

# Zotero Walkthrough

Bibliography software is an essential tool for writing academic papers. If you don't use this already, I highly recommend it because it will make your life much easier than managing your references manually. There are various options available, some of which cost money, such as Endnote, and some of which are free, such as Zotero.

Why should you care? This kind of tool will do the following for you:

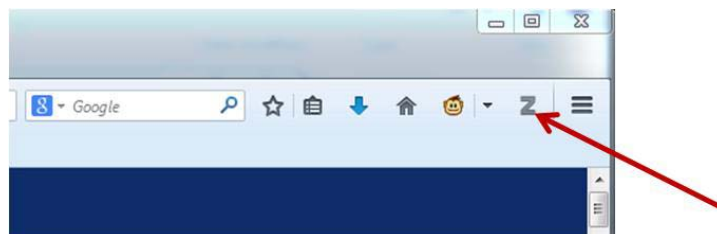
1. Automatically grab reference information off of a browser page so you don't have to type in the author, title, date, etc.
2. Automatically create the bibliography (references) list you need at the end of your paper and format it in the desired style (APA, IEEE, etc.)
3. Automatically format the in-text citations in the desired style (you just have to tell it where the citation goes).

Step 1 requires integration with a browser. Steps 2 and 3 require integration with a document editor (such as MS Word). Below, I give a quick walkthrough of how to use Zotero with MS Word and Firefox to create a short paper with citations and references. If you don't have MS Word, there may be other free choices besides Zotero that will work with Open Office, Google Docs, or whatever you use. You'll have to do some searching to find it (I don't think Zotero fully supports either of those although I think it partially supports Google Docs).

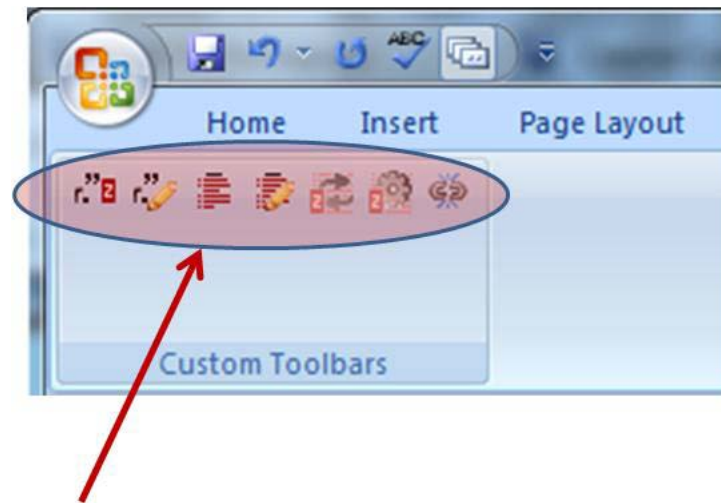
## WALKTHROUGH

**Step 1.** Install Zotero – at this point it should be integrated with MS Word and Firefox.

You can tell Zotero is integrated with Firefox when you see the Zotero “Z” icon in the upper-right area of Firefox. If you don't see this, you may have to take some action to make browser add-ons visible or enabled.



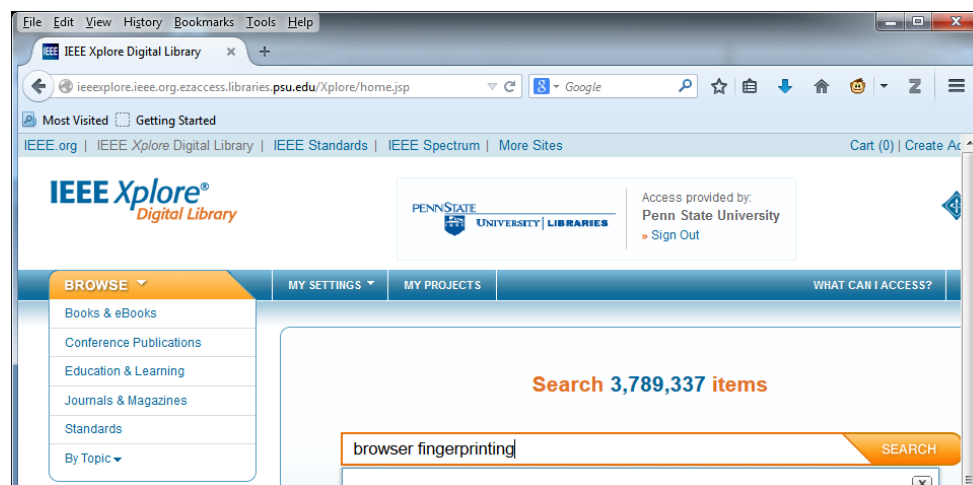
You can tell Zotero is integrated with MS Word by finding the Zotero tool icons in Word's custom toolbar area. You may need to configure Word to make this visible.



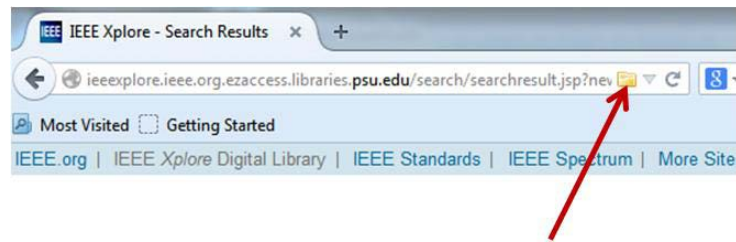
## Step 2: Get some references

Let's say we're researching browser fingerprinting. There are various databases that may have relevant research papers on this topic. I'll go to the IEEE database using PSU's library system.

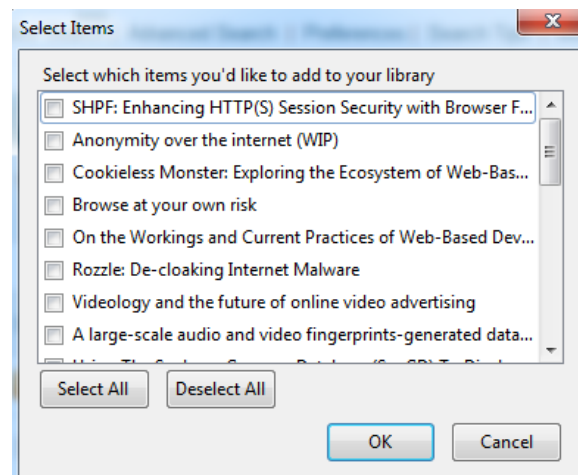
After going to [libraries.psu.edu](http://libraries.psu.edu), selecting the "databases" tab, and searching for "IEEE", I get a link to *IEEE Explore*, the database I'm looking for. I enter the search query "browser fingerprinting."



23 results are returned. Zotero tells me it found papers it can index on the current page by indicating this in the browser URL bar via its “save to Zotero” icon:

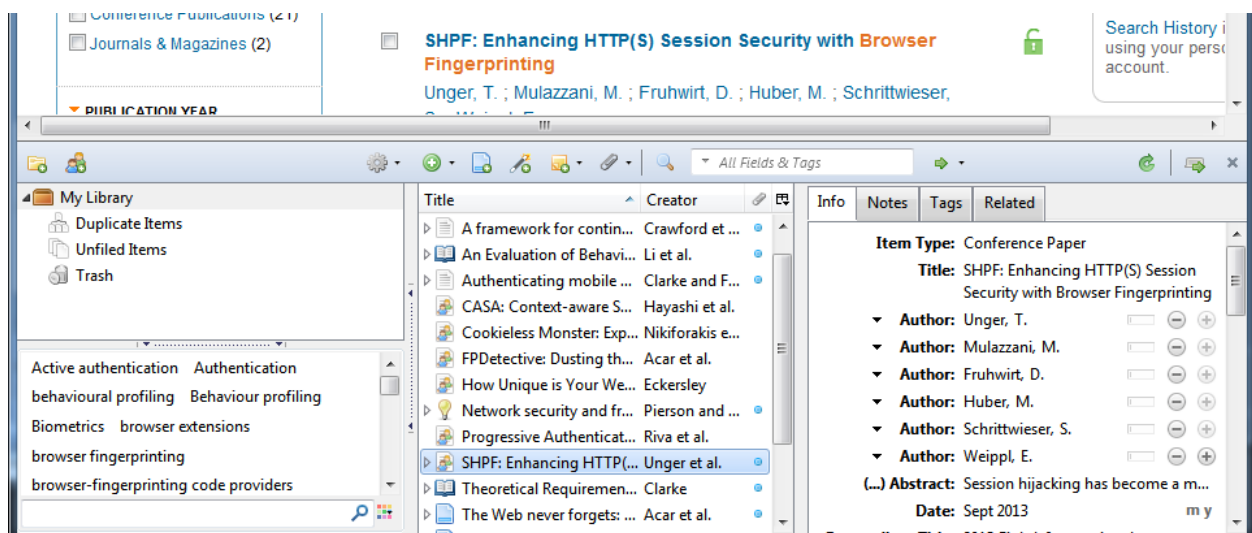


If I select this icon, I get Zotero’s selection box:



Note: I can simply check which papers I want and select OK to put them in my local Zotero index. I’ll choose the first and third paper for this example.

To verify the papers were added, and to see my Zotero library, I can select the “Z” icon at the top of Firefox. This will open the Zotero tools area at the bottom of the browser.



In the middle frame, we can see a list of paper titles, including the two I just added, along with information about the selected paper in the right frame. At this point, we are ready to use Zotero with MS Word.

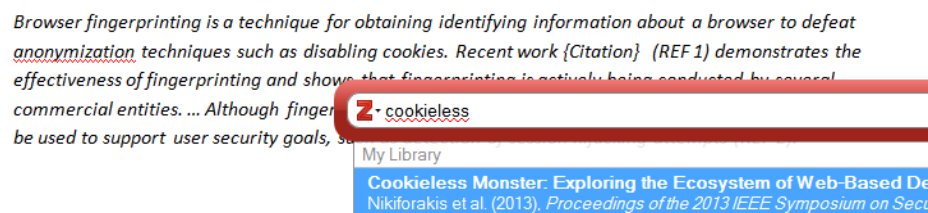
Note: Zotero can also grab the current page as a web reference in cases where you want to reference a web page. Use the “create web page item from current page” icon above the middle frame to do this.

### Step 3: Add in-text citations

At this point, we want to use the references we just found in our paper on “browser fingerprinting”. One of these references describes fingerprinting in terms of its techniques and prevalence. The other describes a specific application of using fingerprinting to defeat session hijacking. Suppose I wanted to write the following in my paper:

*Browser fingerprinting is a technique for obtaining identifying information about a browser to defeat anonymization techniques such as disabling cookies. Recent work (REF 2) demonstrates the effectiveness of fingerprinting and shows that fingerprinting is actively being conducted by several commercial entities. ... Although fingerprinting is largely associated with Internet surveillance, it can also be used to support user security goals, such as detection of session hijacking attempts (REF 1).*

I need in-text citations in the two places indicated in the above paragraph (these are only shown for illustration purposes). The first one needs the “Cookieless Monster” paper. To add that citation, I go to the Zotero toolbar and select the “Zotero insert citation” icon (hover over the icons to get their descriptions; In my toolbar, it is the leftmost icon). I then get the Zotero search tool shown below in which I enter a search term to bring up the paper I’m looking for.



Once I see the paper I’m looking for in the results list, I select it and then hit return to have it placed in the text. I add the second citation and the result looks like this:

*Browser fingerprinting is a technique for obtaining identifying information about a browser to defeat anonymization techniques such as disabling cookies. Recent work [1] demonstrates the effectiveness of fingerprinting and shows that fingerprinting is actively being conducted by several commercial entities. ... Although fingerprinting is largely associated with Internet surveillance, it can also be used to support user security goals, such as detection of session hijacking attempts [2].*

Note that the citation style is [#]. This is the IEEE style I have configured in Zotero. It can easily be changed to something else, such as APA format:

*Browser fingerprinting is a technique for obtaining identifying information about a browser to defeat anonymization techniques such as disabling cookies. Recent work (Nikiforakis et al., 2013) demonstrates the effectiveness of fingerprinting and shows that fingerprinting is actively being conducted by several commercial entities. ... Although fingerprinting is largely associated with Internet surveillance, it can also be used to support user security goals, such as detection of session hijacking attempts (Unger et al., 2013).*

To change the format, use the “Zotero set doc prefs” toolbar icon.

#### **Step 4:** Add references section

The last step is to create the bibliography we need at the end of the paper. This is very easy with Zotero. We just put the cursor at the end of the document (where we want the bibliography to go) and select the “Zotero insert bibliography” icon. Voila! Any changes you make in terms of removing citations, etc. can be updated with the “Zotero refresh” toolbar icon.

[1] N. Nikiforakis, A. Kapravelos, W. Joosen, C. Kruegel, F. Piessens, and G. Vigna, “Cookieless Monster: Exploring the Ecosystem of Web-Based Device Fingerprinting,” in *Proceedings of the 2013 IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy, Washington, DC, USA, 2013*, pp. 541–555.

[2] T. Unger, M. Mulazzani, D. Fruhwirt, M. Huber, S. Schrittwieser, and E. Weippl, “SHPF: Enhancing HTTP(S) Session Security with Browser Fingerprinting,” in *2013 Eighth International Conference on Availability, Reliability and Security (ARES), 2013*, pp. 255–261.