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# Referencing made easy: Technology Enhanced Learning supporting STudents to achieve Academic Rigour (TELSTAR) project

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The Open University (OU) and its partners have developed a new piece of free software to help students and universities manage academic references more easily.

Funded by JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee), and made in collaboration with RefWorks (the web-based research management, writing and collaboration tool) the OU has developed MyReferences which is part of the TELSTAR project.

MyReferences integrates tools from the widely-used RefWorks reference management software into the Moodle virtual learning environment which is used in academic institutions across the UK to support online learning. The MyReferences software is open source, making it free for any institution to download, tailor to its own needs and integrate into their own learning environments.

Although there are already a number of general referencing tools available to students, MyReferences takes the usability of these tools a step further by integrating them into online courses so the materials students commonly need to reference are already available in the format they need. Students simply select the sources they need to

reference, the referencing style their institution requires and then copy and paste the result into their assignment.

Nicky Whitsed, Director of Library Services at the OU, said: "For students, this means helping them to adopt good practice in organising and managing references and using citations appropriately in their work. And for universities this new and easy reference management system will help to tackle plagiarism by making referencing easier; encourage information literacy; and help libraries to improve reference management for courses".

For more information about using TELSTAR in your institution, for a demonstration of the TELSTAR software and to see the new Reference Management Integration Toolkit, 'ReMIT' go to the TELSTAR website <http://www.open.ac.uk/telstar/>