

# CREATIVE USES OF REFWORKS



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
LIBRARIES

SOME EXAMPLES

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A number of faculty members and students, at the University of Minnesota and elsewhere, have found innovative ways to use RefWorks in their class work and research. Many of these take advantage of the fact that individuals are allowed to have more than one RefWorks account, and account owners may assign read-only passwords to their accounts.

Several large research labs maintain a group account, which is usually the responsibility of just one or two people. The account contains all citations to references that may be of interest to the group, and all members of the group are given access via a read-only password. This allows them to download or save references to their own personal RefWorks accounts.

Students who are working on group projects have started a separate account and used it to deposit citations of possible interest. In these cases, the students usually share the userID and password, so all have full access to the database.

One class used RefWorks in a project to look at the coverage of a topic in local newspapers. Several groups of students each took one newspaper, and searched articles on the topic. They added them to a RefWorks database, assigning subject terms from a list that the class had developed. All of the separate databases were then merged, and students could search all of the articles.

It is possible to use RefWorks to help organize a collection of books and article reprints. Using the Availability field, or one of the User fields, the location of the item may be noted.

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