Dr Sam Willis is a maritime historian and archaeologist. He’s the author of nine books and numerous articles and also works as a consultant for a range of clients.

His consultancy work spans a breadth of topics and time periods, requiring him to keep a very large bibliographic library of classic books, recent revisions, scholarly articles and conference presentations. He generally works across two disciplines, history and archaeology, which each have different referencing practices.

He needed something to keep it all organized, so on the recommendation of the IT department at the University of Exeter, Dr Willis adopted EndNote. Dr Willis immediately realized why EndNote is considered a “must have” piece of software for scholarly research. “It saves me time and hassle and allows me to create my own personalized bibliography,” he explained.

“With just a click of the mouse, I am able to change the referencing format to suit the requirements of the discipline and journal,” Dr Willis continued. “And I particularly like being able to tinker with the styles to create my own personalized one.”

Dr Willis uses EndNote throughout the research and writing process. “I enter books and articles as I come across them, then use EndNote to put the references into my own books and articles as I write them. Once complete, EndNote generates the bibliography of books that I have used,” he said.

One of the new features Dr Willis finds especially useful is the ability to download citations from databases of academic journals, like JSTOR, which takes the pain out of writing citations.

With some 1,500 book entries consulted and planned for consultation, Dr Willis has a fantastic resource at his fingertips and concluded, “EndNote is a magnificent piece of software which makes my life easier.”