

Citations in Libraries Australia using COinS and Zotero

It is an old adage that when you look after the pennies the pounds look after themselves. Recently Libraries Australia has implemented new functionality based on the COinS standard (<http://ocoins.org>) that will help users of the service make their research pay off. COinS is a standard that encodes bibliographic information into a token buried in a webpage. While this token is hidden from the end user it can be read and used by citation software such as Zotero or other web applications.

Below are a series of screen shots that show you how to use COinS with Zotero. Zotero is a free, easy-to-use Firefox extension to help you collect, manage, and cite your research sources from within the browser you're using to conduct your research. It can be downloaded and installed from <http://www.zotero.org>.

Find a record to cite

Figure 1 below shows the Libraries Australia (<http://librariesaustralia.nla.gov.au/>) Search loaded in the Firefox browser. Note that Zotero has been installed and its logo appears in the status bar of the browser on the bottom right hand side.



Figure 1: Libraries Australia Search in a browser with Zotero installed.

In order to use Zotero and the COinS implementation in Libraries Australia first you'll need to conduct a search for an item. In Figure 2 below, a simple search for “pure mathematics” has been conducted and the results are displayed.



Figure 2: Libraries Australia search results for “pure mathematics”

When a selected record is displayed, in this case Alan Turing’s *Pure Mathematics*, the Zotero plugin in your browser detects the COinS data in the webpage and displays a small icon that looks like a book in the address bar of your browser as circled in Figure 3 below.



Figure 3: Libraries Australia Record with COInS data detected by Zotero.

Saving and displaying the citation

Clicking on the book icon causes the item to be saved in Zotero as shown in Figure 4.



Figure 4: Saving an item in Zotero.

Clicking on the Zotero icon in the bottom right hand corner of your browser window displays the items you have saved. Zotero provides three panels that help you organise your research. The left-most panel shows the collections that you have set up, in this case there is a single collection called “My Library”. The middle panel displays the title of the items you have saved and the right-most panel displays the full record for the item selected in the middle panel.

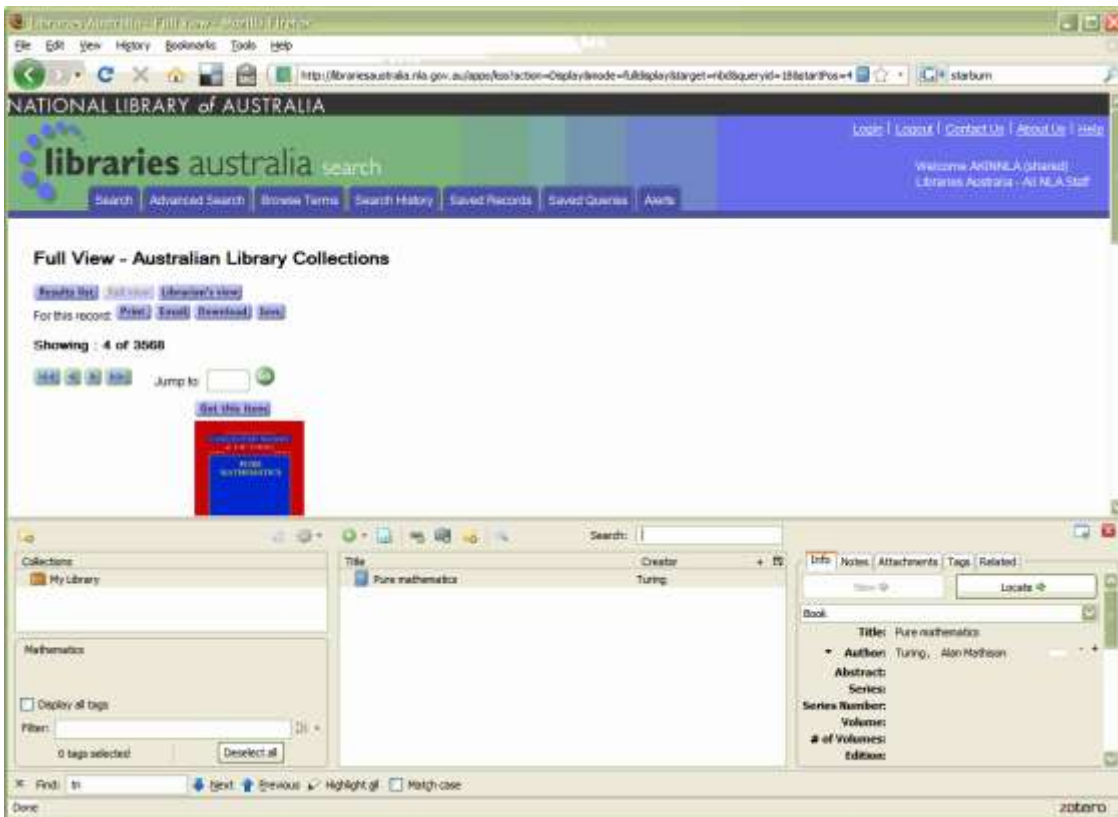


Figure 5: Displaying collections items and records in Zotero.

Zotero can also be viewed in full screen mode by clicking the relevant button in the Zotero toolbar to accommodate records with many fields or large collections of citations as shown below. To return to half screen mode simply click the half screen mode button indicated in the figure below.

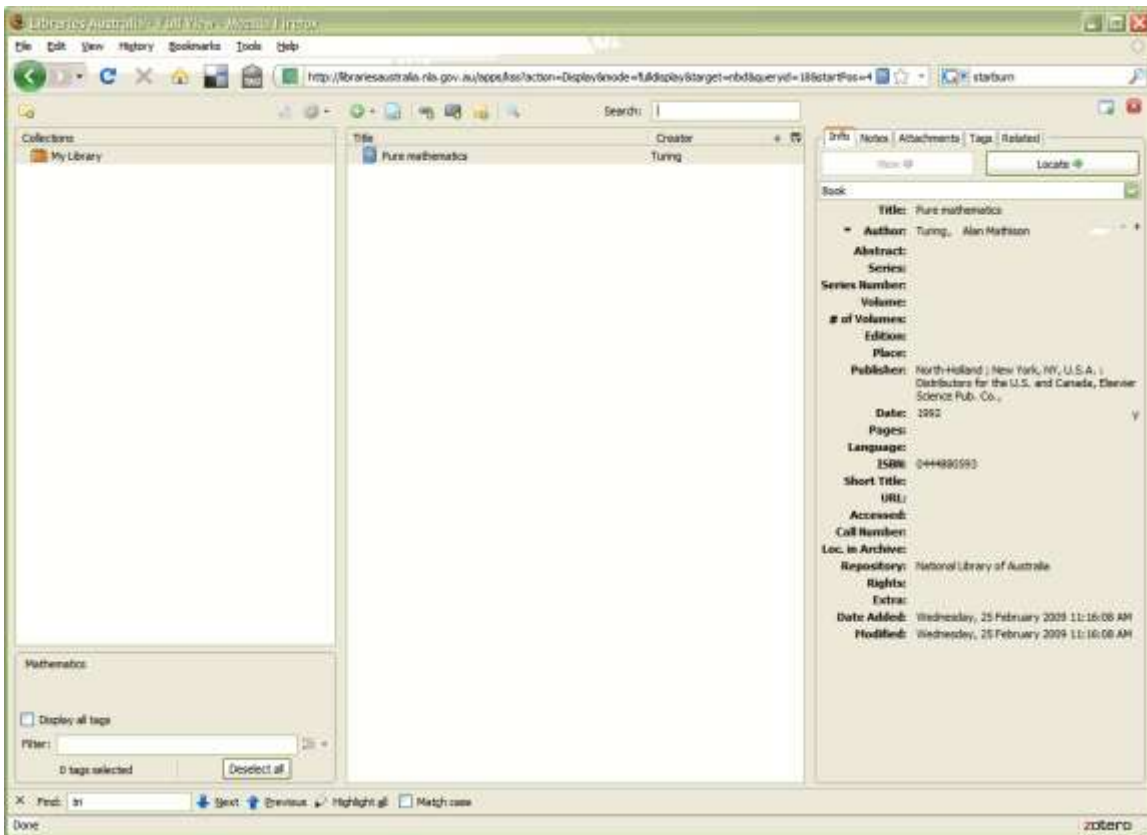


Figure 6: Zotero in full screen mode.

Zotero has a range of other features including an export function that exports to a range of different formats including Dublin Core, RIS, MODS, RDF Bibtext and Refer/BibIX. This function is useful for importing your Zotero citations into other citation software such as EndNote.

Note that the current version of the COinS functionality in Libraries Australia does not support the getting of a resource from a library. This is due to the absence of an OpenURL resolver. Libraries Australia itself can be used to get the resource in question and the National Library is investigating the implementation of an OpenURL resolver to support this in future.