VERSION 1

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Protocol status: In development
We are still developing and optimizing this protocol

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ABSTRACT

Basic steps and scripts used for translating text citations to bibtex files suitable for loading into citation management software or citation analysis scripts. 3 publically available webpage mounted scripts are suggested, that require no programming.

MATERIALS

Computer with up-to-date web browser

Preparing text file

- 1 Copy citations from the source document(s) into a text (.txt) document.
- 2 Edit the text document so that each citation is on a separate line with one blank line between each citation. Not all the scripts require a blank line between citations, but it does improve readability and importing.

Note

A text editor that includes line numbers (the type used by software programmers) makes this step easier.

Processing citations

- 3 I've found 3 web-mounted scripts that will do text file to bibtex file translation.

Software

Anystyle.io

NAME

Sylvester Keil, inukshuk on github

DEVELOPER

<https://github.com/inukshuk/anystyle>

SOURCE LINK

Anystyle.io can be used on the web, or as a Ruby script. This is the most flexible script and it allows detailed editing before the final file export. The website is privately hosted, so it's not always been available.

Software

makebib.perl script

NAME

Makino Takaki

DEVELOPER

This PERL script is mounted on a website and will do basic translation. No support, but it's quite

good.

Software

Text2Bib

NAME

J. O. Martin and Fabian Qifei Bai

DEVELOPER

Hosted by the University of Toronto. Requires registration. Basic editing and checking in Google Scholar is available. Accurate and reliable.

All 3 will export a .bib file suitable for importing into citation managers.

Export

- 4 Once the script has exported a .bib file, load it into your citation manager of choice. Zotero has been the most reliable for importing.

Software

Zotero

NAME

Zotero

DEVELOPER

Note

Zotero also produces more standardized .bib and .ris files than the scripts, especially the older scripts. I have imported into Zotero, exported a bib file, and imported into other software if a direct import didn't work.