

Super Computing Challenge

Using Zotero

The easiest way to cite electronic sources

Richard Foust
7/26/2011

Introduction

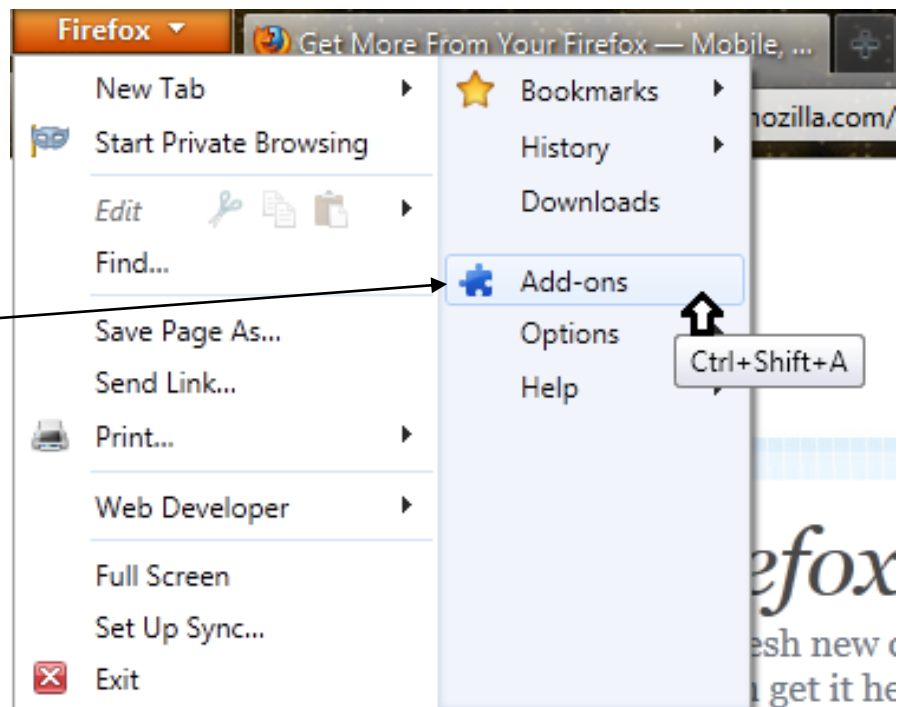
Proper citation is extremely important when doing research. Newton understood the importance of crediting the work of others when he credited his success to standing on the shoulders of the “giants” that had come before him. However, Newton actually stole this witty comparison from Democritus, so even the founder of modern physics had a little to learn about citing his sources! Thanks to the internet, research is easier than ever before, though paradoxically citing these sources has become increasingly difficult. Thankfully, for those lucky souls that use the Firefox web browser an easy solution is available—the **Zotero** add-on. **Zotero** will allow you to quickly and easily create bibliographies in a variety of formats removing much of the pain associated with writing a research paper.

Equipment

The only equipment necessary is a computer and *Firefox 5.0*, though you *will* be installing the **Zotero** add-on in a moment.

1 To begin with you will need to install *Firefox* on your computer. Go to www.firefox.com (which will automatically redirect you to <http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/fx/>), download and install *Firefox 5.0*. *Firefox* will automatically import all of your favorites from *Explorer*, so you may now forget that *Explorer* even exists.

2 Now that you have *Firefox*, you will need to get the **Zotero** add-on. In the upper left-hand corner you will see an orange **Firefox** button: left-click on this button and select **Add-ons** from the drop-down menu. (If you have an older version of *Firefox* the **Add-ons** button is found in the **Tools** tab.)



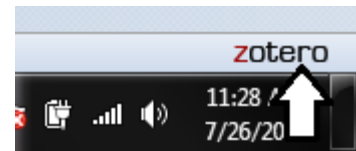
3 In the **Add-ons Manager** click the **Get Add-ons** tab. Next, type **Zotero** in the *Search all add-ons* bar and hit the *enter* key.



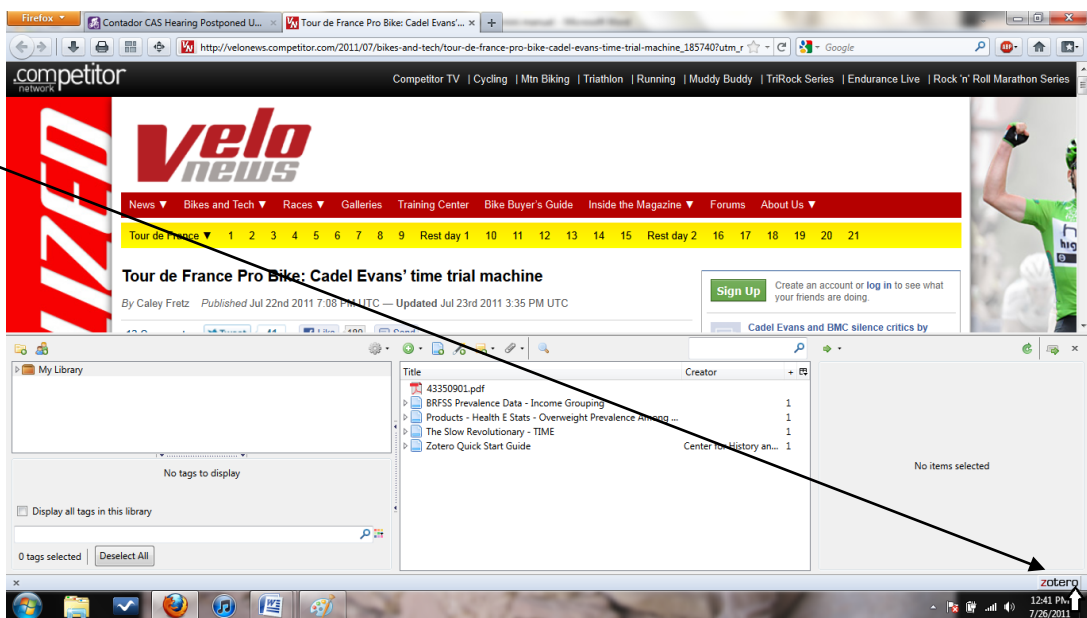
4 You will see a selection of **Zotero** add-ons. Install **Zotero 2.1.8** (or later). (Note: my screen should look a little different than yours, as **Zotero** is already installed on my computer and is therefore in the “My Add-ons” tab.) If you are using an older version of *Firefox* you will need to click the “show all” link to find the correct **Zotero**.



5 *Firefox* will now ask to restart. Do so and **Zotero** will be installed and ready to go! If you see a **Zotero** box in the very bottom right corner of your *Firefox* window.

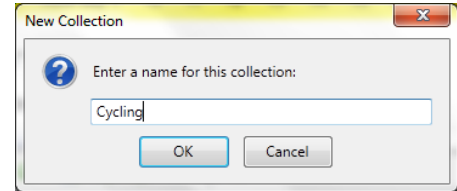
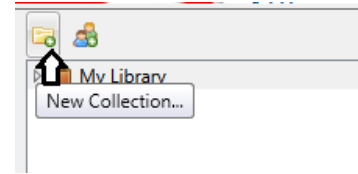


6 Now you are ready to create a bibliography using **Zotero**. Open a web page in a *Firefox* tab. Now click on the **Zotero** box (from step 5) to open the **Zotero** window. Your screen will now look like this (more or less):



7 You want to be able to easily keep track of your citations, and **Zotero** will help you in this effort by allowing you to create folders to store your collections of citations. In the **Zotero** window click on the **New Collection** button,

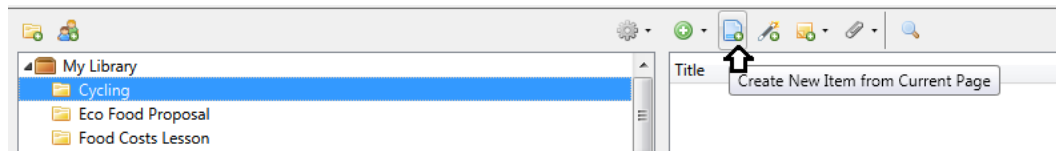
and then enter the name for this collection (Cycling in this example). Click **OK**.



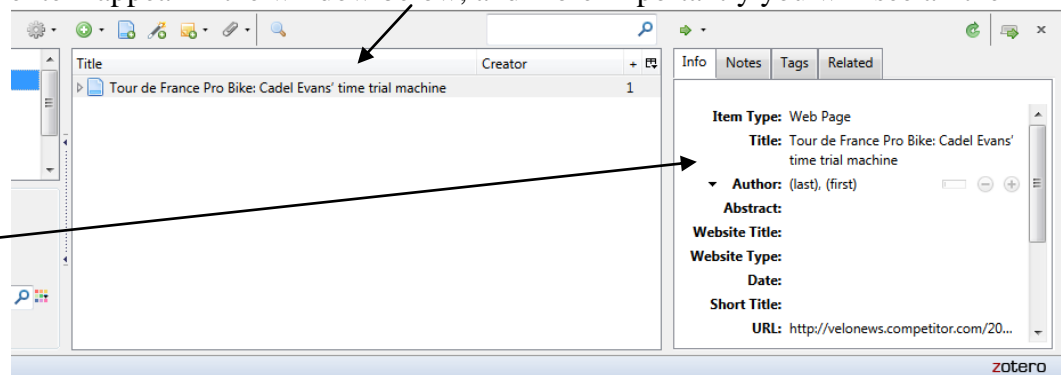
You will now see your folder appear under **My Library**.



8 Now you are ready to add citations to your collection folder. Navigate to the web page you wish to cite. Left-click on the folder you wish to add this citation to and then click the **Create New Item from Current Page** button.

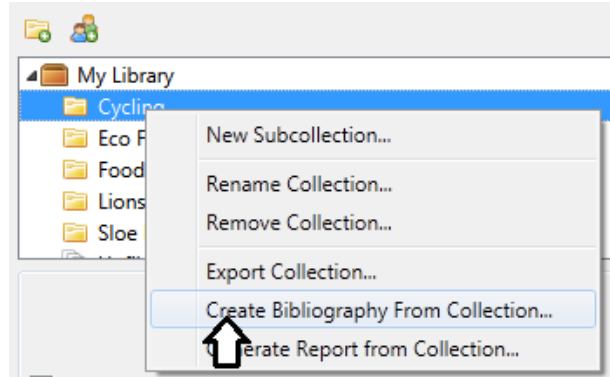


You will see the item appear in the window below, and more importantly you will see all the information for your citation appear in the right-hand window.

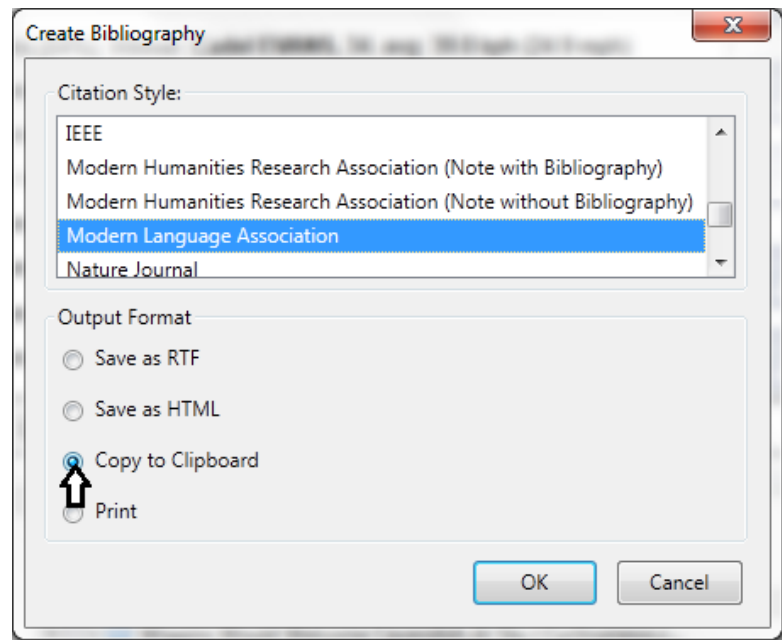


You may continue to add citations in this manner. If you close **Zotero** (by clicking the box from step 5) or if you close *Firefox* all of your citations and collections will be saved automatically.

9 When all your research is complete, you need to create your bibliography (or Works Cited page if you are using MLA standards—which you *should!*) **Right-click** on the collection you are citing for your report. Select **Create Bibliography From Collection** and **Left-click** on this.



10 In the **Create Bibliography** window that opens select **Modern Language Association** from the “Citation Style” window, and then select the “Copy to Clipboard” radio button. Click **OK**.



11 Now open a **Word** document and select **Paste**. Huzzah! Your Works Cited page (I have included the title in this example) is done!

