Documentation Tracking Tools

National History Day in Minnesota

National History Day requires that all projects come complete with an annotated bibliography. The tracking of resources can be a challenge when reviewing dozens, if not hundreds of materials. Several electronic tools are available to help in this effort. Keep in mind, there are contest rules (see page 10 and 11 of the *Contest Rule Book*) to consider when looking at documentation tracking strategies.

Students are required to:
- follow MLA or Turabian styling for citations and bibliographic references.
- annotate each source to explain its contribution to their project and/or understanding.
- sort sources primary from secondary.

The following tools have been used with varying degrees of success and are provided in order of popularity. **Bibliography tools are not perfect. With any bibliography help, students should consider the generated version a <u>draft</u> that needs to be checked and, when necessary, revised.**

www.easybib.com
EasyBib helps users create citations with the option of adding an annotation. MLA citations can be created for free, Turabian requires a membership. The website provides 58 resource options. Source information can be exported into Google Docs or printed. A citation style guide is also offered.

www.noodletools.com
NoodleTools requires a membership ($15 for individual students, $60 for teachers with full classroom access). The online service provides users 40 resource options and generates sub questions that further differentiate source type. Users are able to insert an annotation and mark sources primary or secondary to sort accordingly. A note card option is also available for linking source notes to specific materials. Once completed, students are able to export their work to Microsoft Word or Google Docs. Projects can also be copied and shared with other NoodleTools users.

www.bibme.com
BibMe provides users 11 resource options for formatting a bibliography as well as providing space for the annotation. Both MLA and Turabian can be used for free. After citations are created, students can download to Microsoft Word or share their bibliography via a web link. A citation style guide is also offered.

www.citationmachine.net
Son of Citation Machine offers 25 MLA and 5 Turabian resource options. The website generates citations that students can then copy and paste into their own working document. This resource is not designed to track and/or store student work.

www.worldcat.org
WorldCat allows users to search their catalog and can generate citation information from the located sources. Once selected, source information can be exported into a document format or several online tools such as EasyBib. Users are limited to resources in the WorldCat catalog, but citation elements are automatically identified reducing input error.

Microsoft Word Reference Tools
Newer versions (2007 forward) of Microsoft Word offer a "Reference" tab that can generate and insert parenthetical citations or footnotes/endnotes as well as a complete bibliography. The tool allows for 17 resource options.