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Citation Generators: Helpmate or Hindrance in the Information Literacy Classroom?

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Citation generators

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Citation Generators

Bibme: Fast and Easy Bibliography Maker <http://www.bibme.org/>

Styles: MLA, APA, Chicago/Turabian

Cost: Free. Free registration allows users to save bibliographies to their accounts.

Highlight: an Auto-fill mode that will attempt to find books by author, title, or ISBN, magazine, newspaper, and journal articles by article title, and websites by URL.

Citation Wizard - The 21st Century Information Fluency Project <http://21cif.com/tools/cite/>

Styles: MLA, APA, CSE (Council of Science Editors)

Cost: Free.

Highlight: One of the few citation generators to offer CSE style.

Drawback: Very limited number of source choices, and trends towards online sources. Only MLA style includes print book and journal article options.

EasyBib <http://www.easybib.com/>

Styles: MLA, APA, Chicago/Turabian

Cost: MyBibPro 3 day trial available. Annual individual subscription \$14.99. MyBibPro features include auto-formatting, export to MS Word, footnotes and parenthetical formatting, and third-party database import.

Highlight: Supports 6th and 7th edition of MLA.

Drawback: Only MLA style is free. Other styles require MyBibPro subscription.

KnightCite <http://www.calvin.edu/library/knightcite/>

Styles: MLA, APA, Chicago

Cost: Free.

Highlight: Free registration allows users to save citations, organize and edit them on the site, and export the bibliography as a MS Word file.

Landmarks Son of Citation Machine <http://citationmachine.net/>

Styles: MLA, APA, Chicago/Turabian

Cost: Free. Registration not offered.

Highlight: Numerous print and non-print source choices available for each style.

Drawback: Does not offer some of the features of newer citation generators such as importing and exporting. Completed citations must be copied and pasted into documents.

NoodleBib <http://www.noodletools.com/>

Styles: MLA, APA, Chicago/Turabian

Cost: NoodleBib Express, a tool for creating 1 or 2 quick citations, is free. NoodleBib annual individual subscriptions are \$8.00. NoodleBib features include saving formatted bibliography and parenthetical citations, creating online note cards, and exporting to MS Word.

Drawback: Only NoodleBib Express is free. Individual subscriptions are inexpensive, and institutional subscriptions by IP recognition are available.

Scholar's Aid <http://www.scholarsaid.com/index.html>

Styles: MLA, APA, Chicago/Turabian

Cost: Scholar's Aid 4 AE, new purchase/download fee for students is \$99. A freeware version with fewer features, Scholar's Aid 4 Lite, is also available. Registration required.

Drawback: Busy, heavily text-based site makes navigation difficult. Information, especially on the freeware product, seems difficult to find. Not immediately obvious this is a download product for sale.

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

Styles: MLA, APA, Chicago/Turabian, AMA, IEEE, and hundreds of others.

Cost: Free, open-source Firefox browser extension.

Highlight: Offers users "the ability to store author, title, and publication fields and to export that information as formatted references... the ability to interact, tag, and search in advanced ways. Zotero...can sense when users are viewing a book, article, or other object on the web, and—on many major research and library sites—find and automatically save the full reference information for the item in the correct fields." Remarkable number of features for a free product.

Thomson Reuters, maker of EndNote, tried to sue George Mason University's Center for History and New Media, where Zotero was created, but the case was dismissed in June 2009.

<http://chronicle.com/blogPost/Judge-Dismisses/7199>