

# JabRef Demo

*Structures Group - Student Research Session*

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## Why use a reference manager?

I currently have around 200 references, and it is impossible to remember who wrote what and where without having something to search those references.

Reference managers also provide a way to manage the PDF files associated with the article, as well as weblinks, etc.

Adding new articles to your reference manager takes a few minutes, but it will repay itself over time by having things ordered. Especially when you're writing a paper, and need to quickly be able to check what the reference said exactly.

## Reference Managers : JabRef

Depends on the software you're writing your papers with. For Microsoft Word, things like EndNote and RefMan can be used. These cost money, but the department should have a license for these programs. I have never uses these, but the basic benefits are the same, regardless of the exact program you use.

I use LaTeX for writing my reports and papers, and will demonstrate a reference manager that is particularly suited for this: JabRef.

JabRef is written in Java, so it means it can run on Windows, Mac, Linux, etc. It is also open-source, which means it is free, and it is easy to contribute, which is what I have done on occasion.

Download here: <http://sourceforge.net/projects/jabref/>

## LaTeX & BibTeX

An extremely brief introduction to LaTeX (you could fill hours on this)

- write in a text editor, and then compile into a PDF
- we link to a BibTeX file which contains info about the references we want to use for this document
  - all the information about the reference is contained within the BibTeX file
  - every reference has a unique name. Traditionally this is <author><year>, which I use consistently, both for my digital and paper files. This consistency makes your life a whole lot easier!
- you could maintain these BibTeX files by hand, but this is exactly where JabRef comes in....

## Starting JabRef

What I will show today about JabRef, is some of the basic stuff, like editing and adding references, managing PDFs and links. Also a few more advanced things, so you can see how useful JabRef can become once you start using it consistently.

I will start with simply opening one of my reference files.

- Demo : show how to edit existing entries (article, conference, etc.)
- Demo : show how to add new entry
  - add all information, note things like *bibtexkey*, *abstract*, *doi*, *pdf*
  - DOI (Digital Object Identifier) is extremely useful
  - auto-link PDFs / set PDF directory
  - change type of reference (article, conference, book)
- Demo : add new entry from website

## Finding References

You can do the regular search stuff

- Demo: regular search (incremental, float, etc.)
- Demo: search per field, e.g. *entrytype=misc AND title=hypar*

## Grouping References

This can be a really useful feature, if your reference file encompasses various projects, or you'd simply like to distinguish between different topics.

You can create groups that automatically filter by a search criterion, or you can just add references manually to groups.

- Demo : view items in a group
- Demo : view items in multiple group, union/intersect

With a growing reference file this becomes very useful to keep track of things.

## Selected BibTeX file for submitting

I use my main reference file for all papers & reports, but when submitting your files to a publisher, you don't want to send the entire file but only those references you've used.

JabRef has option for this: 'New subdatabase based on AUX file'

- Demo : use this for a report I've written

This automatically creates a new BibTeX based on the references you actually used for that particular report or article.

## Import/Export

JabRef has numerous Import and Export functions, which means you can move your data between different reference managers if needed (although BibTeX is considered a universal exchange format).

Very useful option is the ability to export to HTML files, so you can put references up on your website. Or, in my case, I use the HTML version as my main reference search/lookup file.

- Demo : HTML table with Abstract & BibTeX

Adding additional export filters is quite simple,

- Demo : adding List Refs

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