

# HOW TO CONQUER THE LITERATURE?

IF I HAVE SEEN FURTHER, IT IS BY  
STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS

## 1. SEARCHING FOR THE IDEAL REFERENCE

### Option 1: Using academic search engines

1. Web of Science ([www.webofknowledge.com](http://www.webofknowledge.com))  
Not freely available, but accessible through the UGent network (either at the UGent or using a VPN connection)
2. Google Scholar ([scholar.google.be](http://scholar.google.be)): Freely available
3. ResearchGate ([www.researchgate.net](http://www.researchgate.net)): Freely available
4. Preprint archives, *e.g.* arXiv ([arxiv.org](http://arxiv.org)): Freely available

### Option 2: Directly via publisher's websites

- The American Chemical Society ([pubs.acs.org](http://pubs.acs.org))
- The Royal Society of Chemistry ([pubs.rsc.org](http://pubs.rsc.org))
- Springer Nature ([www.springernature.com/gp/products/journals](http://www.springernature.com/gp/products/journals))
- The American Association for the Advancement of Science ([www.aaas.org/science-journals](http://www.aaas.org/science-journals))
- Elsevier ([www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com))
- Wiley ([onlinelibrary.wiley.com](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com))
- The American Institute of Physics ([journals.aip.org](http://journals.aip.org))

While the publishing community is moving towards an open-access culture, many journals and papers remain behind paywalls. For some, the CMM or Ghent University has a subscription, otherwise, other solutions need to be found.

### Option 3: Using the Digital Object Identifier (DOI)

The Digital Object Identifier is a unique combination of characters, *e.g.*, 10.1039/C4CS00146J, identifying digital objects such as papers. These are useful to retrieve a full text or “reverse search”, and are typically provided in scientific articles. Simply append the DOI to “[dx.doi.org/](http://dx.doi.org/)” in your web browsers.

## 2. COLLECTING AND ORGANIZING REFERENCES

The “industry standard” for publishing and managing references is EndNote (<https://endnote.com/>), which is accessible through Athena. However, also a large variety of freeware to collect and organize papers are available:

- Zotero (<http://www.zotero.org/>)
- Mendeley (<http://www.mendeley.com/>)
- I, Librarian (<https://i-librarian.net/>)

## 3. CITING REFERENCES

### **Option 1: WYSIWYG programs (Microsoft Word, LibreOffice Writer...)**

In Word and LibreOffice Writer, you can simply insert references while you’re writing. To connect with the reference management software above, various plug-ins exist.

In many cases, you can also change the style of referencing – for scientific papers, the IEEE reference style is a good start.

### **Option 2: (La)TeX editors (TeXworks, TeXmaker, TeXstudio...)**

In (La)TeX editors, references are referred to through citation keys, *e.g.*, `\cite{evans_mofs_2009}`, a list of which has to be kept either in the document or in a separate bibliography file. The reference management programs listed above all provide the possibility to export their data to such a bibliography file.