

BibCite

open source and free
Bibliography & Citation manager

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1. How to get and start the program

You can download the program on www.launchpad.net/bibcite/ - there you can get precompiled archives as well as the source code of the program.

The one thing you need to start this program is a Java Runtime Environment - you can get that either using the repositories of all the major---- Linux distributions or visiting <http://java.com/en/download/>

Once you downloaded the program and have Java installed, you can start the program by *extracting the downloaded archive* and then *double-clicking* on either the **LINUX-runme.sh** (if you are using linux) or **WIN-runme.bat** (if you are using Microsoft Windows). For any other operating system or if the above files do not work I'd recommend using the command line and starting the program from its directory by entering the command **java -jar BibCite.jar**

You can also start the program by *double-clicking BibCite.jar* actually, but that way, your working directory will be your home folder, usually. All data will then be stored there, instead of in a folder within the normal BibCite directory called **.bibcite**

If started succesfully, you will be greated by the window seen on the right side:



2. Logging in and new Users

Once successfully started, you are greeted by three tabs - one to login (if you already registered an account, a Register tab, to register new accounts and an About tab, to see details about the program version.



The screenshot shows the 'Login or Register...' dialog with the 'Login' tab selected. It contains two input fields: 'Username' and 'Password', and a 'Login' button.

The Login tab is pretty straight-forward.

Enter your username and password, then press the login-button.



The screenshot shows the 'Login or Register...' dialog with the 'Register' tab selected. It contains three input fields: 'Username', 'Password', and 'Language' (a dropdown menu set to 'English'), and a 'Register' button.

The Register tab is slightly more challenging.

Here you enter a username, a password and indicate your preferred language, mainly used to determine the default language of your bibliographical entries for now.

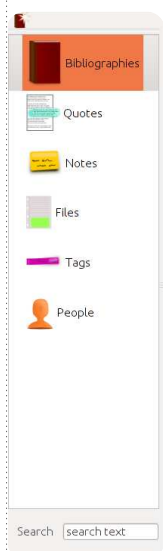


The screenshot shows the 'Login or Register...' dialog with the 'About' tab selected. It displays the following information:

GeoCite Version	2011.06-r196	Date	2011 - June - 20
Authors	Georg Adelman (mail@geoadel.net)		
License	BibCite is released under the GPL. Libraries: db4o (GPL), apache commons-lang, fontbox, jempbox, pdfbox, jasypt (Apache License 2.0).		
Website	www.geoadel.net		

The About tab indicates the BibCite version and publishing date, lists authors and the programs and libraries licenses.

3. The Main Window



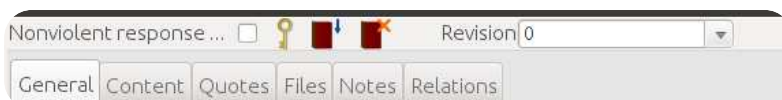
The Tree View offers at the top the possibility to create new entries of the selected types by clicking on the top-most button (right now a new bibliography can be created because **Bibliographies** is selected).

By selecting existing entries, their editors are summoned to the Editor View.

Use the search bar at the bottom to limit the displayed objects to those containing your entered keywords.

The Editor View on the left side offers editors for Bibliographies, Quotations, Notes and People.

Usually, as can be seen in this example, they are embedded, so you can create new Quotes, Notes and attach Files directly from the Bibliography Editor.



All editors share key elements at the top: They have a key-button to mark them as private (so nobody can read them without your express permission - given through the only then visible Access Manager tab), they have revisions so you can look at older revisions, and they are saved and deleted using those buttons.

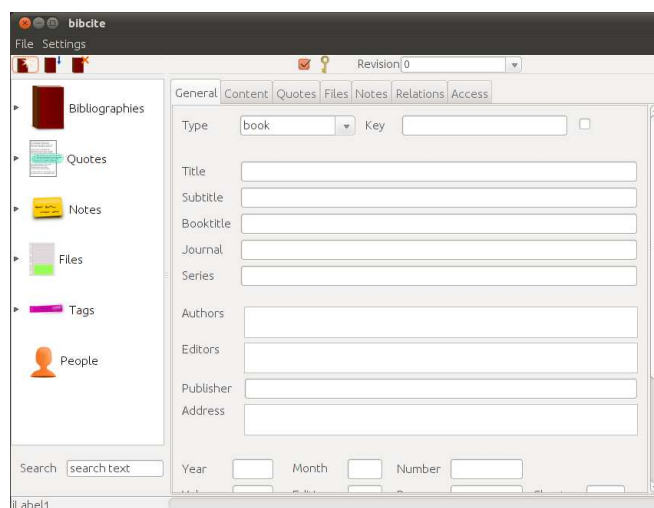
4. The Editors

Bibliography-Editor

The bibliography editor has two main tabs - the 'General' tab for all general bibliographical fields and the 'Content' tab, containing a field for URL, ISBN/DOI and abstract.

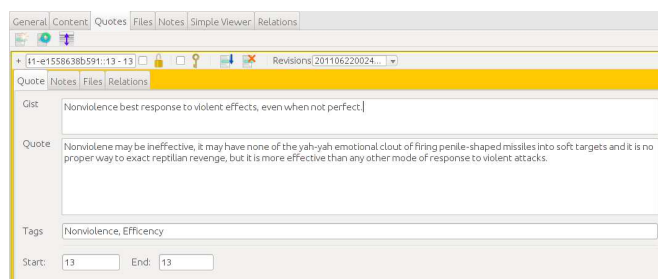
Three hints:

1. The key of a bibliography is concatenated by the family name of the first author plus the year of publication and additional letters, if another bibliography already has that particular combination in the database accessible for you. The key only adapts to name-changes and year changes automatically during the first edit, later you have to remove the lock-button next to it.
2. If you have many articles from the same journal (differing only in volume or number) it is easiest, to once fill the data for the Journal in and for all other numbers and volumes, create a new bibliography entry and in the Cross-References box in the 'General' tab to choose the already put in entry and just correct the differing values. The same works for book series of course. **Selecting a Cross-References entry fills all empty fields with the content from the selected Cross-Reference.**
3. You can try to let BibCite automatically fill in the bibliography data by giving the ISBN or DOI and clicking on the Import button. Then BibCite will try to import the data from online webpages it has filters for. ISBN should work quite reliably, DOI relies heavily on specific support for each publisher webpage and is thus not that reliable or in other words, needs someone to program and update those specific webpage filters.

The screenshot shows the 'BibCite' application window with the 'Bibliography-Editor' tab selected. The 'General' sub-tab is active, displaying a form for entering bibliographic data. The form includes fields for 'Type' (set to 'book'), 'Key', 'Title', 'Subtitle', 'Booktitle', 'Journal', 'Series', 'Authors', 'Editors', 'Publisher', and 'Address'. There are also input boxes for 'Year', 'Month', and 'Number'. A 'Search' box with the placeholder 'search text' is located at the bottom left. The left sidebar shows a tree view with categories: Bibliographies, Quotes, Notes, Files, Tags, and People. The top of the window shows a menu bar with 'File' and 'Settings', and a 'Revision' dropdown set to '0'.

Quotation-Editor

The Quotation-Editor stores literal quotations, their gist/summary and displays related files and notes.

The screenshot shows the 'BibCite' application window with the 'Quotation-Editor' tab selected. The 'Quote' sub-tab is active, displaying a form for entering quotation data. The form includes a 'Gist' field with the text 'Nonviolence best response to violent effects, even when not perfect.', a 'Quote' field with a longer text about nonviolence, and a 'Tags' field with the text 'Nonviolence, Efficiency'. There are also input boxes for 'Start' and 'End' (both set to '13'). The top of the window shows a menu bar with 'General', 'Content', 'Quotes', 'Files', 'Notes', 'Simple Viewer', and 'Relations'. The left sidebar shows a tree view with categories: Quotes, Notes, Files, Tags, and People. The top of the window shows a 'Revision' dropdown set to '201106220024'.

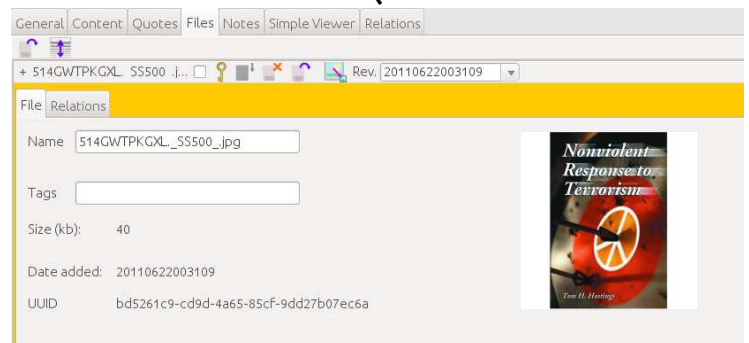
There is one trick regarding start / end page numbers. If the end page number is lower or empty while editing the start page number, the end page field is set to the start page number.

File-Editor

The File Editor allows editing individual files, opening them in external applications (either using the system standard program or the user set program, if existing and possible). For externally opened files it offers the options to store changed files as new revisions, overwriting the old file (may save disk-space) or simply deleting the temporary files (created in the systems temporary file folder) - the deletion cannot be guaranteed yet though.

One special button in the File Editor is the icon-creator button. This works in two ways - if the FileEditor is opened directly (and not just a tab in any other editor), it creates preview icons for the file itself (visible in the Tree View) - if it is a tab of another editor, it creates a preview icon for that object.

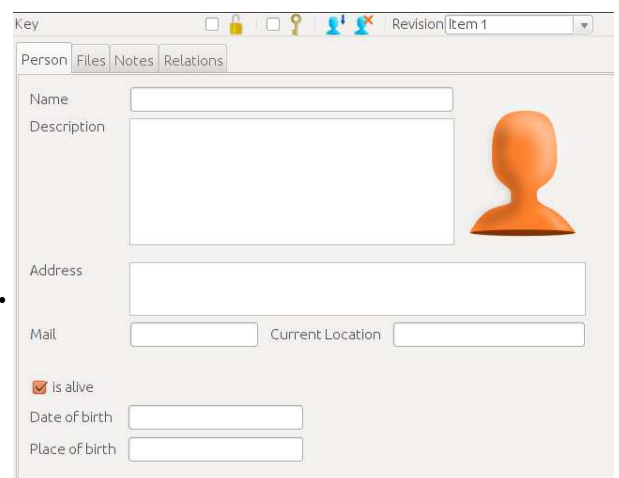
If the file is a recognized format for an image, you can see a small preview directly in the File Editor on the right side. Clicking on it will open up a small viewing window which can help to zoom in or out of a picture to see details or get a better view, or read text in the image.



Person-Editor

The Person Editor gives the possibility to store informations about persons, though mainly meant to store author details.

Nothing special there yet - by default, only the birth place and year are displayed. If the author is dead, remove the check on the 'is alive' checkbox to be able to enter death date and place.



Note-Editor

The Note Editor offers the creation of notes for all other objects or just for yourself without any relation. Like the other editors it offers the possibility to add tags to easily organize and sort content by topics.

The Preferences Editor

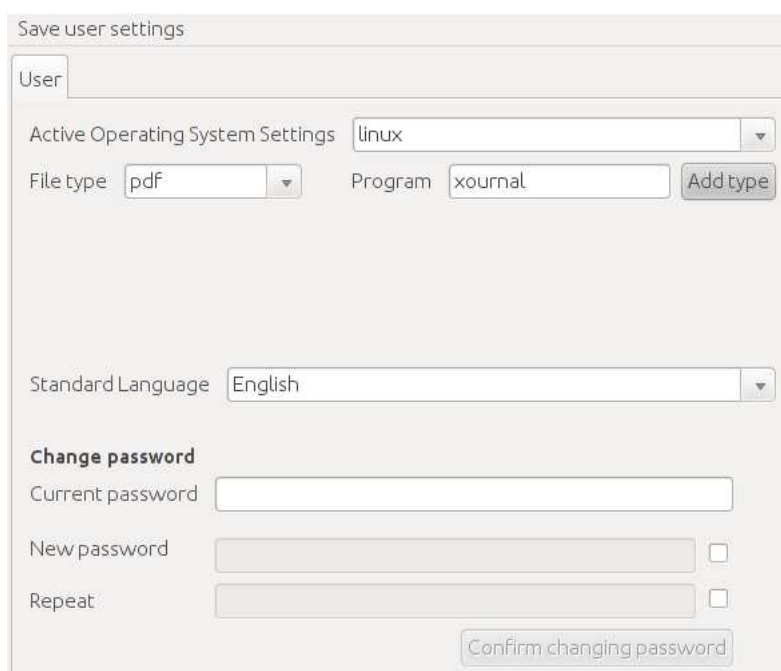
You can find the preferences editor by clicking in the top menu on *Settings* and then choose *User settings*.

This editor offers the ability to change the default operating system, which in turn changes the default editing programs, if set. You can also change the standard assumed language for bibliography entries as well as your login password.

The default operating system governs the set of file-types and their associated default editing programs - if no default editing program is set, BibCite will try to use the default program used by your operating system. You can also add your own operating system and file type entries.

Note though, that for types, you can only have one program per type.

The standard language is used as default for new bibliography entries.



The screenshot shows a 'Save user settings' dialog box with a 'User' tab. It contains the following fields and controls:

- Active Operating System Settings:** A dropdown menu currently set to 'linux'.
- File type:** A dropdown menu currently set to 'pdf'.
- Program:** A text input field containing 'xournal', followed by an 'Add type' button.
- Standard Language:** A dropdown menu currently set to 'English'.
- Change password section:**
 - Current password:** A text input field.
 - New password:** A text input field with a checkbox to its right.
 - Repeat:** A text input field with a checkbox to its right.
 - Confirm changing password:** A button at the bottom right of the section.

The password is your login password. Be careful with this one, once you loose it, your private objects cannot be recovered, since they are stored in encrypted form in the database.

5. Tips and hints

How to get my bibliographical references into this program?

There are quite some programs - like <http://jabref.sourceforge.net/> that can help transform your former format into bibtex, the format BibCite can import.

Another way is, to just create a new Bibliography, enter the ISBN-number on the Content tab and then click on the Import button next to it - that way, BibCite will use ottobib.com to look up the details for the book itself.

A very fast way, to create the entries is also, to import your source pdf files via the menu using the "Import" - "Import pdf (individual entries) ...".

How to backup my data?

There is two ways: If you just want to have a backup of everything, simply compress the directory, the data are in - they are stored in a folder called ".bibcite" - usually located inside the program folder. Since the foldername starts with a dot, it may be hidden by default in your operating system. So you will have to make it show up first.

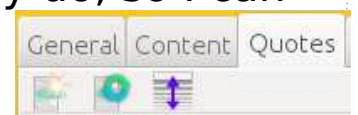
For backing up the references so you can import them somewhere else, you can export them as bibtex files, usually best to select 'Individual' on the export screen, to have one file per reference.

How to enter quotations easily?

There are several ways again: You can either type them one by one into newly created quotation editors, which I usually do, so I can immediately write a summary in the Gist field.

Second, you can activate the scan-option, write all the quotes you want in another text editor, then mark them all and press Ctrl+C to copy the text into the clipboard.

Example (and you copy as many as you want at the same time):

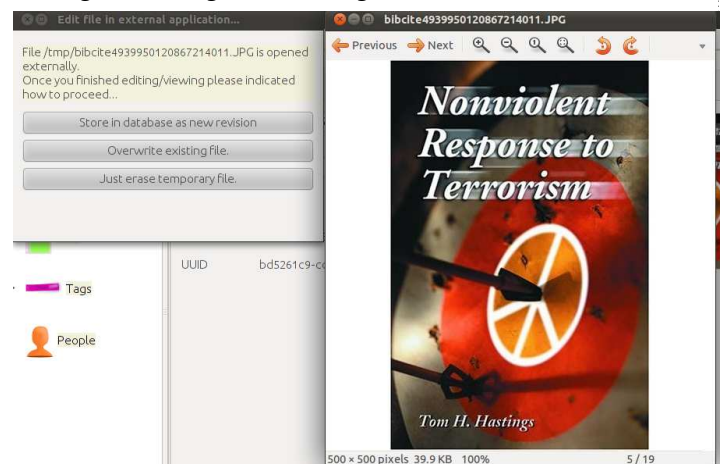


12 - 13 "This is a quote, which can also be multiline - Important are page numbers and quotation marks."

At least under Linux there is another option - if you double click on the quote textfield with the left mouse button while holding the CTRL-key on the keyboard, a new text window opens up. Whenever I have a pdf file where I cannot simply copy the text, I minimize BibCite after having opened this small window - I lock the small window to always be visible, open the pdf viewer and start typing. Anything I type in the small window goes directly into the quote text. The same actually works for the authors and editors of bibliographies and for most other multiline text fields.

Why would I put my files into BibCite?

Probably because you want to keep different revisions - means you want to be able to open older versions of the same file again. Or simply because you want to have your whole digital library with you. Or you want to be able to search through all your pdf files at once, which is possible as well, because BibCite tries to generate a word list for all imported pdf files, which is searchable using the normal search field under the Tree View to the left.



6. Guidance for developers

First, this is not for users - you can safely skip this. For people interested in the code, I will give a short outline of the code structure - the packages.

The main class BibCite.java is in the root directory of this program, the package name is

net.geodel.bibcite

All the other packages below are sub-packages of this one.

Cryptography

Here I provide the means of encrypting / decrypting Strings and bytes using the jasypt library. Anything related to encryption and decryption can be found in the single class in here.

Database

The class db4o.java connects BibCite to the object oriented database called db4o. All objects and users are stored in a db4o-database.

Anything related to storage, retrieval and deletion of elements can be found in here.

DatabaseObjects

This contains the objects, their properties and methods for the database.

DataFields

Here some generic program-wide datafields are stored as well as the important SessionData.java which contains informations about the current session like the user, the decrypted password for fast access. Nothing in here is stored in the database and this class only holds the generic program password used for encrypting non-private files.

DocType

A boring folder containing some often used document descriptions for textfields, such as only 4 digits, etc. .

Events

Some of the event handling, especially for editors happens in here. This still could use some extension to follow more closely a MVC code model.

FileFilters

Another boring class containing several file filters used for the importing and exporting file dialogues (e.g. pictures, documents).

ImportExport

This contains several classes dealing with import & export of bibtex format files. Also the html output is situated here together with the internet data import for DOI and ISBN numbers.

Images

Contains only images and their source svg-files. No code in here. If you want to change button looks, this is the place to go.

GUI

This is huge, all GUI stuff is in here, including the main GUI BibCiteGUI.java which also controls opening editors when a selection is made in the Tree. All the editors are defined in here as well.

Tools

Contains small helper classes for dealing with strings, database-objects, files and images.

(2011-June) This document is published under GPL 3 or newer.

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