

January 17, 2006

Members of the Divinity School Faculty,

As I am settling in to my position as Bibliographer for Religion and Philosophy, I would like to begin a tradition of sending a brief library column to you two or three times a year. I'm still adjusting to a quarter system, having been on a semester system since 1987, so twice a year still seems second nature to me. The purpose of this column is to update you on new resources or services in the Library and to provide us with a starting point for further discussion. I would like to thank Dean Rosengarten for facilitating this tradition.

This quarter, I would like to highlight a resource which may help you in your teaching and research—RefWorks. What is RefWorks? Refworks is a personal, web-based database and bibliography creator, which functions much like EndNote. Unlike EndNote, you can access RefWorks and your data from any computer with Internet access. Plus, it's free to University of Chicago students, faculty, and staff. What can it do? With RefWorks, you can import references directly from online databases (e.g., WorldCat) or saved text files. By creating folders, you can easily organize your references. With the Write-N-Cite add-on, you can integrate your references into Word documents as footnotes or bibliographies. Using the RefShare feature, you can allow others (e.g., students in your classes) to view saved references. Why should I bother? Since arriving at the University, I have used RefWorks to organize references on a variety of topics, including the role(s) of bibliographers within research libraries. I have been able to create a reading list for myself as I prepare to present a paper at an upcoming conference. I have also talked with faculty members in the philosophy department about how they might use RefWorks to create a reading list for their workshops. For more information on RefWorks, see <http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/using/bibtools/refworks/>. I encourage you to sign up for one of the workshops led by the reference staff at Regenstein. Attending a workshop "encouraged" me to set aside one hour to learn about RefWorks. I know enough to use it effectively. If the days/times on the schedule do not work for you, I can arrange for a workshop at your convenience. Please spread the word among your students as well.

Best wishes for the winter quarter!

Sincerely,
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