

ProCite™ and EndNote™: Bibliographic Management Software

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A librarian reviews two popular bibliographic management software packages on the market today, ProCite™ and EndNote™. Emphasis here is on demonstrating the ease with which these tools can interface with digital databases, catalogs, and the World Wide Web. Readers are encouraged to experiment with free demo versions and even join an active electronic discussion group.

Since the early days of personal computing, individual librarians, researchers, and scholars have been using bibliographic management software—desktop software specially designed for managing bibliographic information. Typically, bibliographic information is compiled from library catalogs, periodical indexes, publisher's catalogs, or databases such as those of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Using bibliographic management software, individuals and research groups can compile an ongoing record of relevant outside research on a topic, and combine it with information about personal or group publications. This information can be shared by groups and published in a variety of formats.

The latest versions of EndNote™ and ProCite™, the most widely used of these programs, have features that make them well worth considering by any individual or group that needs to manage this type of information. Here is how these programs can assist and enhance research.

Database fields specially designed for managing bibliographic information

The strength of bibliographic management programs is their ability to analyze the important components of a bibliographic record. Each provides templates for over a dozen different “reference types,” from whole books to patents to video recordings and computer programs. The software is designed to ensure that information that may be crucial to research, such as patent assignees, running times of videos, or secondary

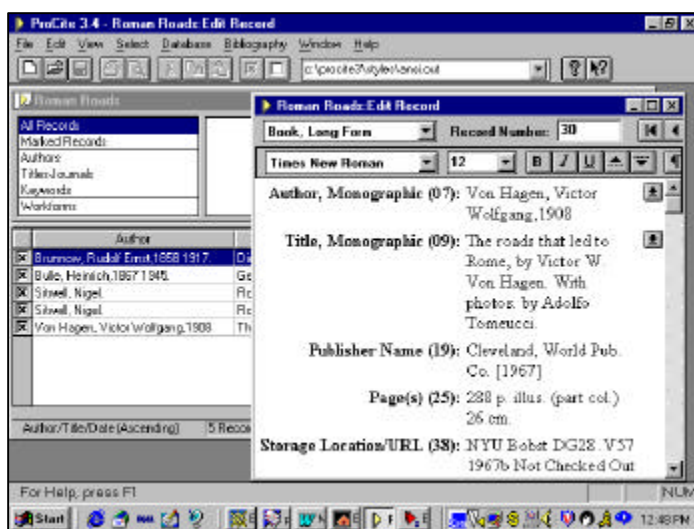


Figure 1: Screen shot depicting data being imported into a ProCite database

authors of scientific papers, is entered in a searchable field where it can easily be retrieved, no matter how large the database becomes.

Import results of computerized searches

Today, much bibliographic information is available online. Researchers with access to the Internet can retrieve bibliographic information from thousands of free and fee-based services, from manufacturers' catalogs to Lexis-Nexis. After saving the results of such a search, many of these results can be imported directly into a ProCite™ or EndNote™ database (see Figure 1).

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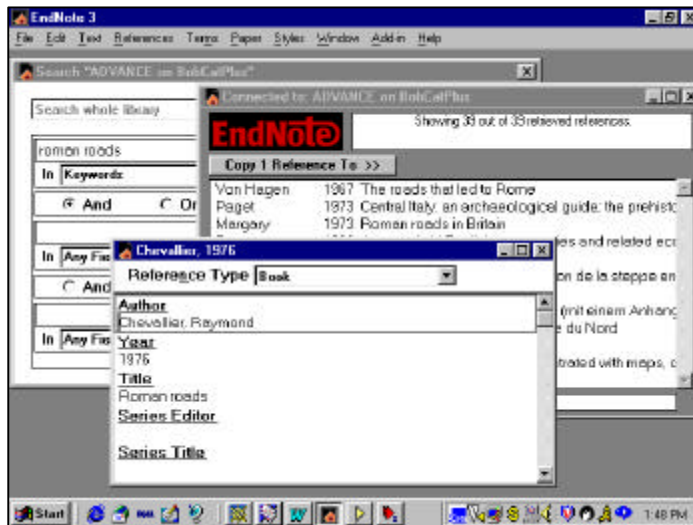


Figure 2: Screen shot depicting data being imported into an EndNote database

Search databases and catalogs directly

EndNote™ 3.0 has a built-in search interface that allows direct connection to catalogs and databases that conform to the Z39.50 protocol, an international standard for searching across electronic databases. Customized “connection files” are provided for many research libraries and database services. These records may be imported directly into EndNote™ (see Figure 2). BookWhere 2000™, which performs similar functions for ProCite™, is sold separately.

Manage research

Both programs allow the creation of an unlimited number of separate databases. A database may contain up to 32,000 records, or unique items. Databases may be searched by using key words and Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) and sorted by title, date or author. The latest versions of the programs provide a field for Internet URLs (universal resource locators, the addresses of the World Wide Web) that can be launched directly from the database, when the computer is attached to the Internet. Both programs also allow bibliographic information about a Web page to be captured while browsing the Web, creating a searchable database of Web links. Using this

feature, the full text of other items in the database, if available, may also be linked to the database by the inclusion of a local URL.

“Cite while you write”

While writing an article or report based on items in the database, a researcher may insert citations in appropriate places in the text. EndNote™ or ProCite™ may then be used to “scan” the text and convert these citations into standardized text references or footnotes. There are dozens of built-in formats, including MLA (Modern Language Association), Chicago Manual of Style, Turabian, American Chemical Society, etc. Researchers using Word 7+ for Windows or MS Word 98 or version 6 for Macintosh can retrieve these references directly from the database with add-in toolbars (see Figure 3). The software may also be used to create stand-alone bibliographies, which can be printed or exported to HTML for posting on the Web.

Share research

Researchers working with a colleague or a team may share a database across a network. Items created in EndNote™ may be exported to ProCite™ and vice versa. A new product for ProCite™, called Reference Web Poster™, allows

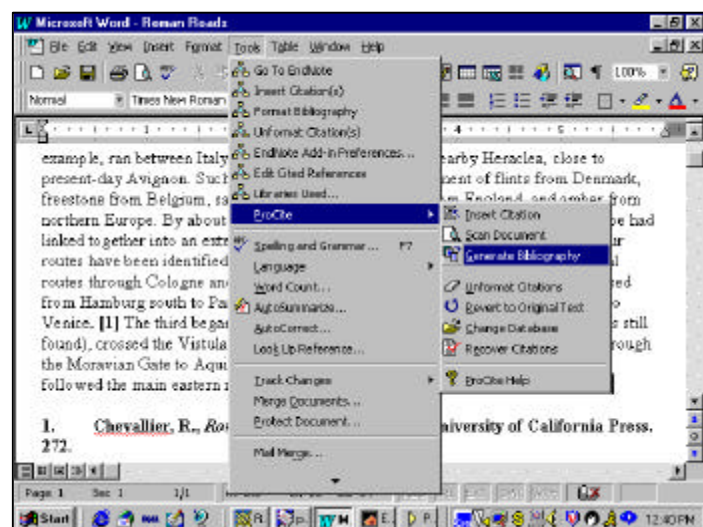


Figure 3: Screen shot depicting a citation entered directly into a MS Word document using ProCite

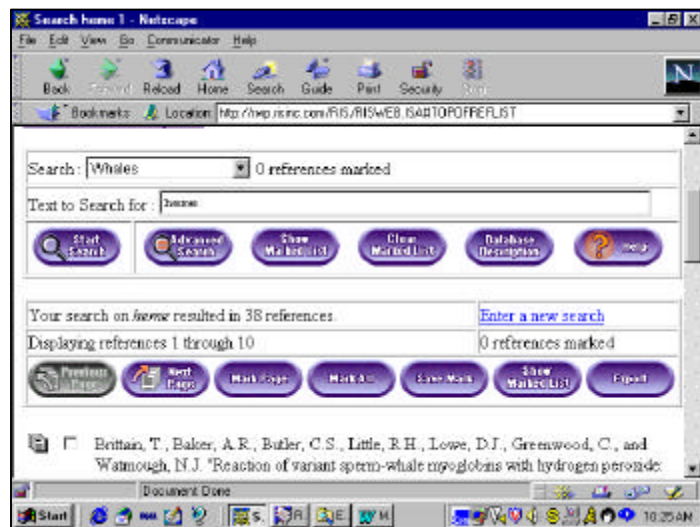


Figure 4: Screen shot depicting the sharing of a searchable database on a Web server

the posting of entire EndNote™ or ProCite™ databases to a Web server, where the searchable database may be made available to anyone on the Web (see Figure 4). Both programs also allow items to be exported to relational database programs like MS Access, for publication on networks, intranets or the Web.

Which one to choose?

A comprehensive comparison chart and reviews of the latest versions can be found in *Chorus: Electronic Research*, an electronic journal published by the University of California at Berkeley (<http://www-writing.berkeley.edu/chorus/eresearch>).

Because of its advanced support for foreign languages and greater number of customizable fields, ProCite™ is preferred by many humanities researchers and librarians. Many researchers in medicine and the biological sciences use EndNote™.

EndNote's™ built-in Z39.50 client, allowing direct connection to many library catalogs and databases, is a valuable feature. A free demo version of EndNote™ may be downloaded from Niles Software (<http://www.niles.com>). Download demo versions of ProCite™ and Bookwhere 2000™ from Research Information at <http://www.risinc.com>. There is also an active electronic discussion group for ProCite™ users at <http://www.indiana.edu/~librcsd/procite>.