should I cite this information?

*Comment by graham — November 10, 2007 @* [*7:37 am*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-1575) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=1575#respond)

1. 

Follow these guidelines and you will build that new home with little, or no, problems. [atlanta bathroom remodeling](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/home-improvement-lending.com) can help…

*Comment by* [*nemnweennaLar*](http://home-improvement-lending.com) *— November 19, 2007 @* [*1:49 am*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-1623) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=1623#respond)

1. 

which program would you recommend for accomplishing the following:

searching pubmed, and then sorting the information by author so that I could know quickly and efficiently how many articles each author had written, how many review articles each author had written, etc.

Thanks so much

*Comment by* [*lee tilson*](http://none) *— November 23, 2007 @* [*3:11 pm*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-1640) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=1640#respond)

1. [...] Comparison of Free Bibliographic Managers [...]

*Pingback by* [*Manage References with JabRef « Entangled*](http://entangled.wordpress.com/2007/12/10/manage-references-with-jabref/) *— December 10, 2007 @* [*2:19 am*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-1737) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=1737#respond)

1. [...] Sur le web, j’ai trouvé des sites de comparaisons de logiciels comme sur le blog de mahbub ou sur [...]

*Pingback by* [*Des références bibliographiques collaboratives « Le Blog d’Annick*](http://annickrossier.wordpress.com/2008/05/22/des-references-bibliographiques-collaboratives/) *— May 22, 2008 @* [*7:05 am*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-2012) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=2012#respond)

1. 

Even though BibDesk itself only supports a single note, it integrates well with Skim, a Mac OS X only PDF viewer with advanced annotation features. BibDesk then collates the Skim notes and shows them in the database.

I just wish BibDesk was easier to use with MS Word, since many of my collaborators only use Word.

*Comment by Janssen — August 26, 2008 @* [*10:07 am*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-2018) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=2018#respond)

1. 

thats it, brother

*Comment by* [*dekintak*](http://www.tetongravity.com/forums/member.php?u=21990) *— September 22, 2008 @* [*9:04 am*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-2020) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=2020#respond)

1. [...] Comparison of free bibliographic managers [...]

*Pingback by* [*Personal bibliographic management software | Ionut's WebSpace*](http://www.vioan.ro/wp/2008/10/04/personal-bibliographic-management-software/) *— October 4, 2008 @* [*4:53 am*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-2021) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=2021#respond)

1. 

Thank you for your website 
I made with photoshop backgrounds for youtube, myspace and whatever
my backgrounds:<http://tinyurl.com/5fmh8q>
have a good day and thank you again!

*Comment by* [*createmo*](http://tinyurl.com/5fmh8q) *— November 2, 2008 @* [*10:46 am*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-2023) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=2023#respond)

1. [...] public links >> wikindx Comparison of Free Bibliographic Managers Saved by Osmosis on Sun 02-11-2008 Moodle has 12 SoC developers Saved by Satoshigirl on Sat [...]

*Pingback by* [*Recent Links Tagged With "wikindx" - JabberTags*](http://www.jabbertags.com/popular/wikindx) *— November 2, 2008 @* [*11:04 pm*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-2024) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=2024#respond)

1. 

I wish to learn more about a tornado and as from it to be protected!
If you know prompt where to esteem please
[tornado safety](http://hbawsep.hostsnake.com)

*Comment by* [*newertorn*](http://hbawsep.hostsnake.com) *— November 3, 2008 @* [*6:20 am*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-2025) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=2025#respond)

1. [...] both Open Source (JabRef, pybibliographer) and commercial (EndNote, RefWorks etc). See here and here for comparisons between various [...]

*Pingback by* [*BibDesk and Word « So much to do, so little time*](http://rguha.wordpress.com/2008/11/20/bibdesk-and-word/) *— November 19, 2008 @* [*11:20 pm*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-2027) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=2027#respond)

1. 

I have been using JabRef for about 4 weeks now and I find it very useful in managing my references and related pdfs. I have been using it for writing my PhD dissertation and I wonder what I would have done without it. Within weeks I have been able to add over 350 references with abstracts and pdfs, where available.

Making citations in Word 2003 has been possible through the BibTeX2Word template provided by Mike Brookes. Generating references in a vast range of styles is now possible. Since I use the MikTeX package as the TeX/LateX engine which also incorporates the BibTeX engine, I am able to download style files as and when I need them.

The only difficulty I’ve had with JabRef is in exporting but I have to confess I’ve been too busy to learn the intricacies of the export creation task. Maybe, when I have some time I will learn this too. Import is relatively simpler in JabRef. But, overall, JabRef has been highly satisfying to work with.

Strongly recommended for those who like to use freely available open-source software and are willing to experiment a bit.

Shashank

*Comment by* [*Shashank*](http://handheldsforhealth.org) *— April 13, 2009 @* [*12:17 am*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-2035) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=2035#respond)

1. 

Oh, about JabRef — I forgot to mention one important bit of feedback that I couldn’t get JabRef version 2.4.2 to work with MySQL, despite following the instructions provided. This would have been very useful, as then I would be able to maintain all my references in a great database. Hopefully, I will
get this feature working when I get some spare time or someone else will solve this problem in the open source community.

Shashank

*Comment by* [*Shashank*](http://handheldsforhealth.org) *— April 13, 2009 @* [*12:25 am*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-2036) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=2036#respond)

1. 

Mahbub, that’s a great list! Recently, a new tool called [Mendeley](http://mendeley.com) got a great writeup in [Techcrunch](http://uk.techcrunch.com/2009/05/12/mendeleys-klingon-battle-cruiser-de-cloaks-in-london-with-the-lastfm-for-academia/), so you may want to add Mendeley to your list.

*Comment by* [*Mr. Gunn*](http://www.mendeley.com/profiles/william-gunn) *— May 12, 2009 @* [*1:37 pm*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-2037) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=2037#respond)

1. 

Zotero is my opinion is the best. You can also look into a competing Web 2. based bibliographic manager called WizFolio (<https://www.wizfolio.com/Default.aspx>). But this one , though free, is not an open source program.

*Comment by Rijo — July 29, 2009 @* [*8:35 am*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-2042) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=2042#respond)

1. 

I was writing my research paper and using Endnote X3 trial version, I was worried what will happen to my project after trial expiry as Endnote is beyond my budget. Thanks to you I have been introduced to Zotero, completely match my requirement.

*Comment by* [*Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed Bhutto*](http://surgeryforfree.pk/) *— October 25, 2009 @* [*12:45 pm*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-2045) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=2045#respond)

1. 

I have now upgraded to JabRef version 2.6Beta and have to report that export to a MySQL now works perfectly. Besides JabRef I have also used Mendeley. Data excange between JabRef and Mendeley has been absolutely seamless. Mendeley has a useful feature that you can maintain your bibliographic databases on your PC desktop as well as on a web-site and periodically synchronize them whenever you want to. This way you have access to your bibliography wherever you happen to be. I have also used Bibliographix which happens to be an excellent tool at a relatively low cost of Euro 49 for an student licence. I use JabRef, Mendeley and Bibliographix quite interchangeably.

*Comment by Shashank — October 25, 2009 @* [*8:27 pm*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-2046) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=2046#respond)

1. 

For users of Word 2007, check out handycite at fks-soft.com. It is a freeware.

*Comment by Muhammad Suri — November 4, 2009 @* [*5:58 am*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-2047) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=2047#respond)

1. 

Any portable apps out there that would manage references as the above programs?

*Comment by kim — November 10, 2009 @* [*11:49 pm*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-2049) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=2049#respond)

* + 

Zotero is portable by all means. Because this is only a firefox extension. Wherever u have internet connection and firefox zotero will work.

*Comment by Rijo — December 19, 2009 @* [*11:30 am*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-2052) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=2052#respond)

1. 

kim – I believe Papers has a iphone app for Mac users and Mendeley is developing a cross-platform mobile interface as well.

*Comment by* [*Mr. Gunn*](http://synthesis.williamgunn.org) *— November 11, 2009 @* [*11:00 am*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-2050) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=2050#respond)

1. 

Check out BiblioExpress:
<http://www.biblioscape.com/biblioexpress.htm>

*Comment by Oxa — December 19, 2009 @* [*10:57 am*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-2051) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=2051#respond)

1. 

fffghg

*Comment by* [*Thushyanthan*](http://www.np.gov.lk) *— August 4, 2010 @* [*10:52 pm*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-2064) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=2064#respond)

1. [...] and as a doctoral student at the University of Rochester I came to experience the powerful online research and bibliography tools available.  These tools stored my research in the cloud and enabled me to work on my dissertation [...]

*Pingback by* [*Q. How many index cards does it take to write a paper?……A. 1 URL | ISC's Blog*](http://isc.blog.fairport.org/2010/09/23/q-how-many-index-cards-does-it-take-to-write-a-paper-a-1-url/) *— September 23, 2010 @* [*5:24 am*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-2068) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=2068#respond)

1. 

Nice information, many thanks to the author. It is incomprehensible to me now, but in general, the usefulness and significance is overwhelming. Thanks again and good luck!

[Persuasive Essay](http://www.persuasive-essays.com)

*Comment by* [*persuasive essay*](http://www.persuasive-essays.com) *— September 28, 2010 @* [*10:53 pm*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-2069) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=2069#respond)

1. 

This post is great. thank you for sharing these helpful infos. I appreciate your work man

*Comment by* [*aflam maroc*](http://aflammaroc2011.blogspot.com/) *— January 14, 2011 @* [*4:37 pm*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-2140) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=2140#respond)

1. 

Hi there.

You may want to include Qiqqa on your list, which has some interesting features related to all this.

Thanks.

*Comment by* [*Nik*](http://www.qiqqa.com) *— August 13, 2011 @* [*5:44 am*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-2151) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=2151#respond)

1. 

My first post! 

*Comment by Zvezdoros — September 30, 2011 @* [*1:52 am*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-2156) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=2156#respond)

1. [...] trying them I ended up purchasing a student edition of EndNote because it is so much better.  Here is a list of free bibliography and reference managers. Or you can check out the wikipedia page which compares all reference managers, free and [...]

*Pingback by* [*The Best Free Software for Students | ShortWhiteCoats.com*](http://shortwhitecoats.com/2011/the-best-free-software-for-students) *— November 13, 2011 @* [*5:07 pm*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-2157) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=2157#respond)

1. 

Download free books here :
<http://goo.gl/9WW3n>

Books in PDF format

*Comment by jhonnybook — December 20, 2011 @* [*3:19 pm*](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/#comment-2164) | [Reply](http://mahbub.wordpress.com/2007/03/04/comparison-of-free-bibliographic-managers/?replytocom=2164#respond)