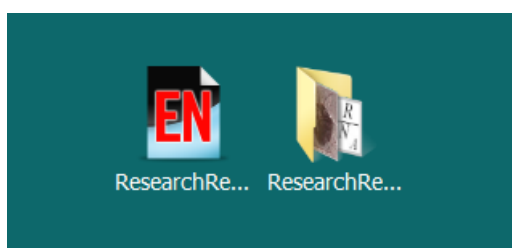# Rescuing a Lost EndNote Library

EndNote library files

Your library is where all your EndNote references are stored. It is usual for each worker to have just one library, and keep all their references together, rather than splitting them between multiple libraries. Find out about managing references within a library, by using keywords or by creating groups, in the course "EndNote: Introduction".

Two computer files

An EndNote library is made of 2 computer files: the main library with a filename similar to MarysResearch.enl and a folder with a name similar to MarysResearch.data .

The .ENL file contains the references with their bibliographic details.
The .DATA folder contains any PDF or other attached files, images and details of groups in the library.

Both files are needed, and both should be included whenever the library is moved, copied, or backed up. It is always important to keep these documents backed up with multiple copies kept separately, in case of technology trouble.

(Note: it is not recommended to store an EndNote library in Dropbox, because there is a risk of the files being corrupted; use EndNote's own online service instead.)

Lost or corrupted .DATA folder?

If the .DATA folder is lost, the .ENL file can still be opened and its contents used as an EndNote library. Any attached files, such as .PDFs or images, are lost, as is any grouping information.

Lost or corrupted .ENL file?

If the .ENL file is lost, it may be possible to rebuild it from the .DATA folder as follows:

a. Open WordPad or Notepad from the Programs > Accessories menu on your computer
b. Create a blank document
c. Select File > Save As…
   Save the blank document in the same location as the DATA folder
   Give it the same name prefix as the DATA folder, and the suffix .ENL
   eg P:\MarysResearch.enl

The new file then behaves as an EndNote library, which can be opened and used.