

# Recording references

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This brief provides **1** guidance on getting started with BibTeX, and **2** rudimentary guidance on using reference management software for referencing.

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## 1 BibTeX

**BibTeX** is a tool and also a file format for describing and processing lists of references, mostly in conjunction with **L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X** documents. For our purpose, it suffices to treat BibTeX as a file format for bibliography. In the **L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X** source of this document, notice the two lines near the end:

```
\bibliographystyle{aomalpha}  
\bibliography{ref}
```

Above,

- The first macro `\bibliographystyle` defines the **style of the bibliography**, which in our case is the alphanumeric style called **aomalpha** designed for the **Annals of Mathematics** (where John Nash published his seminal game theory papers). There are standard styles like the American Psychological Association (APA) style, the Chicago style, and the Harvard style, a version of which has been **adopted by UniSA** as their standard. Publishers like IEEE, ASME, Elsevier and Wiley also have their own bibliography styles. A comprehensive list of bibliography styles can be found on **BibTeX.com**. We use **aomalpha** in this course because citations in this style are more compact than Harvard-style citations, yet more informative than numeric citations.

- The second macro `\bibliography` specifies the name of the file where the BibTeX entries are kept. The subsequent instructions explain how BibTeX entries can be obtained.

Suppose we found a relevant journal article on [Google Scholar](#). [Figure 1](#) shows how we can obtain the BibTeX entry for the journal article.

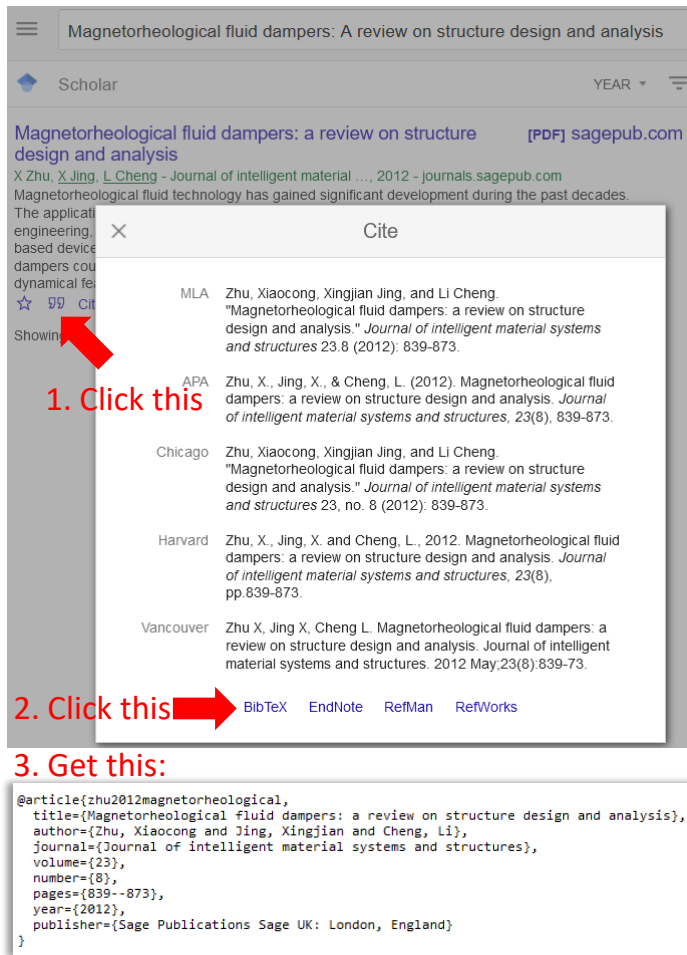


Figure 1: Obtaining a BibTeX entry from Google Scholar.

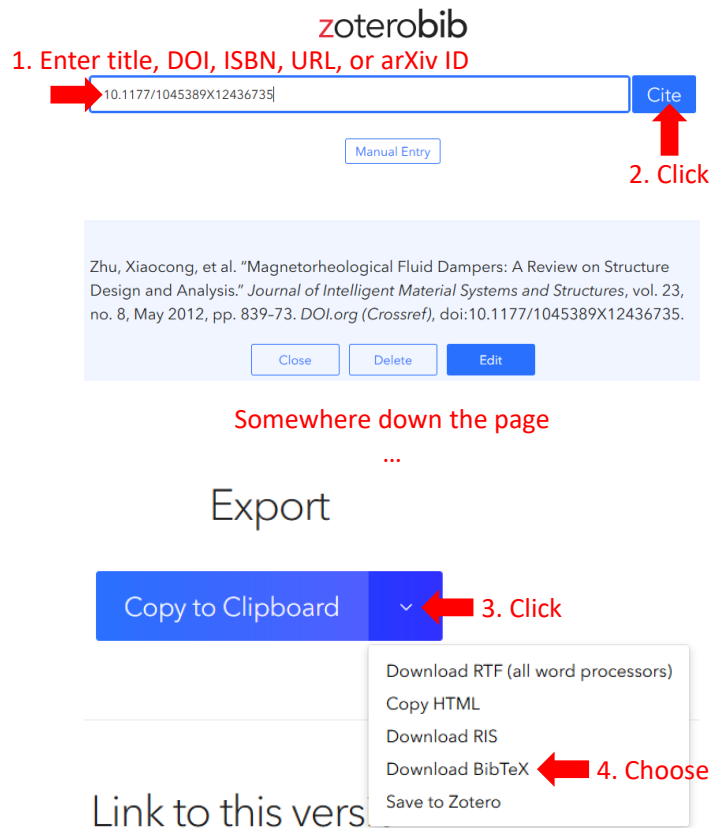


Figure 2: Obtaining a BibTeX entry from zoterobib.

Suppose the article turns out to be [ZJC12]. Given the title or Digital Object Identifier (DOI) of the article, we can use the website [zoterobib](#) to obtain the associated BibTeX entry, as per [Figure 2](#).

However, the **recommended approach** is to get the BibTeX entry from the publisher's website, which for this example paper [ZJC12] is SAGE Publishing. [Figure 3](#) shows how we can get the BibTeX entry from SAGE Publishing. If the paper happens to have been published by IEEE, for example the paper [GJPL09], we can get the BibTeX entry from IEEE as per [Figure 4](#). Most publishers provide BibTeX entries through their websites.

Figure 3: Obtaining a BibTeX entry from SAGE Publishing.

Figure 4: Obtaining a BibTeX entry from IEEE.

### ⚠ Attention: Citing a website

To cite an *undated* website (e.g., <https://www.overleaf.com>) or to cite a website *once*, it is acceptable to use a footnote, e.g., Overleaf<sup>a</sup>, rather than a BibTeX entry. There are standard ways of citing websites [Lan15]. If you need to cite a website multiple times, definitely make a BibTeX entry based on the URL.

<sup>a</sup><https://www.overleaf.com>

In case you cannot obtain a BibTeX entry from the source of the reference, e.g., a white paper, there are generally two ways to create a BibTeX entry: using a reference management software, or typing it out manually. We discuss these two methods in the next two sections.

## 2 Recording references using a reference management software

The main options for a reference management software are

- EndNote (**available** through library),
- Mendeley (**freely available** through Elsevier),
- Zotero (**freely available** through Corporation for Digital Scholarship, a nonprofit organisation).

A choice among EndNode, Mendeley and Zotero depends on individual preferences, but please read **this selection guide by Washington University at St Louis**. Here we use Zotero for examples.

In this example, suppose we desire a BibTeX entry for **this data brief** from STMicroelectronics. **Figure 5** shows how we can operate Zotero to export a BibTeX entry:

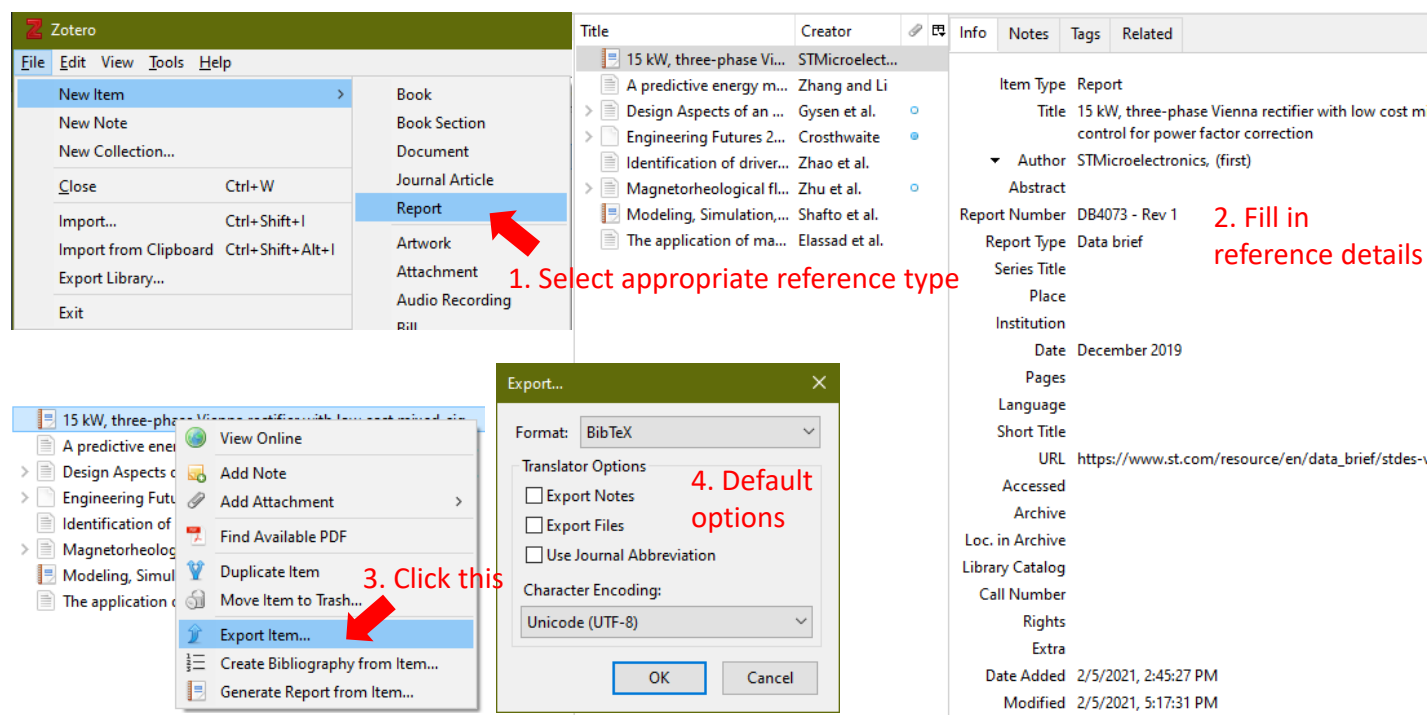


Figure 5: Creating a report-like reference item in Zotero and exporting the item to BibTeX.

As of version 5.0.95.1, the BibTeX entry exported by Zotero reads:

```
@techreport{stmicroelectronics_15_2019,
  type = {Data brief},
  title = {15 {kW}, three-phase {Vienna} rectifier with low cost mixed-signal
  control for power factor correction},
  url = {https://www.st.com/resource/en/data_brief/stdes-viennarect.pdf},
  number = {DB4073 - Rev 1},
  author = {{STMicroelectronics}},
  month = dec,
  year = {2019},
}
```

Above,

- Zotero encloses “kW” and “Vienna” with curly brackets to preserve its casing/capitalisation.
- We have to be careful to enclose “STMicroelectronics” with two pairs of curly brackets to preserve its casing/capitalisation; because Zotero is not smart enough to automatically does it.
- You might want to customise the *citation key* or *reference key* `stmicroelectronics_15_2019` according to your own naming convention. Google and Microsoft for example use the naming convention `<first author’s last name><year><first non-preposition word of title>`. Applying Google’s and Microsoft’s naming convention to the citation key above, we would get `stmicroelectronics201915`.

Besides generating BibTeX entries, Zotero is useful for

- redirecting a publisher’s website through a subscriber-accessible proxy (Figure 6 shows the moment when Zotero detects the UniSA library’s proxy at <https://access.library.unisa.edu.au>);
- indexing documents (Figure 7 shows a sample search result based on the index it keeps of all attached documents).

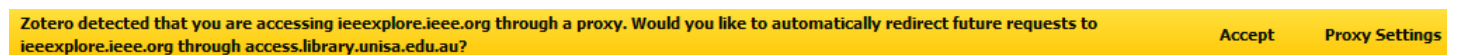


Figure 6: Upon detecting proxy usage, Zotero displays this on a web browser.

### 3 Recording references in BibTeX manually

To type out a BibTeX entry, know that there are multiple types, including `techreport` (technical report, which we saw earlier) and `article`. An example an article BibTeX entry looks like:

```
@article{nash1951noncooperative,
  author = {John Nash},
  title = {Non-Cooperative Games},
  journal = {Annals of Mathematics},
  volume = {54},
```

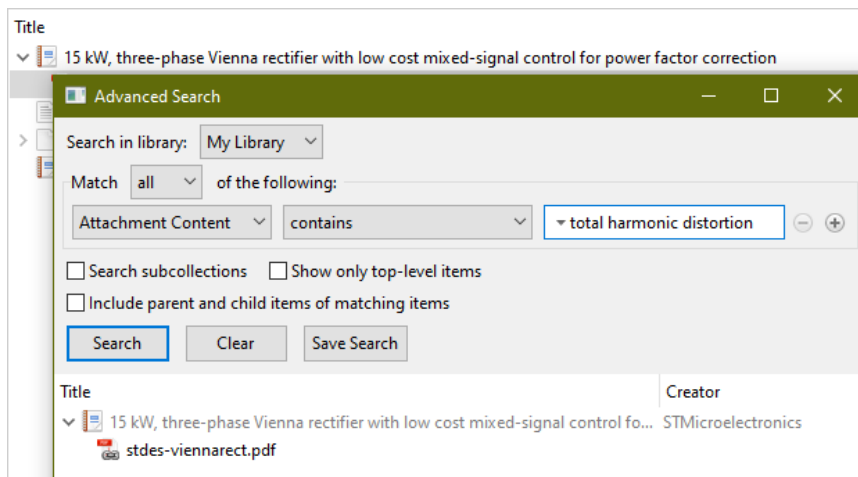


Figure 7: Zotero can index documents.

```

number = {2},
pages = {286--295},
publisher = {Annals of Mathematics},
year = {1951},
issn = {0003486X},
url = {http://www.jstor.org/stable/1969529},
}

```

Every reference entry type has *required* fields and *optional* fields. An article reference entry, such as the above, has only four required fields, namely author, title, journal and year. All the other fields in the example above are optional. Information about the different reference entry types and associated required fields is available in the [L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X Wikibook](#). Some optional fields like `issn` and `url` are only recognised in some bibliography styles.

- We can use [BibTeX.com](#) to determine the fields recognised by a bibliography style. For example, [this page](#) shows all the fields recognised by the bibliography style `aomalpha`.
- Conversely, we can also use [BibTeX.com](#) to determine the bibliography styles that recognise a particular field. For example, [this page](#) shows all the bibliography styles that recognise the field `issn`.

In case the above is not clear enough, [Imperial College London has a learning support page on BibTeX](#).

## 4 References

[GJPL09] B. L. J. GYSEN, J. L. G. JANSSEN, J. J. H. PAULIDES, and E. A. LOMONOVA, Design aspects of an active electromagnetic suspension system for automotive applications, *IEEE Transactions on Industry Applications* **45** no. 5 (2009), 1589–1597. <https://doi.org/10.1109/TIA.2009.2027097>.

- [Lan15] LANGUAGE AND LEARNING ADVISERS AND LIBRARIANS, *Harvard referencing guide UniSA*, University of South Australia, 2015. Available at [https://lo.unisa.edu.au/pluginfile.php/438774/mod\\_book/chapter/39173/HRG%20January%202015%20final%20version.pdf](https://lo.unisa.edu.au/pluginfile.php/438774/mod_book/chapter/39173/HRG%20January%202015%20final%20version.pdf).
- [ZJC12] X. ZHU, X. JING, and L. CHENG, Magnetorheological fluid dampers: A review on structure design and analysis, *Journal of Intelligent Material Systems and Structures* **23** no. 8 (2012), 839–873. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1045389X12436735>.