Artificially enhanced research

Free software and fantastic research

Dan Scott November 24, 2008





First, a word about our browser

- It all starts with Mozilla Firefox:
 - A great, feature-filled, secure browser
 - A great platform for geeksdevelopers
 - And free in all senses of the word
- Get it at http://mozilla.com NOW!





LibX toolbar

- Let your library follow you on the Web
 - Quick search the library catalogue and A-Z electronic journals list from the toolbar
 - Proxy URLs for off-campus access
 - Find articles by citation ("Magic" button)
 - Sprinkle lookup "cues" throughout the Web for books and articles:
 - Amazon, Chapters, Google Scholar
- Get it at http://tinyurl.com/lulibx



LibX examples

- Quick field search in catalogue:
 - Title: "soccer" and Author: "reilly"
- Embedded cues and xISBN search:
 - http://tinyurl.com/anciento
- A-Z e-journals:
 - "sport sciences"



Zotero plugin

- Collect, store, organize, and cite your research materials
 - Grab citations with site translators
 - Archive Web pages, PDF documents, and any other file attachments
 - Organize via folders and tags, annotate with notes
 - Search all reference fields, notes, tags, and through full-text (HTML)
 - Generate references in a variety of styles



Site translators

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By: Day, Helen. Journal of Sponsorship, Jul2008, Vol. 1 Issue		•					
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Make off-campus work easy

 Use Laurentian's proxy to access licensed content in Zotero Preferences:

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Set General -> Resolver to:

http://sfx.scholarsportal.info.librweb.laurentian.ca/laurentian/



And make it even easier...

- Automatically grab any available PDF when you save a citation:
 - Set General -> Automatically attach associated PDFs and other files...
- So now you can be on the road, completely disconnected, and still be able to access your research resources
- Sorry about that.



Seek and ye shall find

- Zotero and RefWorks offer similar basic and advanced metadata search options (title, author, journal)
 - But Zotero also offers full text search against attached HTML, PDF, and notes – WIN!
 - Beware:
 - Some full-text databases just have poorly scanned documents with no recognized text to index (hello, Gale!)
 - Grab the HTML as well for search purposes



Tag – you're it

- Zotero also offers tagging support, like iTunes
 - Converts subjects and descriptors to tags
 - Add your own custom tags
 - Tags are scoped by collection context





Word processor integration

- Plugins for Word and OpenOffice.org to insert references and generate bibliographies
 - 15 styles including APA, Chicago, and MLA supported out of the box
 - Approximately 1200 more available for download



Let's try it out...



Generating bibliographies

- Better living through automation but:
 - Your bibliographies can only be as good as your article metadata
 - Translator quality varies from site to site
 - So you still have to do some work...





Zotero 1.5 "Sync Preview"

- Available now is the "sync preview" release
 - Store your Zotero collection on a remote server
 - Synchronize your collection on multiple computers
 - Share and discover other related resources based on your collection
- Addresses Zotero's Achilles heel backups are hard



The Escape Clause

- Getting from RefWorks to Zotero is as simple as:
 - (RefWorks): References -> Export -> BibTeX
 - (Zotero): Actions -> Import
- Automatically converts keywords to tags



And the reverse escape...

- Going from Zotero to RefWorks:
 - (Zotero): Actions -> Export Library... -> BibTex
 - (RefWorks): References -> Import...
 - Import filter / Data source: BibTex
 - Encoding: UTF-8
- Caveats:
 - You have to export your entire Zotero library
 - All references go into a single RefWorks folder



Zotero summary

Positives:

- Integrated resources can greatly ease workflow
- Organization and retrieval options are impressive
- Synchronization and better backup coming soon
- Gratis and libre
- Negatives:
 - Site translator quality varies widely
 - Not the officially supported option for Laurentian
- All at http://zotero.org

