LITERATURE SEARCHING

Strategies for being LESS messy

What your research supposedly looks like:

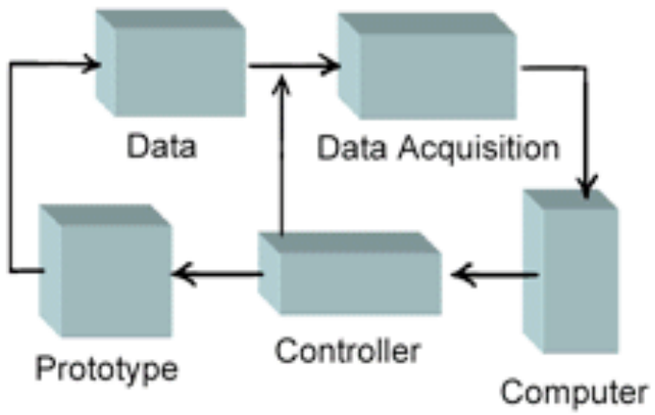


Figure 1. Experimental Diagram

What your research *actually* looks like:

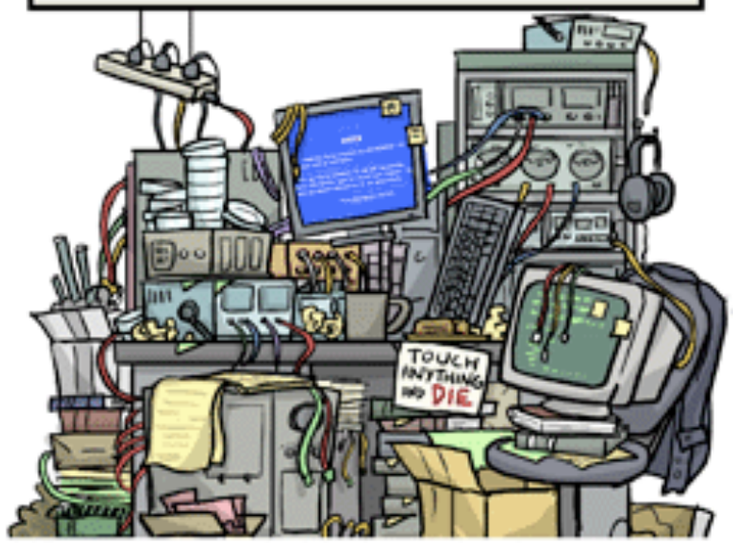


Figure 2. Experimental Mess

LEARNING BY FAITH

D&C 88:118 And as all have not [a]faith, seek ye diligently and [b]teach one another words of [c]wisdom; yea, seek ye out of the best [d]books words of wisdom; seek learning, even by study and also by faith.

Elder Bednar:

From these examples we recognize that as learners, you and I are to act and be doers of the word and not simply hearers who are only acted upon. Are you and I agents who act and seek learning by faith, or are we waiting to be taught and acted upon? Are the children, youth, and adults we serve acting and seeking to learn by faith, or are they waiting to be taught and acted upon? Are you and I encouraging and helping those we serve to seek learning by faith? We are all to be anxiously engaged in asking, seeking, and knocking (see 3 Nephi 14:7).

A learner exercising agency by acting in accordance with correct principles opens his or her heart to the Holy Ghost and invites His teaching, testifying power, and confirming witness. Learning by faith requires spiritual, mental, and physical exertion and not just passive reception.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Today's Devo: Me
- Next week's devo:
- Next week's writing strategies: Me

QUESTIONS & METHODS

QUESTIONS & METHODS

- What topic are you reviewing?
- For what purpose? What do you hope to learn?
- What is your scope? (what will be included?)
- What kinds of studies are you considering?

- What has worked particularly well for you in finding good literature sources?
- What has worked for organizing/reviewing those sources?
- What did you learn from your textbooks?

A GOOD PROCESS

- insert image from Hart, p. 34

SUGGESTIONS

- Scan the articles to overview
- Group into categories (Excel can help with this)
- Organize yourself before reading
- Use a consistent format in your notes
- Look for Explicit definitions of key terms
- Look for key statistics

Most of these suggestions from Galvan, 2009

BUT REMEMBER!

"Statistics: The only science that enables different experts using the same figures to draw different conclusions."

- Evan Esar

MORE SUGGESTIONS

- Pay attention to previous review articles
- Keep notes (Bibliography manager, PDF annotater, Word, notecards, Excel, etc.). Distinguish direct quotes and page numbers
    - Don't forget to list page numbers and sources!
- Look for methodological strengths
- Look for methodological weaknesses

Most of these suggestions from Galvan, 2009

AND MORE ...

- Distinguish between assertion and evidence
- Identify major trends or patterns in the results
- Identify gaps
- Evaluate reference list for currency and coverage
- Mark key references that will be your best examples

Most of these suggestions from Galvan, 2009

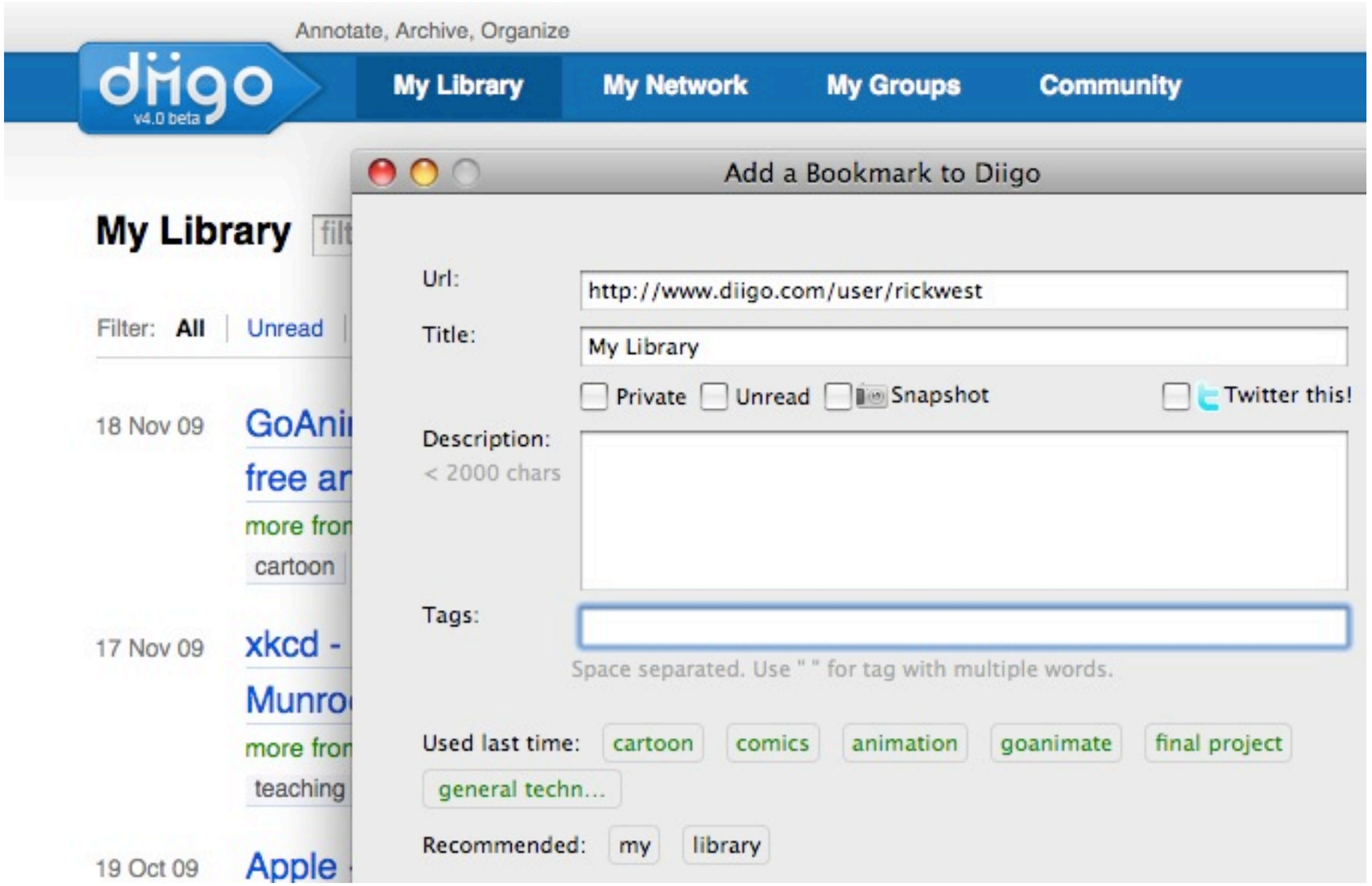
OK, ENOUGH ALREADY

- Try identifying key journals or books, and working out from there
- Limit your search to keywords, abstract, or title
- Look up references from key articles you read (don't cite until you've read it yourself)
- Ignore dissertations and conference proposals unless you have a good reason
- Try an author cited search in Web of Science
- KEEP GOOD NOTES (research journal)

Using Technology to Facilitate Qualitative Research

Richard West

Collaborative Bookmarks



DEMO

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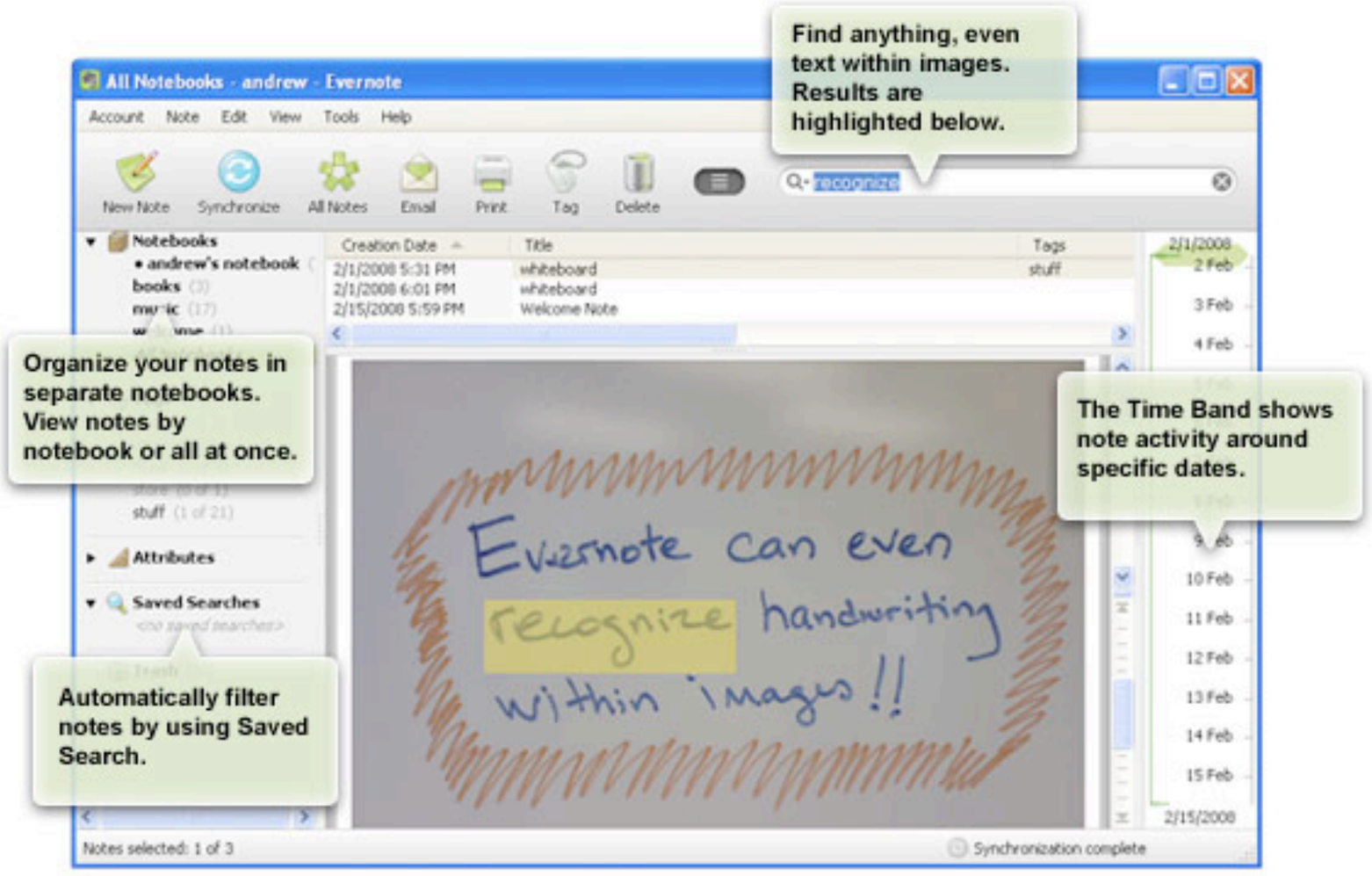
Research Journaling

- OneNote (PC)
- DevonNote; Soho Notes (Mac)

Evernote: Free & Compatible



Evernote

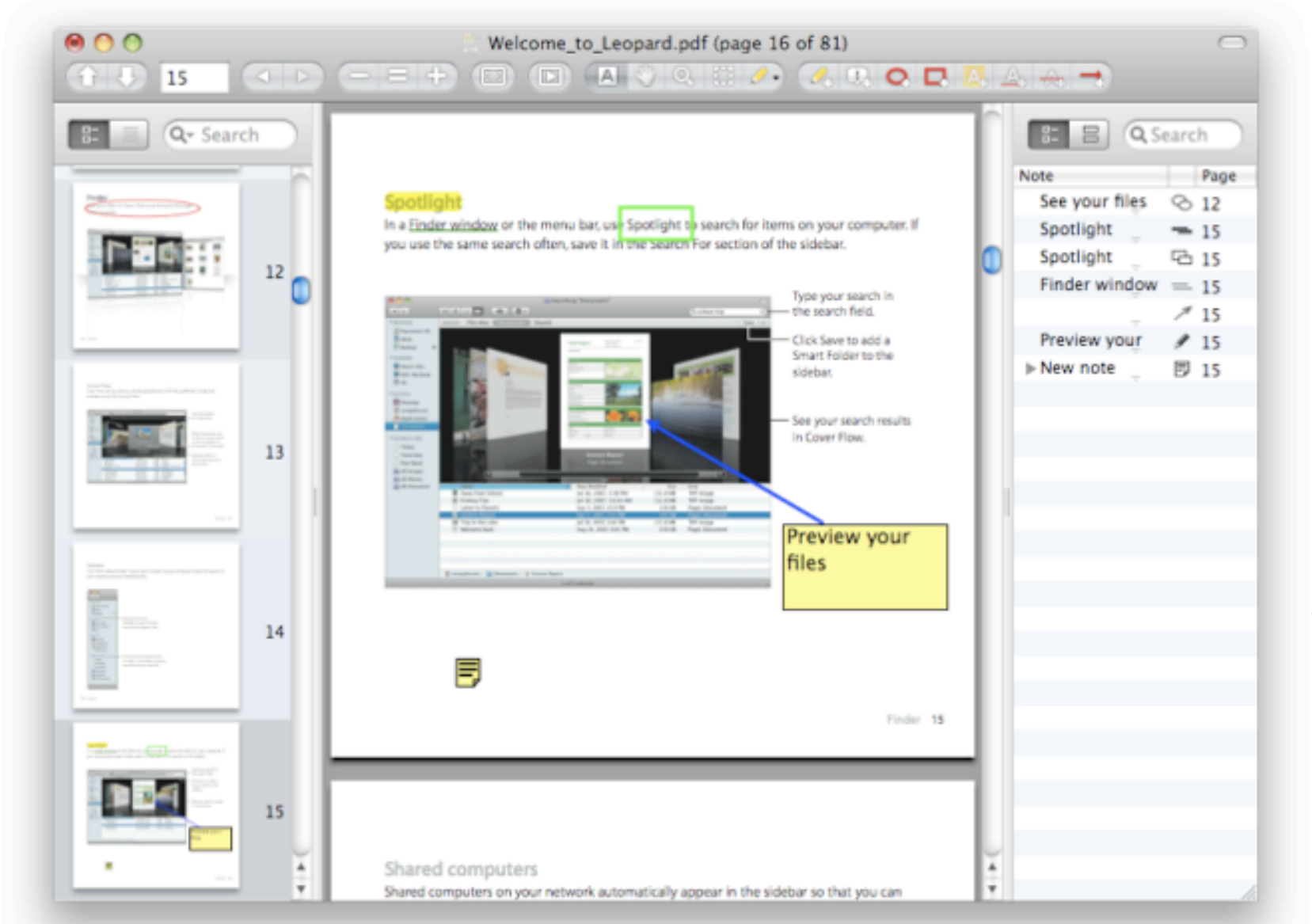
Free

- Synchs across platforms, iPhone
- Plenty of upload space

$5/month Premium Version

- Collaborators can modify notes
- Secured encryption

Annotating PDFs



Skim
Sente
Preview
Acrobat
Foxit (PCs)
NVivo 8 (PCs)

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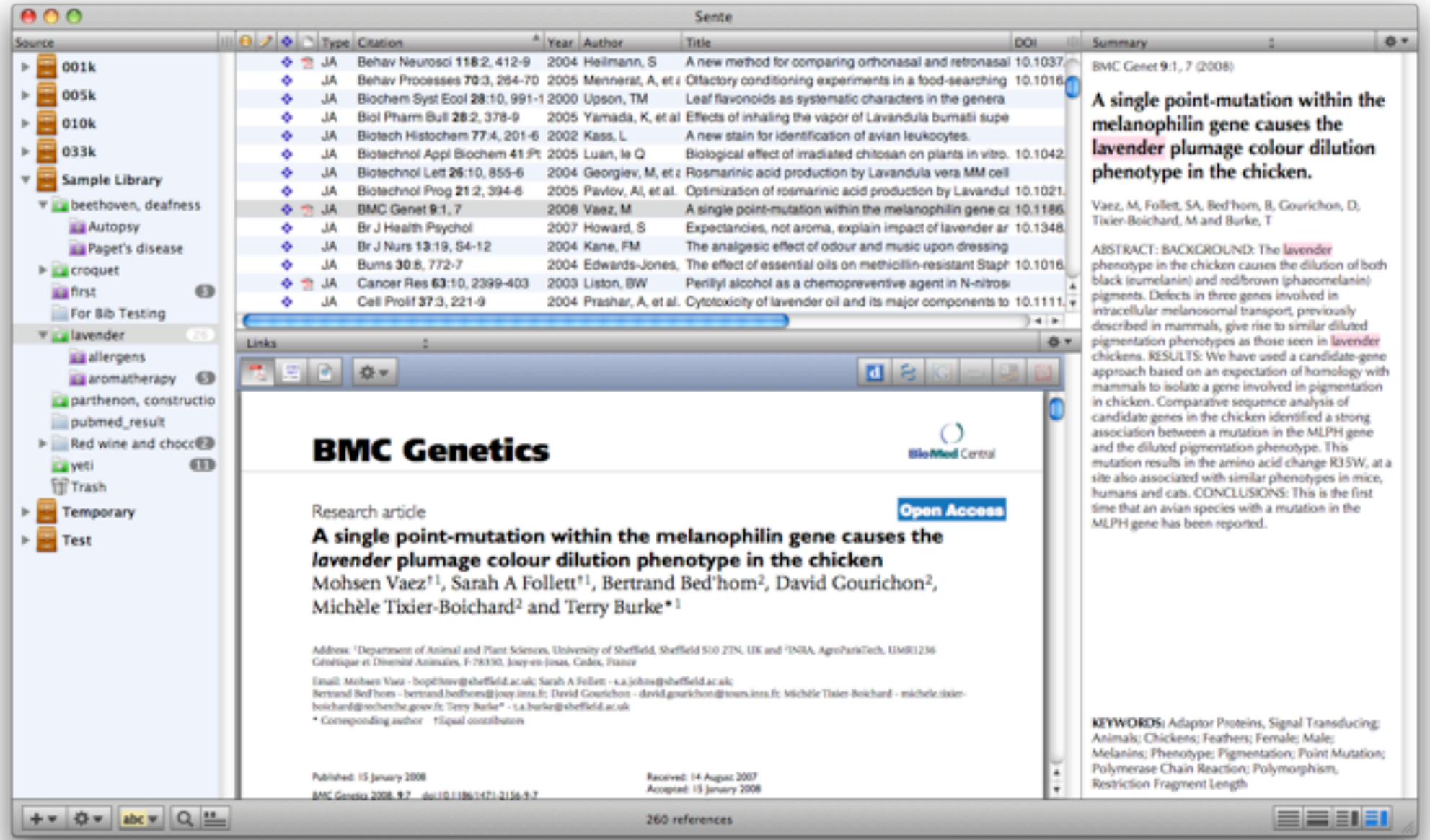
Document Management



Sente & Papers (Macs)

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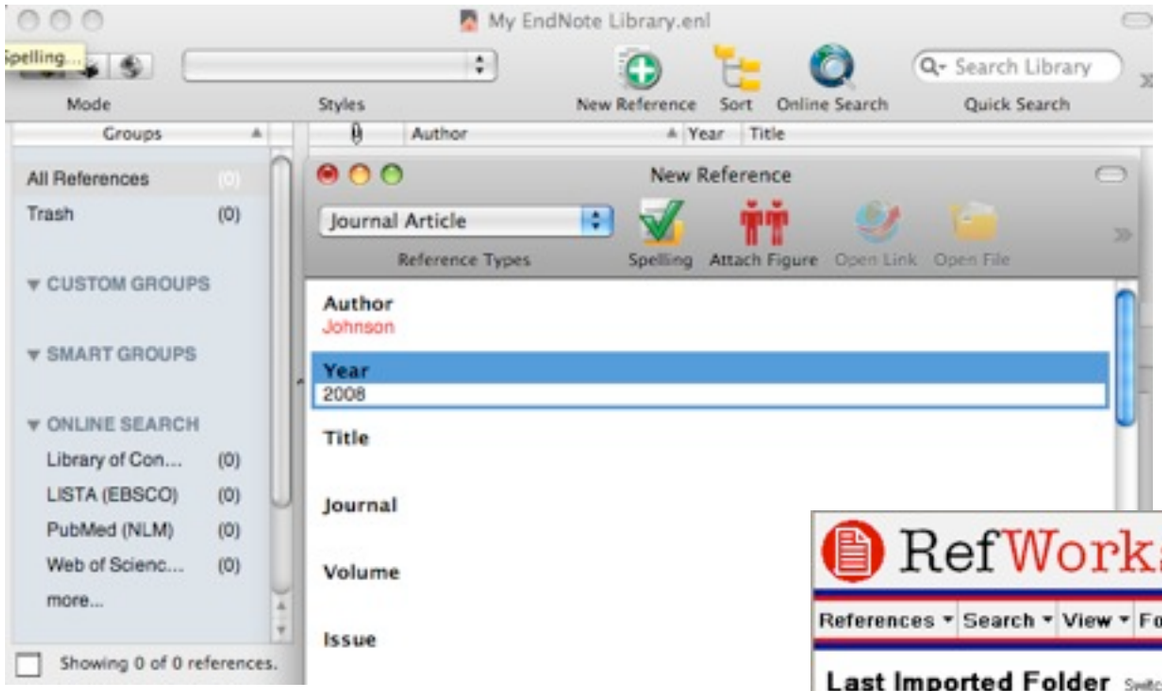
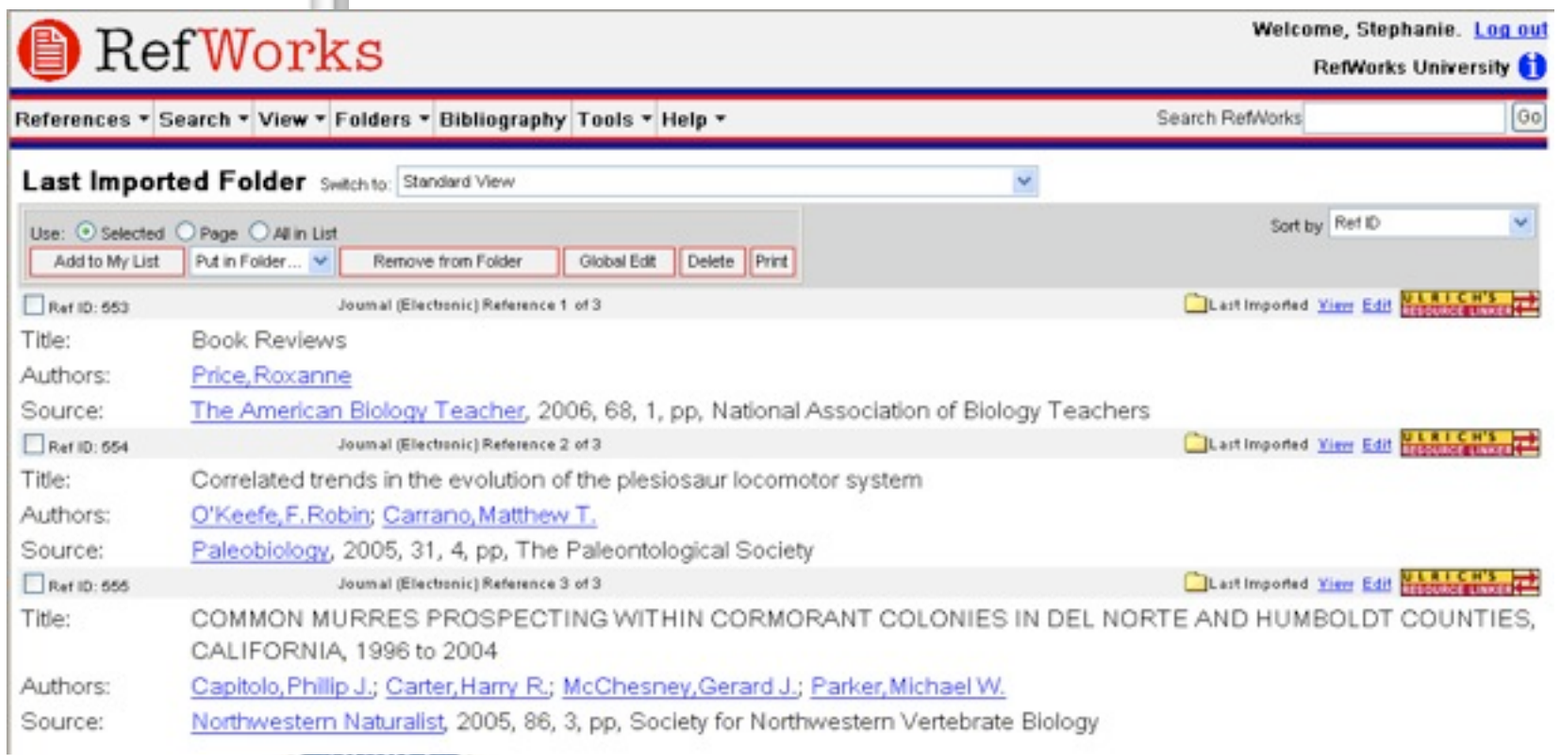
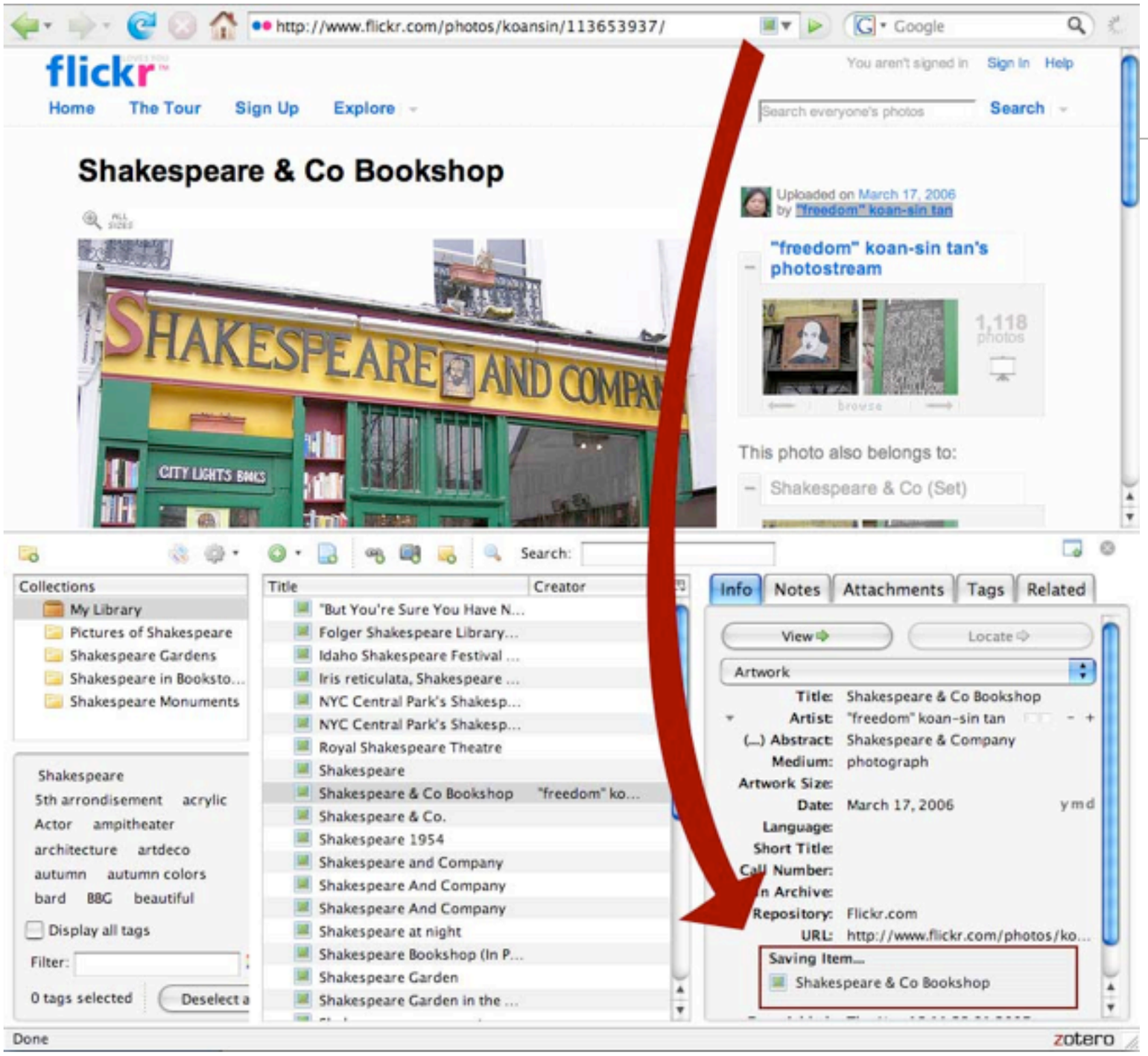
AECT 2009 Workshop

Bibliographies





Zotero



DEMO

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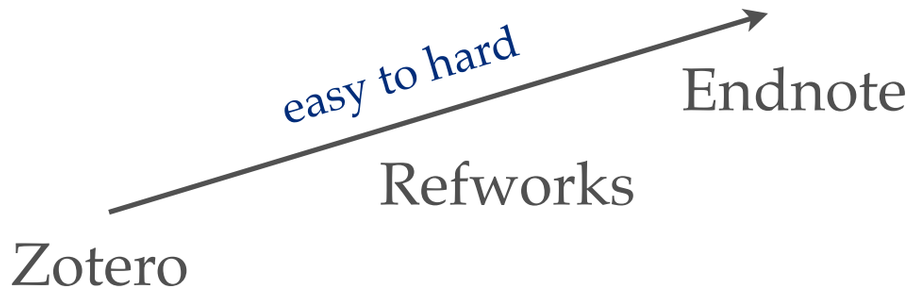
Questions To Consider

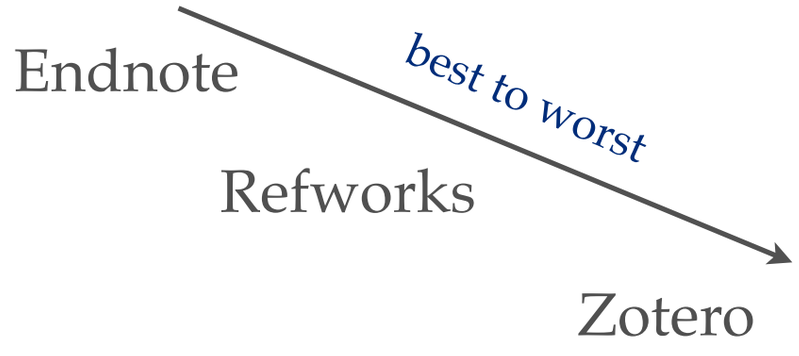
- Do you mostly work with your references online or offline?
- Do you need to share references with collaborators?
- Are your sources usually online or offline? (stored at a library)?
- How well do you need to integrate with Word?
- Do you use advanced features?
- Do you use Word or something else (Open Office, Google Docs?)
- Comparison: http://libraries.mit.edu/help/bibliography/comparison.html
- What is your budget?
- What databases will you be using? (Zotero is the least compatible)
- Do you work with more than one computer? (then you need Refworks)

More Comparison

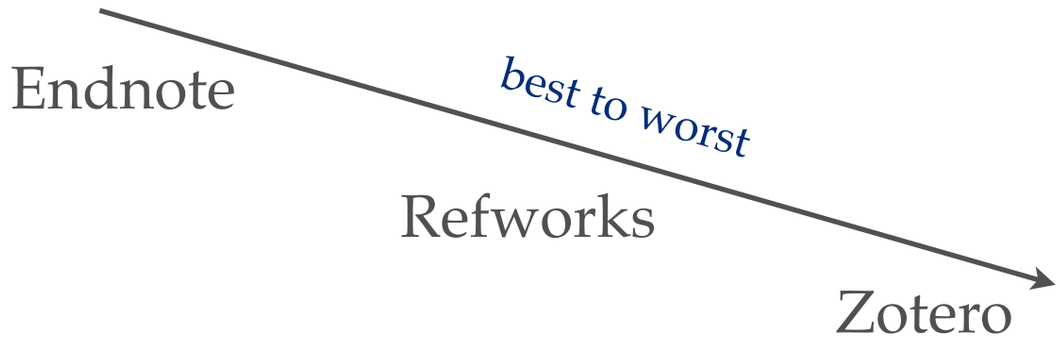
Learning Curve



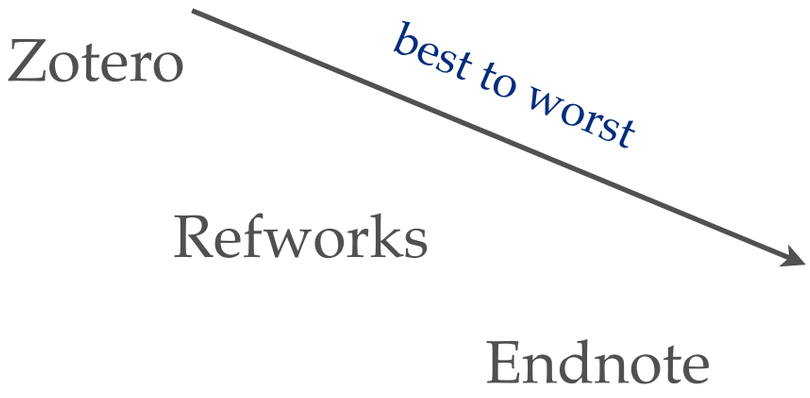
Functionality



Large Library Management



Collaboration



FOR NEXT WEEK

- Topic: Evaluating/critiquing articles and literature reviews
- Read Boote & Beile from the syllabus
- See if your textbook says anything about methods in literature reviews. Come ready to share!
- As you read articles this week, look for good examples of questions and methods
- Problem statements due next Thursday morning

SOURCES

Cooper, H. (1998). *Synthesizing research: A guide for literature reviews*. Thousand Oaks: Sage.

Galvan, J. L. (2009). *Writing Literature Reviews*. Glendale, CA: Pryczak. (chapters 10 & 14).

Hart, C. (1998). *Doing a literature review: Releasing the social science research imagination.* Thousand Oaks, CA: *Sage.*

EXTRA

WHICH ARTICLES ARE GOOD ONES?

from Cooper, 1998

WHICH ARTICLES ARE GOOD ONES?

- List a set of criteria that you think distinguish good and bad research (2 minutes)

from Cooper, 1998

WHICH ARTICLES ARE GOOD ONES?

- List a set of criteria that you think distinguish good and bad research (2 minutes)
- Rank order your criteria (2 minutes)

from Cooper, 1998

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- Rank order your criteria (2 minutes)
- Compare criteria set with the class

from Cooper, 1998

WHICH ARTICLES ARE GOOD ONES?

- List a set of criteria that you think distinguish good and bad research (2 minutes)
- Rank order your criteria (2 minutes)
- Compare criteria set with the class
- Rank order as a class

from Cooper, 1998

Learn How To Read

- Read what you need
- Read what is relevant
- Find the most important information in articles
- Know when to skim and when to dive
- Learn how to read faster
- Read what you want to be able to write