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Reference management software MendeleyMendeley Desktop (previous Mendeley main application)Original author(s)Paul Foeckler, Victor Henning, Jan Reichelt[1]Developer(s)ElsevierInitial releaseAugust 2008; 16 years ago (2008-08)Stable release2.108.0[2] / 17 January 2024 Operating systemWindows, macOS, LinuxAvailable inEnglishTypeReference management softwareLicenseProprietaryWebsitemendeley.com Mendeley is a reference manager software founded in 2007 by PhD students Paul Foeckler, Victor Henning, Jan Reichelt and acquired by the Dutch academic publishing company Elsevier in 2013. It is used to manage and share research papers and to generate bibliographies for scholarly articles. The company Mendeley, named after the Austrian biologist Gregor Mendel and the Russian chemist Dmitri Mendeleev,[3] was founded in London in November 2007 by three German PhD students. The first public beta version of the software was released in August 2008. The company's investors included some people previously involved with Last.fm, Skype, and Warner Music Group.[4] as well as academicians from Cambridge and Johns Hopkins University.Victor Henning and Jan Reichelt receiving the Plugg "European Start-up of the Year" award, 2009 In 2009, Mendeley won several awards including Plugg.eu "European Start-up of the Year 2009"[5][6] TechCrunch Europas "Best Social Innovation Which Benefits Society 2009"[7] and The Guardian ranked it #6 in "Top 100 tech media companies"[8] In 2012, Mendeley was one of the repositories for green Open Access recommended by the American philosopher Peter Suber, a leading voice in the open access movement.[9] This recommendation was revoked after Elsevier bought Mendeley and licensed it as a proprietary software.[10] Mendeley was purchased by the academic publisher Elsevier in early 2013. The deal price was speculated to be €50 million (US\$65 million).[11] The sale led to debate on scientific networks and in the media interested in Open Access.[12] and upset members of the scientific community[13] who felt that the Mendeley's acquisition by Elsevier was antithetical to Mendeley's open sharing model.[14] David Dobbs, in The New Yorker, suggested Elsevier's reasons for buying Mendeley could have been to acquire its user data and/or to "destroy or co opt an open-science icon that threatens its business model." [14] This was contrasted to a non-profit service like Unpaywall, which marketed itself as not susceptible to a sell-out to Elsevier.[15] After the acquisition, the Mendeley team extended its product line while continuing to iterate on its core reference manager application (Mendeley Desktop). On 23 September 2013, Mendeley announced iPhone and iPad apps.[16] An Android app followed shortly after. On 12 January 2015, Mendeley announced the acquisition of Newsfio, a service which provided links to press coverage of researchers' work.[17][18] The functionality was subsequently incorporated into Mendeley Feed and Mendeley Profile. In April 2016, Mendeley Data, a platform for sharing citable research datasets online, was promoted out of beta.[19] In October 2016, Mendeley Careers was launched. The service is intended to help researchers locate job opportunities.[20] On 24 May 2019, Elsevier announced two new products: Mendeley Reference Manager and Mendeley Cite.[21] On 15 March 2021, the Mendeley mobile app was removed from the Apple App Store and Google Play, leaving the only way to access the services via the web site, or using Mendeley Reference Manager (desktop app).[22] The literature search function in the desktop application had also been removed. In September 2022, Elsevier discontinued the downloads of the legacy "Mendeley Desktop" application as part of a transition to the new web-based solution (still accessible from the desktop with the more recent "Mendeley Reference Manager"). The company plans to permanently stop the signs-in to "Mendeley Desktop" in a longer term.[23] Mendeley is based on a web service requiring to first create a personal account on the Mendeley site. On the local computer side, it works in conjunction with a word processor plug-in, or add-in (mandatory), and a desktop application (now facultative for the latest current version). The new "Mendeley Reference Manager library" is cloud-based. On 7 September 2020, it replaced the former "Mendeley Web Library". This guarantees that the latest changes are always saved in the cloud and that references are accessible on several devices. The table here below provides an overview of the different Mendeley components and allows to compare the discontinued and the current applications. While the deprecated "Mendeley Desktop" is still active, it needs to be used in conjunction with the legacy "Cite-O-Matic" Word plug-in. The new "Mendeley Reference Manager" works with the "Mendeley Cite" Word add-in. The "Mendeley Cite" Word add-in being a stand alone plug-in, it can also be directly used with Word without requiring "Mendeley Reference Manager" (desktop app) to be open, or even installed. Overview of the Mendeley software components (discontinued and currently developed) and their compatibility Function of the Mendeley component Discontinued Currently developed Mendeley Web account always required "Mendeley Web Library" "Mendeley Reference Manager" (web) Desktop application (allowing to work off-line) "Mendeley Desktop" "Mendeley Reference Manager" (desktop) Citation Word" plug-in/add-in "Cite-O-Matic" Word" plug-in "Mendeley Cite" Word" add-in (stand alone app) Add-on to web browser to discover references Mendeley Web Importer for Chrome and Firefox (current) Compatibility with Windows For Windows 7+ For Windows 7+ Compatibility with macOS For macOS versions older than 10.15(Catalina, already incompatible) From macOS 10.10 (Yosemite)and more recent Note: Microsoft Word", or other word processors supported by Mendeley such as LibreOffice. Mendeley requires first to create a free account on its web site. Institutional, or premium, accounts also exist providing extra storage space to their users (academics, universities, research organisms, subscribing companies...). Free accounts can be upgraded to institutional accounts provided the user logs in with their institutional email address. If preferred, after the add-in "Mendeley Cite" has first been installed in the word processor, Mendeley can also be used entirely online, without downloading the "Mendeley Reference Manager" desktop app. Then, the library of references is simply accessed by logging into the Mendeley account with a web browser. The new citation Word add-in "Mendeley Cite" is a standalone application, which means that it can be used without having to open, or even to install, "Mendeley Reference Manager", as well as being used with online versions of Word (for Windows or macOS). This points out to the predominant importance of the cloud-based database which should always be considered by the user as the "master" prevalent reference database in order to anticipate known and potential issues when switching back from off-line to on-line, after a period of disconnection with the desktop application. Both the legacy and the new desktop applications allow to work off-line when no web connection is available, and also offer extra features. To properly function, they need to be regularly synchronised (synced) on-line with the "master" database stored in the cloud, and some operations with the desktop app, such as importing references from text files (.ris, .bibtext, .xml...) require to be connected on-line to avoid issues. Both desktop applications support various additional functionalities such as multiple PDFs local annotations, and ideas organisation, using the Mendeley Notebook.[24] Only the desktop apps (Windows, macOS, and Linux) allow to export all the references in one shot as a text file. Not all the features available in the legacy "Mendeley Desktop" application have been yet implemented in the new "Mendeley Reference Manager" desktop application and it is unclear if they will be, because the "master" reference database of Mendeley is the on-line database available in the cloud, not the local database (a copy of the master) temporarily stored on the personal computer for working off-line. To avoid problems while being off-line with the recent "Mendeley Reference Manager" desktop version, new references directly imported from text files (.ris, .bibtext, .xml...) must always first be added to the "master" web database when being connected on-line.[25] When being off-line, only small changes manually applied to the local database by using the keyboard (i.e., typos corrections, or hand-typed references) are properly synced with the "master" web database. It is not possible to export as a text file (.ris, .bibtext, .xml...) all the references stored in a library in one shot with "Mendeley Reference Manager web". The complete set of all the references can only be exported from the "Mendeley Reference Manager" desktop app (preferably when being connected on-line).[26] However, the web version allows to export selected references or collections. Mendeley lacks a function to control the capitalisation of words in the reference title, so that the list of references generated in a document may contain a mix of titles presented in different letter case formats such as "Sentence case" or "Title Case". The "Mendeley Reference Manager" desktop app works fine with macOS recent versions (Ventura, Sonoma), but as it is not yet optimized for the new mac family equipped with the Apple silicon M-series SoC processors, it requires the automatic installation of Rosetta 2 to run. Rosetta 2 is a dynamic binary translator which converts on the fly the instructions written for the Intel x86-64 processor family to the SoC (System on a Chip) of the new Apple M-series. Rosetta 2 silently works in the background, and as it does not require any interaction from the user, has even no graphical user interface. After the automatic installation of Rosetta 2, the correct handling of the Apple Disk Image (.dmg file) containing the drag and drop installer can be confusing, and quite disturbing, for the user unfamiliar with this kind of installer, if he does not immediately realise that he has to drag and drop the app icon (left) onto the shortcut of the Applications folder (right) to correctly copy the Mendeley desktop program at the right place on the Mac. After opening the disk image containing the installer, simply doubly clicking on the "Mendeley Reference Manager" desktop app icon only launches the desktop program and initiates the online registration procedure without copying the program into the Mac Applications folder as anticipated. However, a further drag and drop operation is sufficient to complete the installation without problem. The software can track reader counts, a readership statistic which has been asserted to predict citation impact.[27] whereas journal-level metrics are poor predictors of reliability.[28] An automatic metadata extraction from PDF files is also available. The platform can integrate with Microsoft Word, OpenOffice and other platforms. The platform intends to be copyright-compliant by allowing users to share files in private groups. In 2018, an update to Mendeley resulted in some users losing PDFs and annotations stored in their accounts.[29] Elsevier fixed the issue for most users after a number of weeks.[30] Comparison of reference management software Metadata discovery Citation Style Language List of academic databases and search engines Zotero - open access equivalent software tool ^ Elsevier (24 July 2013). "Victor Henning's brief guide to Mendeley". Elsevier Connect. Retrieved 2 July 2019. ^ "Stable Releases: Mendeley Reference Manager v2.108.0". Mendeley. 17 January 2024. 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You can then format the document in a citation style of your choice, e.g. Harvard, Vancouver, APA, etc. There are two Mendeley Word add-ins that allow you to insert references from your Mendeley library: If you create a document using the Mendeley Cite-O-Matic plugin, you can convert it for use with Mendeley Cite. Simply click on the Mendeley Cite button and it will prompt you to update the document. Once you have converted it, you will not be able to revert to using Mendeley Cite-O-Matic to format that document. You are advised to retain a copy of the document with your Mendeley Cite-O-Matic citations. References inserted using Mendeley Cite are not compatible with the Mendeley Cite-O-Matic plugin. Seamlessly insert references and bibliographies into your document using our citation add-in for Microsoft® Word. Get Mendeley Cite Seamlessly insert references and bibliographies into your document using our citation add-in for Microsoft® Word. Get Mendeley Cite Depending on your operating system, the MS Word Plugin will appear differently. If you are using Word for Mac, you may have a ribbon tab or an Add-in, depending on your version of Word (Pictured: Word 2016 for Mac). Both will open a floating search bar, as seen in the Windows screenshot below. Tip: You will need to enter a citation before you can select the Style, e.g.: APA, MLA, Chicago, CSE, etc. These instructions are for Mendeley Desktop users, not Mendeley Reference Manager Windows If you are using Word on Windows, the Mendeley Plugin will be integrated in the Word Ribbon. Unfortunately it closely resembles the Built-in "Insert Citation" tool in the Ribbon, so be careful to choose the "Insert Citation" with the Mendeley icon on it (Pictured: Microsoft Word 2013). Tip: You will need to enter a citation before you can select the Style, e.g.: APA, MLA, Chicago, CSE, etc. The Mendeley toolbar in LibreOffice looks similar to the older style of Word for Mac. 28,147 followers 1 mo You've just published your paper, and now you're asked to speak about it - at a conference, to a journalist, or in a policy briefing. But how do you explain what your findings really mean, especially when the discipline-specific terms aren't always well understood? Join us on April 24 to explore the fundamentals of #researchreliability, #peerreview and the limits of what evidence can - or cannot - tell us: Inserting a Single Citation 1. To insert a citation using Mendeley Cite, first select a style using the Citation Style menu. We'll choose American Psychological Association. 2. Place your cursor in the Word document at the point where you'd like to insert the citation, and add a space so your references don't get smushed. 3. Back on the References menu, search for the reference you'd like to cite using a keyword from the title, the publication year, or an author's name. 4. After you've conducted the search, click the checkbox of the resources you'd like to cite (here, I've cited the Esslin paper), and click Insert 1 Citation 5. A citation to the Esslin paper is now in your paper, where your cursor is located. Inserting Multiple Citations 6. To insert more than one citation in a single spot, search and click the checkboxes for all of the citations you'd like to add. Once you're all done, click on Insert 2 Citations (the number will change depending on how many citations you're citing at once) 7. Citations to the Esslin and Marrow papers will appear together in the text. Adding Bibliographies 8. Position your cursor at the end of your paper, where you would like to insert a bibliography. 9. Click on Insert Bibliography, under More, then click Continue. 10. 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No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation. No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Last updated on March 17, 2025 Last updated on March 17, 2025 You will need to have installed Mendeley Desktop. Windows: Mac OSX: Mendeley will detect which word processor(s) you have installed, so the options available to you may vary. Ensure your word processor is closed before attempting to install the plugin. Open Mendeley Desktop Open the Tools Menu and select the appropriate option. The citation tool installs very quickly and will confirm once it finishes. Was this answer helpful? For further assistance: Opens new window Download file Opens an image Mendeley brings your research to life, so you can make an impact on tomorrow Search over 100 million cross-publisher articles and counting Popular searches: COVID-19 Bioenergy Obesity Create a free account