



Importance of Use of Reference Management Tool among Academicians

**Nilakshi Sharma^{*}
S. N. Singh[†]**

Abstract

Maintaining moral values in life is important because it gives a writer direction to lead a successful life with mental satisfaction. Research ethics is one of the major concerns of the research community and it is considered as one of the parameters to understand the researcher's original contribution to a field. Maintaining some of the moral values can also help in maintaining research ethics which will lower the risk of plagiarism. So, it is expected that the paper will enlighten one of the major moral values an individual should possess within their lifetime and importance in academic life and how Reference Management Tool can help in maintaining the ethics in academic environment.

Keywords: *Reference Management Tool, Academic Writing, Plagiarism, Research Paper, Research Ethics.*

Integrity: Its Implication on Academics

The principle that helps a person to distinguish the right from the wrong can be termed that moral value. Moral values are some good virtues that are essential for building a good character, manner of a person which will play a worthy role for the life time and in bringing success to life. Integrity is one of those good virtues which need the quality of being honest and consistent practice to maintain strong moral and ethical principles. Integrity means doing the right thing honestly and maintaining truthfulness even when someone is not noticing the person. "Academic integrity" means maintaining honesty, trust, fairness, respect etc. in proposing, performing and reporting any activity that leads to the creation of intellectual property in an academic environment. But why is maintenance of academic integrity so important? It is because

- It welcomes someone's trust on the work.
- Academic integrity gives value to the degree.

^{*}Research Scholar, Department of Library and Information Science, Mizoram University, Aizawl, Mizoram. Email: snilakshi4@gmail.com

[†]Department of Library and Information Science, Mizoram University, Aizawl, Mizoram. Email: drsinghsn@yahoo.com

- It gives self-satisfaction and knowledge.
- It develops respect towards the person who maintains academic integrity.

Maintaining Moral Values Can Lower the Risk of Plagiarism

Academic environment experiences various types of academic dishonesty like cheating, bribery, misrepresentation, conspiracy, collusion, fabrication, misbehave, plagiarism etc. Plagiarism is the process of wrong appropriation and stealing thoughts, ideas, language and representing them as one's own work. Plagiarism is an academic dishonesty and serious ethical offense that can be avoided by practicing moral values in life. Plagiarism may be intentional and accidental which can results in

- Expulsion from the institution.
- Termination of employment.
- Repayment of grant.
- Loss of respect and trust.
- Loss of self-confidence.

An academicians should be more careful during creation of scholarly contents. Consultation of other sources is very obvious at the time of writing an article but citing the sources and acknowledging the original author of the source can prevent plagiarism. So, academic content writers can avoid plagiarism by maintaining moral values like honesty, fairness etc. Plagiarism can be prevent by-

- Giving preference to one's own language and ideas.
- Citing when it is type.
- Putting quotation and citation.
- Putting complete reference.
- Use of Plagiarism detection software
- Use of content compositing software like Rewrite Rocket.
- Use of reference management software.

Reference Management Software (RMS) and its Need

The scholarly research process mandatorily requires a thorough review of existing literature and acknowledging the consulting sources is very important to maintain academic integrity and avoid plagiarism. Reference Management Software's help a researcher in managing references from a specialized database that allows to capture, store, organize and share references that are relevant to the particular research area. Reference management software or citation management software is used by academic writers for creating and utilizing bibliographic citations. Reference management software's support different referencing styles and creates references as per its requirements. After recording citation once, it can be used for several times in scholarly books, articles and essays. Most of these reference management packages include a database in which full bibliographic details of scholarly contents are preserved. Author can generate selected lists of references in the different formats as per the guideline of the journal of his selection. Some modern reference management packages give features of integration with word processors. Due to this feature,

a reference list in the selected format is produced automatically as an article is written which minimizes the risk of non-inclusion of a cited source in the reference list and it can be easily imported from bibliographic databases. Reference management software's don't only help in managing references, but also permit users to search references from online libraries. These online libraries are usually based on Z39.50 public protocol. Use of the Reference Management Software is essential because-

- It reduces the time duration and effort of citation creation.
- It increases effectiveness and accuracy of citations.
- It lowers the risk of plagiarism.
- Adoption of technical support for research is important.
- To avoid human error.

Research shows that only 50% of LIS Faculties in Iran have a strong familiarity with reference management software (Sarrafzadeh and Hazeri). So, it is clear that if they are not aware of Reference management software, they will not use a software package of course. Another reason why researchers do not use RMS may be due to its cost. In a research half of the research scholar respondent of university of Kerala chooses the free of cost Reference Management Software (Amrutha, Kumar & Kabir). Language barrier, lack of training, language barrier etc. may be another barriers for the content writers in using RMS.

Features of RMS Can Attract Users

Academicians and researchers are the vital parts of society. Development of society is directly dependent on them. So, academicians and researchers should always set some examples for society. They should be always open and ready for adopting new methods, implementation of different digital features in academic sectors which can be an important example for their followers. Generally most of RMS has the following features which enhance the use of it.

- It is user friendly.
- Some of these are free of cost.
- Accurate and reliable results.
- Supporting software is not mandatory.
- Can work in both Online and Offline mode.
- Less consumption of time and effort.
- Free from human error.
- Support different style manuals.
- Data import and export facility in different formats.
- Integration with word-processor.
- Easy to search, create, organize, save and share bibliographic information.

Users Can Choose RMS According to the Requirements

There are two types of Reference Management Software, Paid RMS and Free RMS. Paid RMS requires an investment for its use, however invested is not needed for free RMS.

On the basis of its features, it can be said that different limitations have been identified in and rectified in paid RMS but free RMS still need this type of rectifications to increase its use among the user community. However, some Free RMS like Mendeley, Zotero etc. are actively updating their products. Examples of some free RMS are:

Mendeley: The basic version of this RMS is free and can run in major platforms like Mac, Linux and Windows. Payment is required for some additional features It provides a desktop version of the software that integrates with the based web version.

Zotero: It is originally a Firefox plugin and has recently released a beta version 3.0 that works on platforms like Mac, Windows and Linux. Zotero also supports new plugins for the Google and Safari browsers.

Examples of some paid RMS are:

Endnote: It is a heavy weight RMS package with extensive features specially the ability to connect to databases from Endnote and search and download articles using Endnote software. Currently version 15 (X5) of Endnote is working.

Reference Manager: It is another heavyweight package owned by Thomson Reuters, who own the Endnote. Currently its 12 version is running.

Papers2 for the Mac: Papers2 is the only package designed specifically for Macs. It is an updated version of Papers with an online interface known as Livfe which links to the desktop version to allow sharing references on the web and collaborative working.

RefWorks: It is a Web based product, which can be accessed wherever there is an Internet connection. Product is primarily sold to institutions for multi user access, Universities Colleges and research organizations.

Conclusion

Reference Management Software helps produce bibliographies in the correct format. It helps in acknowledging someone's ideas, works and avoids serious academic dishonesty. It provides proper justification and supports the theories, models, frameworks or facts that are used to create an intellectual output and work as a signpost to the reader indicating where they can easily find the relevant research. Representation of someone's work as one's own work is called plagiarism. Proper referencing and acknowledging others' work can avoid plagiarism. Academic integrity is the ethical value that gives values to someone's work and respect to the person. So, it can be said that use of a reference management tool can enhance academic integrity. Academicians, Researchers, other content writers can go for various RMS as per their requirement. However, some studies claim that some of the free RMS has disappeared over the years, so it is a matter of concern that if a product will suddenly disappear without notice then the user will lose access to the data. Some free software's are free only for basic level, one may have to pay for an upgrade version to access more features.

To avoid this kind of challenge and assure the user community about its stability, the creator or owner of the product should provide guarantee to the user community in written form. To enhance users of the RMS, owners of RMS have to upgrade its features. Academic institutions should arrange a training program and awareness program of reference Management Tools which can lower the risk of plagiarism and boost up the academic integrity.

References

Barman, B. (2013). *Library and information Science Ugc-Net Guide (2nd Rev and Enlarged ed.)*. DVS Publisher, Guwahati.

Comparison of reference management software. (2020, August 8).
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_reference_management_software.

Inc, S. Speedy Citations: 5 Reference Management Software Solutions for Your Research. Scribendi. https://www.scribendi.com/advice/reference_management_software_solutions.en.html.

Ivey, C., & Crum, J. (2018). Choosing the right citation management tool: EndNote, Mendeley, RefWorks, or Zotero. *Journal of the Medical Library Association*, 106(3).
<https://doi.org/10.5195/jmla.2018.468>

LibGuides: Reference management for researchers: Introduction.
<https://latrobe.libguides.com/reference-management>.

Morris, E. J. (2018). Academic integrity matters: five considerations for addressing contract cheating. *International Journal for Educational Integrity*, 14(1).
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40979-018-0038-5>

mrutha, R. V., Kumar, K. S. A., & Kabir, S. H. (2018). Use of Reference Management Software among Science Research Scholars in University of Kerala. *Indian Journal of Information Sources and Services*, 8(1), 54–57. www.trp.org.in.

Parabhoi, L., Seth, A. K., & Pathy, S. K. (2017). Citation Management Software Tools: a Comparison with Special Reference to Zotero and Mendeley. *Journal of Advances in Library and Information Science*, 6(3), 288–293. www.jalis.in.

Plagiarism & Academic Integrity: Welcome. LibGuides.
<https://spcollege.libguides.com/c.php?g=254383>.

- Sarrafzadeh, M., & Hazeri, A. (2014). The familiarity and use of reference management software by LIS faculties in Iran. *New Library World*, 115(11/12), 558–570. <https://doi.org/10.1108/nlw-02-2014-0018>
- Sarrafzadeh, M., & Khaleghi, N. (2017). Instruction of Citation Management Tools by Academic Librarians: The Need for Training the Trainers. *Webology*, 14(1), 53–65. <http://www.webology.org/2017/v14n1/a155.pdf>.
- Top tips on referencing and reference management software. <http://www.ukeig.org.uk/factsheet/top-tips-referencing-and-reference-management-software>.
- Tramullas, J., Sánchez-Casabón, A. I., Garrido-Picazo, P. (2015). Studies and analysis of reference management software: A literature review. *El Profesional De La Información*, 24(5), 680. <https://doi.org/10.3145/epi.2015.sep.17>
- Wikipedia Foundation. (2020, June 28). Reference management software. Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reference_management_software.