

Note Taking Apps for the Serious Researcher

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Abstract

This presentation will introduce some personal productivity apps that can be used during research projects to organize resources and ideas across multiple devices and through The Cloud.

Description

In five minutes I am going to tell you about some note taking apps for the serious researcher. By this I mean applications for your smart phone, Ipad or Android tablet that can help you during research projects both personal and scholarly. I believe this is important because increasingly our users are accessing and reading our library resources from multiple devices, and will need help managing them as they do research on the go. Plus, it is easy to get lost in the Cloud, so let's see what function they often want to help them.

Researchers want to save and cite sources, read and make annotations, and take notes they can organize and store online. There are those who favor the index card method, readers who scribble and highlight to learn, others who use a research notebook, and many who like to keep a trove of their found treasures. There are mobile apps available for all of these needs, and I'm going to tell you about Zotpad, Zandy, GoodReader, EZPDF and Evernote.

Hopefully you are already familiar with Zotero, a bibliographic management tool that's free and calls itself a "personal research assistant." There are two app companions to Zotero. For Ipad, [Zotpad](#) is your solution; and for Android, [Zandy](#) is your candy. Zandy has both read and edit functions for your Zotero library, but Zotpad is currently read only. Stay tuned, and until then, with Zotpad for your Ipad you can download PDF files (including scholarly articles) and open them in GoodReader to take notes and make annotations.



For reading and making notes on top of content in multiple formats, [Goodreader](#) is a popular solution. With Goodreader you can highlight, scribble on and attach notes to files in many different formats, and then email them to yourself.



Goodreader will make you a better reader. Android users mention [EZDPF](#) for annotating .pdf files.

For lovers of notebooks, and even those who want to collect their research treasures, [Evernote](#) is the elephant in the room. I say this not only because its logo is an elephant's trunk,



but because it is the most established multi-platform app I know, and it is the best documented for use in teaching and learning. Evernote's slogan is "remember

everything,” and it has apps for Android and Apple platforms, a desktop application, and a browser plugin so that you can easily collect and take notes while online. With a few clicks you can shuffle your notes and notebooks like a deck of cards chronologically or by tags and topics.

Prices vary for these apps. Evernote is free, so if you remember nothing else, remember its name and try it out. For all of these productivity and note-taking apps, consider that for our users it is not just about they can do, but how they feel to use. For today’s digital research, it is now better, easier and sexier to read, do research and take notes seriously through mobile devices whether you’re a casual student or a serious scholar.