Writing for Publication: References Made Easier

WENDY H. VOGEL, MSN, FNP, AOCNP® and PAMELA HALLQUIST VIALE, RN, MS, CS, ANP, AOCNP®

Writing for publication can be a daunting process. Advanced practice clinicians have clinical experiences and knowledge that are invaluable to a reader, but the technicalities of writing can frequently be a significant barrier. The mechanics of working with bibliographies and interpreting various writing styles can be overwhelming, which only adds to a new writer's stress level. While there are thousands of reference styles available to potential authors, the American Psychological Association (APA) and American Medical Association (AMA) styles are among the most commonly used in medicine and nursing. In fact, the APA has just released the 6th edition of its Publication Manual (APA, 2009), which is the style used in this journal.

There are some significant changes in the 6th edition of the APA manual, including the addition of a digital object identifier (DOI) at the end of a reference when available. A DOI is a unique alphanumeric string assigned by the International DOI Foundation to assist in content identification and to provide a link to its location on the Internet. DOI numbers are static links; they never change and may be used to link permanently to electronic documents. Examples of a DOI may be examined in reference listings from articles in this issue.

Reference management software is designed to make the citation of references and creation of bibliographies easier. Some of these tools are web-based, others are network versions, and still others are desktop software. These programs facilitate a writer's ability to search, download, store, and organize any type of reference material. Some programs will allow you to "cite while you write"—that is, to insert citations and create the bibliography and figure list as one writes. They can save the writer many hours of valuable time and can be used for writing curricula vitae, manuscripts, theses/dissertations, grant proposals, term papers, and many other publications.

This edition of *Tools and Technology* highlights select software packages and Web sites that offer assistance in the citing of references and creation of bibliographies for publications. The list below is not all-inclusive, but instead selects several programs popular with writers. When choosing a reference management software program, consider the operating systems interface, ease of use and learning curve, available writing styles, import filters, database limitations, cost, and features such as EndNote®'s Cite While You Write™. We recommend viewing online demos and taking advantage of free trials. Plan some time to become familiar with your new software before beginning to write.

ENDNOTE® (WINDOWS/MAC OS X)

EndNote® is an all-in-one tool that allows users to integrate multiple tasks into a single program, including search of online bibliographic databases; organization of references, images, PDFs and other files; Cite While You Write™; and collaboration with EndNote® Web, a web-based research and writing component of EndNote®. It includes more than 3,700 bibliographic styles, including APA 6th edition and AMA. Free EndNote® tutorials and webinars are available online.

Free 30 day trial; full version and individual license ($249.95); upgrades ($99.95). Special offers available for universities and students. Visit http://www.endnote.com for more information.

NOODLEBIB (WINDOWS/ MAC OS X)

NoodleBib is a comprehensive web-based program that allows users to search intelligently while critically assessing the quality of results. With this tool, users are able to record, organize, and synthesize information with online note cards and then format their bibliography in MLA, APA, or Chicago/Turabian style. NoodleBib provides help for each citation element when needed, and generates parenthetical references as the user writes. Students and teachers can share working bibliographies, and information can be exported into Microsoft Word.

The Web site offers several free software tools, including NoodleBib Express for one or two quick citations instead of a saved source list.

Individual or institutional subscription available; monthly individual subscriptions ($4.00–$8.00). Visit http://www.noodletools.com for more information.

BOOKENDS (MAC OS X)

Bookends provides writers with comprehensive reference management. It aids in the collection, annotation, and citation of published information by performing Internet searches to retrieve references. It also can immediately extract references from PDFs. A stand-alone lightweight version of Bookends' online search is available at no cost in Reference Miner, which allows exploration of PubMed, Library of Congress, Google Scholar, and Amazon. Using the PubMed On Tap application (available for purchase on the iTunes App Store), users are able to import references and PDFs found on their iPhone or iPod Touch devices into the Bookends database. Bookends is only available in Mac format.

Free demo with 50 reference limit; single user purchase ($99.00); student rate available. Additional charge for updates and assorted fee structures. Visit http://www.sonnysoftware.com for more information.

SCHOLARWORD (WINDOWS, MAC OS X, MAC CLASSIC, AND LINUX)

This program is a comprehensive writing guide and formatting software for academic writing. It will format an entire paper according to any of the leading style manuals (MLA, APA, Chicago, or Council of Style Editors). Software for APA will format a cover page and all of the citations according to the 5th edition (6th edition not yet available) of the APA Publication Manual. ScholarWord supports citations from books, periodicals, print and nonprint sources, as well as Internet sources.

Free 7 day trial and online demo available; ScholarWord single style (APA) edition ($29.95); ScholarWord Pro ($49.95). Visit http://scholarword.com for more information.

REFWORKS (WINDOWS, MAC OS X, UNIX, AND LINUX)

RefWorks is a web-based tool for research management. It serves as a writing and collaboration tool to assist in the collection, management, storage, and sharing of all types of information. The program's Write-N-Cite feature allows citations and bibliographies to be generated as you write. With RefWorks, references can be imported quickly and easily from most major online database services, other bibliographic software packages, RSS Feeds, web pages, and library catalogs. RefWorks supports hundreds of output styles, including APA (6th edition) and AMA. Tutorials and webinars are available.

Free 30 day trial and online demo available; yearly subscription ($100). Visit http://www.refworks.com for more information.

FREEWARE

Reference management freeware is also available. These generally have fewer features and vary in ease of use. An Internet search of reference or bibliography management software will find the following resources, and many more.

- BibDesk (Mac OS X): http://bibdesk.sourceforge.net
- CiteULike: http://www.citeulike.org
- Connotea: http://www.connotea.org
- Scholar's Aid: http://www.scholarsaid.com
- Zotero: http://www.zotero.org

As noted earlier, the 6th edition of the APA Publication Manual added the requirement of a DOI at the ending of a reference if available. CrossRef (http://www.crossref.org/) is another handy resource to utilize. This Web site will locate DOIs for your references. You can also turn a DOI string into a URL. CrossRef is the official DOI link registration agency for scholarly and professional publications, covering millions of articles and other content items from several hundred publishers.

We know that advanced practitioners are a valued source of knowledge and clinical skills, and it is our hope that these tools will make writing for publication less difficult. Sharing this knowledge through publication not only assists other practitioners in care delivery, but it also highlights and legitimizes the advanced practitioner professions. Ready? Set... WRITE!

Are there topics you would like to see addressed in the Tools & Technology section? We'd like to hear from you! Please send your suggestions to editor@advancedpractitioner.com.