Zotero, a Citation Management Tool

http://guides.emich.edu/zotero

These days, much discovery work in research is done using digital search tools, such as the EMU Library’s Esearch database, Google’s Scholar, full-text collections such as JSTOR, or disciplinary databases such as PsycINFO. With a single-click of an icon in the browser’s address bar, Zotero, a citation management tool, will import bibliographic information for each item, thereby creating your personalized Zotero knowledgebase.

Zotero is freeware, and available for the Windows, Mac OS X and Linux operating systems. It can run as a plugin for the Firefox web browser, or as a standalone program, with connections to either the Google Chrome or Safari web browsers. Once an account is created, Zotero will provide unlimited storage space on its servers for your data and up to 300 MB of storage for your full-text articles. If desired, more storage space for full text files can be purchased. You can organize your Zotero database into as many collections and subcollections as you want. It offers a Notes field for each item, with unlimited text space available. Groups can also be created whereby sources can be shared with others, including classes you teach. The content you add to your Zotero database is automatically synced to the Zotero servers. If you install the software on more than one computing device, Zotero will sync your stored data to each of your devices.

With the data stored in your database, this software can generate bibliographies that adhere to the guidelines of over 2,000 academic bibliographic styles. If you use Microsoft Word or LibreOffice, Zotero offers a free plugin that allows you to access your database as you write your paper, and generate correctly formatted in-text citations as well as the post-text bibliography.

An EMU Library Research Guide provides more information:

Zotero – Collect, Organize, Cite, and Share References: http://guides.emich.edu/zotero

-Keith Stanger, Information Services Librarian