

An Introduction to JabRef

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What is JabRef?

- Organizes BibTeX files in databases so they can be more easily manipulated
- Java - Not OS Dependent

What is BibTeX?

- “Reference Management Software”
- Contains information needed to cite a source
 - Author(s)
 - Publication
 - Volumes, Page Numbers, etc.

Two Ways to Use JabRef

- <http://jabref.sourceforge.net/>
- Standalone version
- Web Version
 - Allows use of JabRef without installing

- ISI Web of Science
 - Search
 - Check boxes of articles
 - “Add to Marked List”
 - Check all of the boxes
 - Change “Other Reference Software” to “Bibtex” and “Save to File”

- Can change what columns are shown in the main window
 - Entry Table Columns (Options⇒Preferences⇒Entry Table Columns)
- Uppercase letters: {U}ppercase or
Options⇒Preferences⇒General⇒File⇒ “Store the following fields with braces around capital letters”

- Linking to a url (Entry Editor⇒General⇒url)
- Linking to a pdf (Entry Editor⇒General⇒File⇒+)
- Can link to pdfs relative to the Bibtex database file's location
 - Set a File Directory (File⇒Database Properties⇒File directory)
 - Put in the directory for the folder the database is in
 - Where the full path for the pdf was before: `.\nameofthefile.pdf` or `.\subfolder\nameofthefile.pdf`
 - Then, when the database and articles are moved, change the File directory to where they have been moved

- Search button: Magnifying glass in Toolbar or ctrl-f
 - Can use logical operators:
 - field = keyword
 - field = “multiple word phrase”
 - field|anotherfield = keyword and “multiple word phrase”
 - (field = keyword or field|anotherfield = “multiple word phrase”)
and not field = keyword

- To open string editor: BibTeX⇒Edit Strings
- Strings are composed of a “name” and a “content”
 - The name would be some text enclosed by #s, example: #asdf#
 - The content would then be some other text, example: Left Hand Home Row
- Anytime #asdf# appears in a field, it will reference the text Left Hand Home Row
- To have strings applied for any non-standard Bibtex fields
 - Options⇒Preferences⇒File⇒“Resolve strings for all fields except:”

- Set up a journal abbreviation list (Options⇒Manage journal abbreviations)
 - Create a file
 - Add abbreviations exactly (Case-sensitive and with curly brackets)
- If everything is moved to another computer, import abbreviations file into JabRef as an “Existing File”

- Groups button: Gray squares button in toolbar
- Add new groups either manually or by using a search method
- Can select multiple groups and use Settings \Rightarrow Union and Settings \Rightarrow Intersection

- These are used to cite individual sources within a LaTeX document
 - `\cite{BibTeX Key}`
- Generate new key by selecting the article in the main window and hitting ctrl-g or clicking the wand button
- Options⇒Preferences⇒BibTeX key generator
- Made up of field markers: `[field]`
- The default pair of field markers is `[auth][year]`
 - Makes a BibTeX key out of the last name of the first author, `[auth]`, followed by the year of publication, `[year]`
- See:
<http://jabref.sourceforge.net/help/LabelPatterns.php>
for a list of some “special” field markers
 - “Special” because they only use a portion of a field (`[auth]`, above, is one of these)

- Can use plugins to extend JabRef's abilities
- Can add custom tabs to the Entry Editor
 - Options⇒Set up general fields
 - One tab on each line: NewTabName:field1;field2;field3;etc.
- Probably a lot of other things that I don't even know about
- See <http://jabref.sourceforge.net/help/Contents.php> for more help
 - This is where I got most of the information for this presentation

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