



**SEIDEL SCHOOL OF EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL SPECIALTIES**

To: Michael O'Loughlin
President
Salisbury University Faculty Senate

From: Doug DeWitt
Senate Liaison: Learning With Technology Committee (LWTC)

RE: Committee Report and Recommendation

Date: September 22, 2009

The Faculty Senate Learning With Technology Committee (LWTC) met on Thursday, September 18, 2009 and, among other things, took action on the issue of a university approved citation (bibliography) manager software package.

Background

The committee was charged with exploring a variety of software packages that would aid faculty and students in electronically managing their own research library of citation references. Among the programs examined were EndNote, EndNote Web, and RefWorks. A survey of faculty and students was conducted in the spring of 2008 to ascertain preference, if any, of any of these programs.

The results of the survey were inconclusive. 112 individuals responded to the survey. Most had never used any of the programs listed above. Over 75% of the respondents had no recommendation for adoption of a particular program.

Subsequent to the survey, the LWTC discussed two other options, the reference tool built in the newest version of MicroSoft Word and Zotero, an open source reference management tool that is web based.

The MS Word tool has severe limitations, and eventually requires an additional program (e.g. EndNote or RefWorks) to manage the data base.

Zotero, on the other hand, appears to be a robust solution that is currently supported by a large number of research institutions (i.e. Stanford and M.I.T. to name a couple). It was felt that this was a win-win solution as there is no cost to the university and it has the capability to deliver the

needed services required of such a program. It is important to note; however, that Zotero is only compatible with Mozilla's Firefox version 3.0. It is not supported by MS Explorer.

It was shared that The Dean of Libraries and Instructional Resources, Dr. Alice Bahr, has committed to provide training in whichever packages are adopted by the university.

After much discussion, the committee voted to recommend that the university support and offer training in EndNote Web (which we already have) and Zotero (which is web-based and can be downloaded for free).

DRAFT