

The WCL SJD Custom Style for Zotero

Adapting the Bluebook citation style to a dissertation bibliography

November 2025

This style is for use with regular Zotero version 7.0, not Jurism (Juris-M). Jurism's Indigo Book (law reviews) style will do a bibliography, while the standard Bluebook Law Review style for Zotero will not.

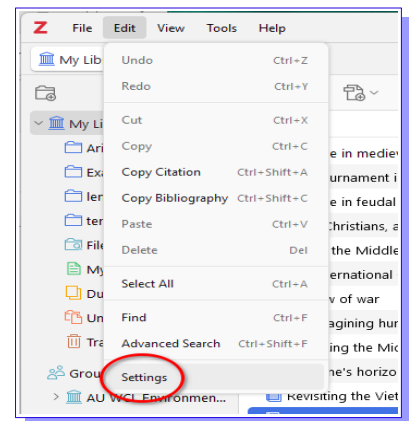
Installation

To use our style, save the [BluebookWCLBiblio.2025.10.csl](https://jusgentium.org/sites/default/files/2025-10/BluebookWCLBiblio.2025.10.csl) file somewhere in your computer's file system where you can find it again. If you don't have a copy of it, you may download it from:

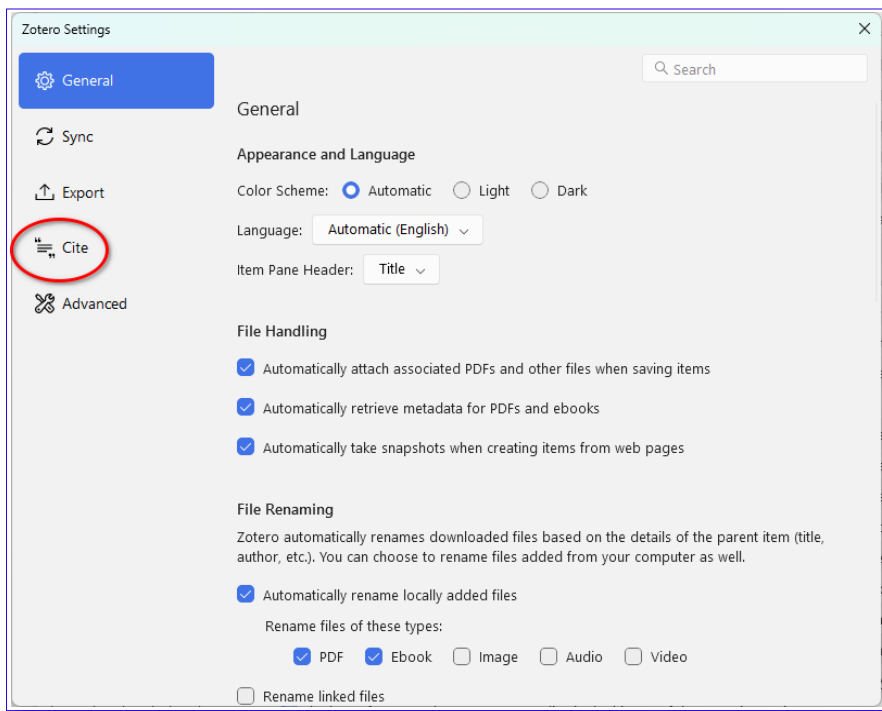
<https://jusgentium.org/sites/default/files/2025-10/BluebookWCLBiblio.2025.10.csl>

anytime. Once you have it saved in a known location, open up Zotero.

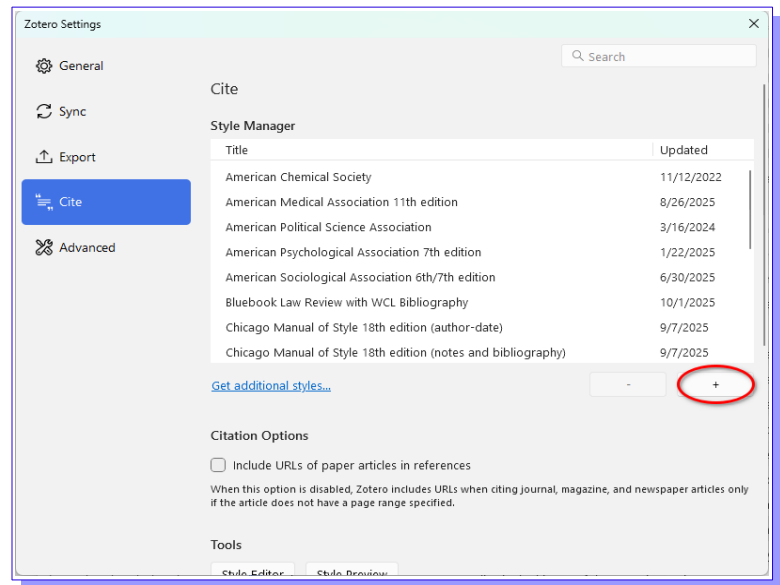
Click on the Edit menu, and then click on Settings to bring up the Zotero Settings window.



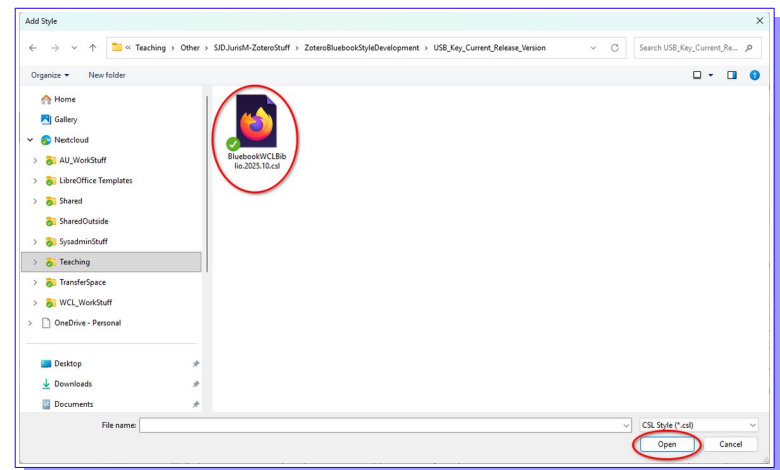
Click on the "Cite" tab.



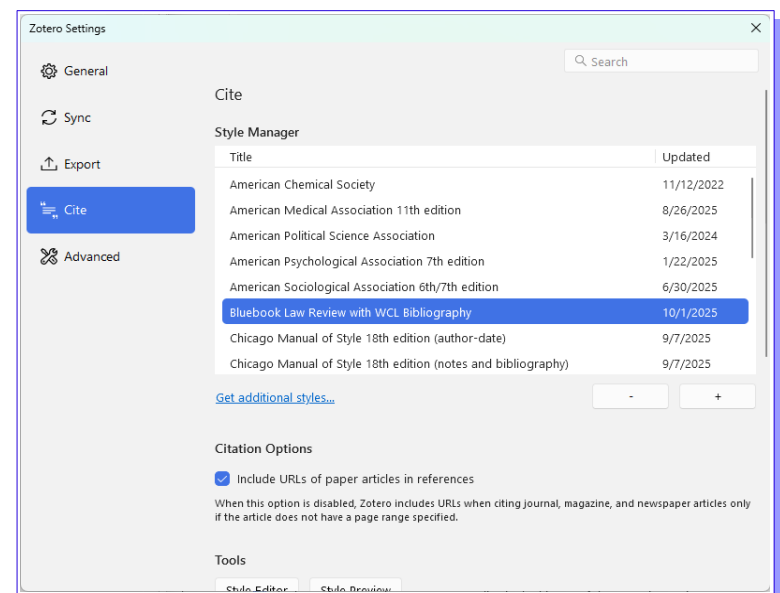
In the resulting display, click on the “+” button on the right side of the window.



This will bring up your computer's file explorer. Navigate to where you saved the [BluebookWCLBiblio2025.10.csl](#) file earlier, highlight it, and then click on the “Open” button.



Scroll down the list of installed styles and you should find it listed. You are now ready to start using our custom style.



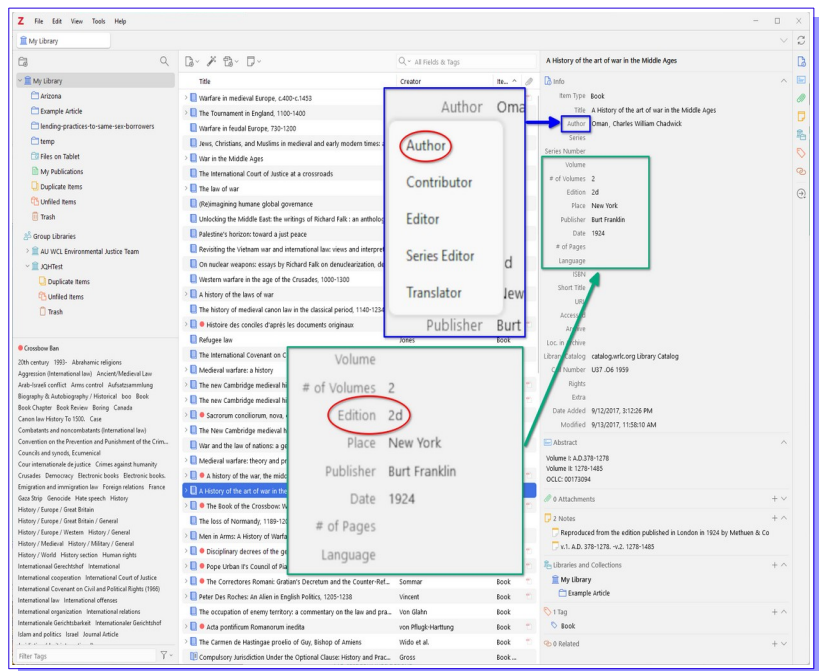
Using our custom style to build a bibliography

What you get in your bibliography depends a great deal on what you put into it. Don't just accept the entries that are automatically downloaded to Zotero.

The one thing we really can't yet do in Zotero is alphabetize properly by title, which you need to do when you have more than one work by the same author. When alphabetizing a title, you should not use a beginning article (A, An, The, and their foreign language equivalents). Since Zotero cannot do this, you will have to check your entire bibliography and reposition those titles by hand.

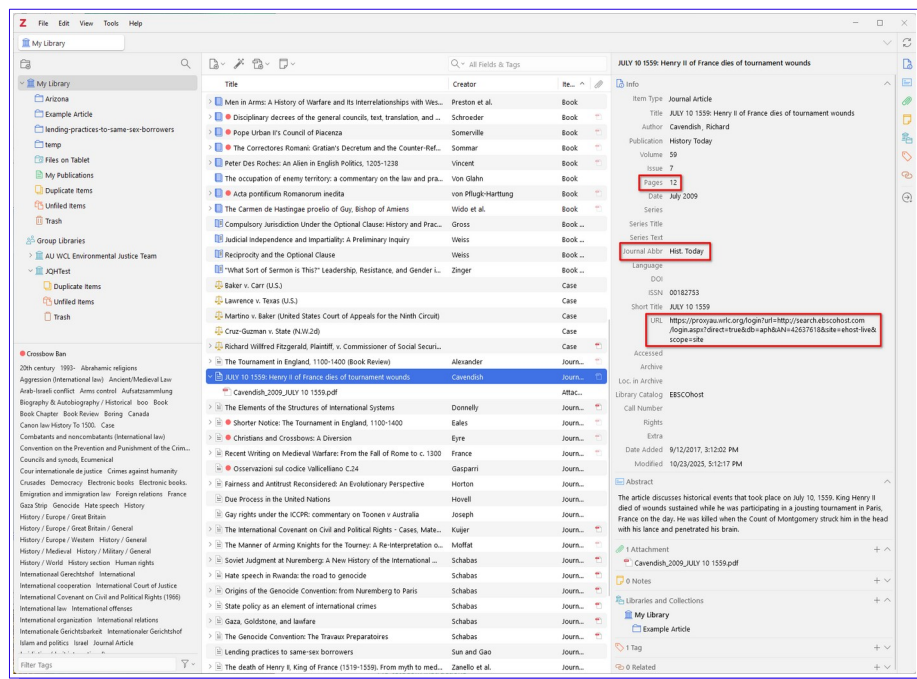
In books and book chapters, check that the authors are listed as **Authors**, and editors are listed as **Editors**.

Also in books and book chapters, the **Edition** field should not have the “ed.” as the program will put that in for you automatically. Just put in the ordinal number abbreviation (3d, 4th, etc.) or “Rev.”



In articles, the **Pages** field should just have the first page number of the article. If you put, for example, the page range into that field, that page range will show up in the bibliography, where the Bluebook only wants the first page number.

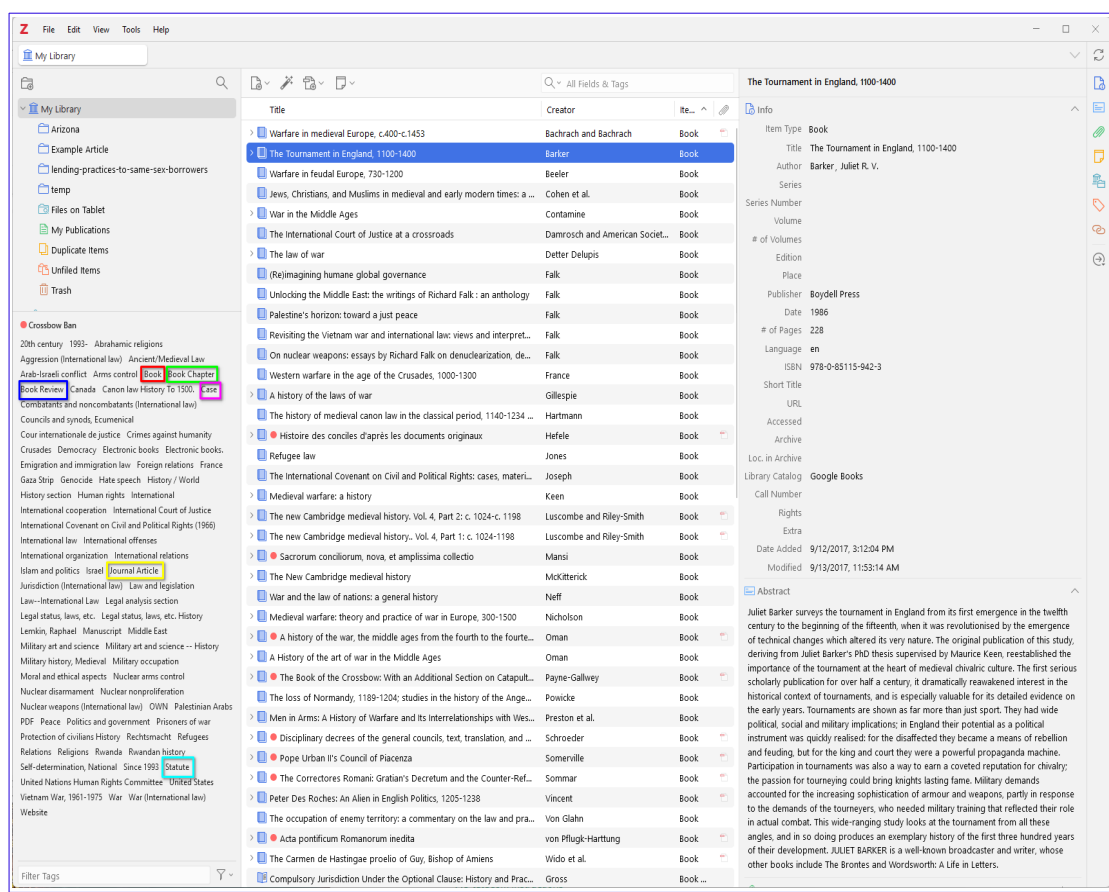
Also for articles, if you want Zotero to use the appropriate Bluebook journal title abbreviation, you **must**



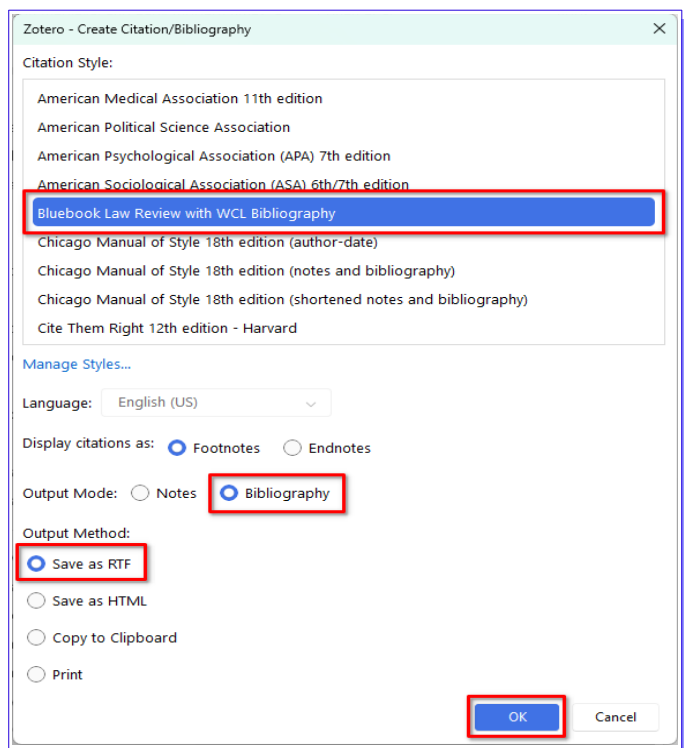
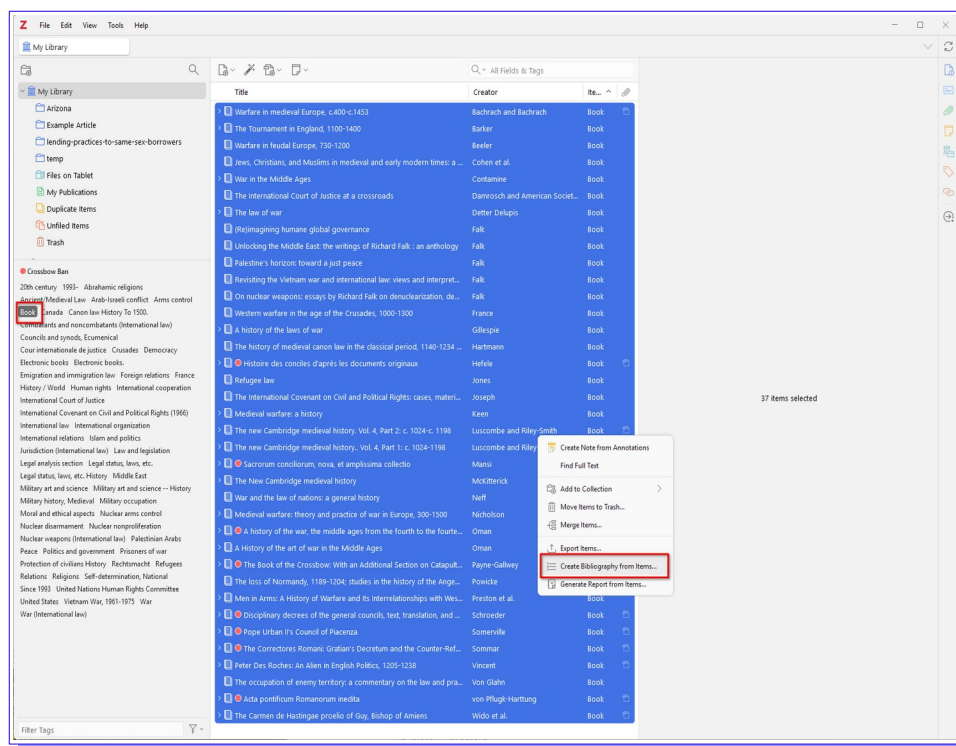
include that abbreviation in the **Journal Abbr** field for every article from that journal. Any article that does not have that field filled will have the full name of the journal in its bibliography entry, which is not Bluebook correct. So whenever you add a journal article to Zotero, take the time and look up the Bluebook journal title abbreviation and fill it into that field on the article's Zotero entry.

If you put a URL into the “URL” field, it will show up exactly like that field in the finished bibliography. This can be a good thing, but make sure it is what you want.

Most bibliographies are broken down into subsections: one for books, one for chapters, one for journal articles, one for news articles, one for cases, one for treaties, one for documents, etc. Open Microsoft Word and create a document that has the titles for your various sections written out and separated by a few blank lines. To fill in each section, you will need to create a separate bibliography listing for each. The best way we have found to do this is to label each source in your Zotero collection with a distinct tag for the section of the bibliography to which it belongs.

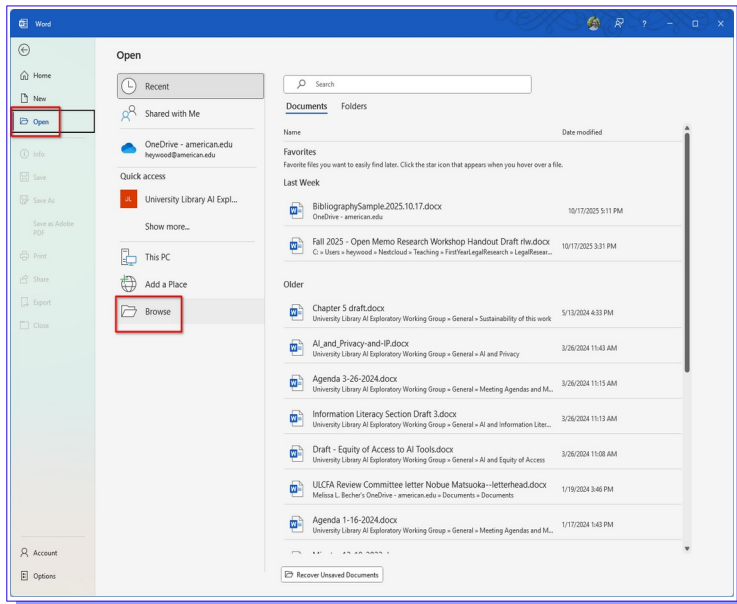
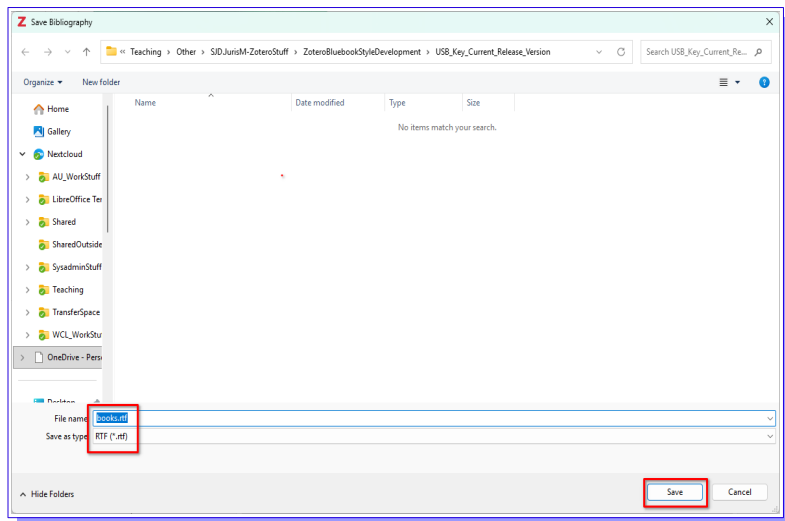


Once you have done this, you just click on that tag in the Tag Selector. All the entries that fit that section will appear in the main panel (to undo, just click on the highlighted tag in the Tag Selector). Highlight all of the entries (Edit->"Select All" or Ctrl-click on each entry) and right click on one of the selected entries. Select "Create Bibliography from Items".



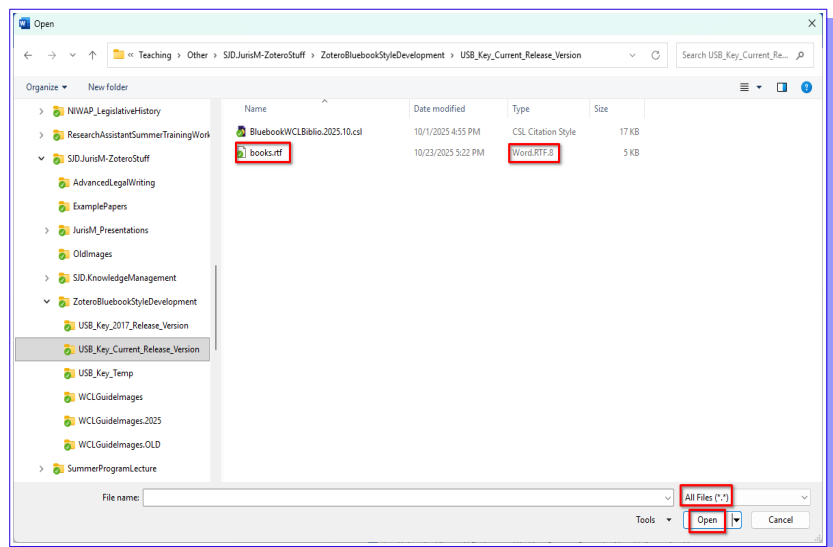
Choose the "Bluebook Law Review with WCL Bibliography" as your citation style, choose "Bibliography" as the output mode, and "Save as RTF" as the output method. Click on OK.

Save the resulting file
someplace you can find it and
name it appropriately,
perhaps the title of the
subsection of the
bibliography, in this example,
Books.rtf.

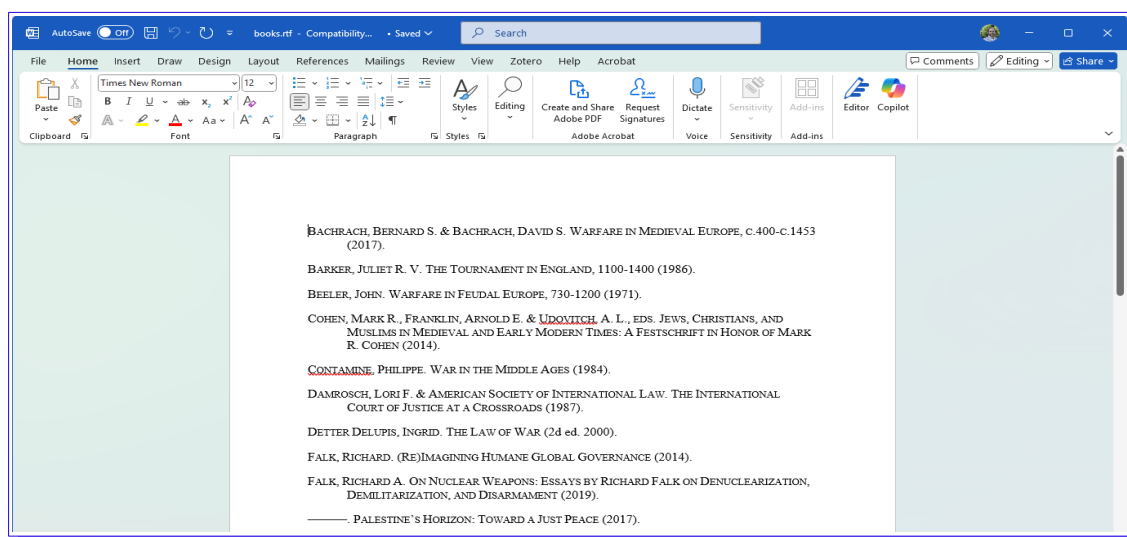


In Microsoft Word, click on the
“Open” and then the “Browse”
buttons.

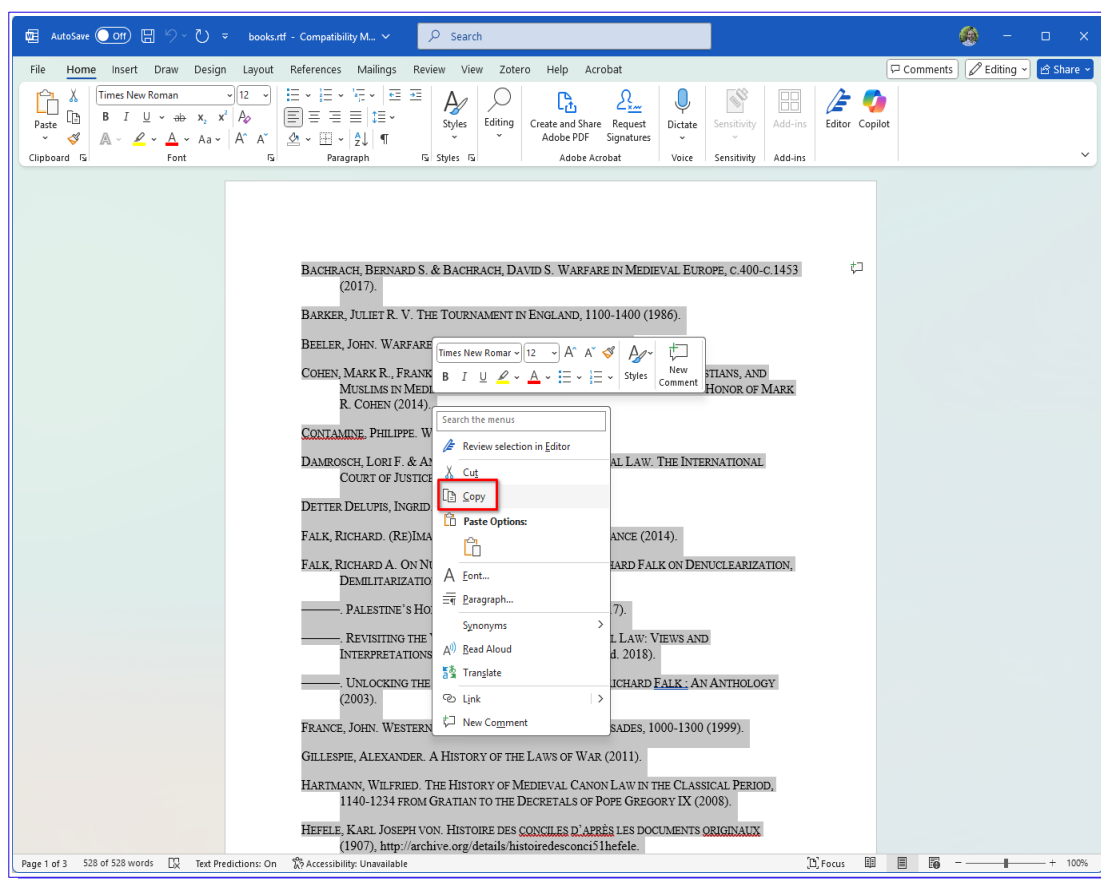
In the file explorer window that
pops up, navigate to where
you saved the **Books.rtf** file,
make sure “All Files” are in the
pull-down menu, highlight the
file, and then click on “Open”
in the lower right of the
window.



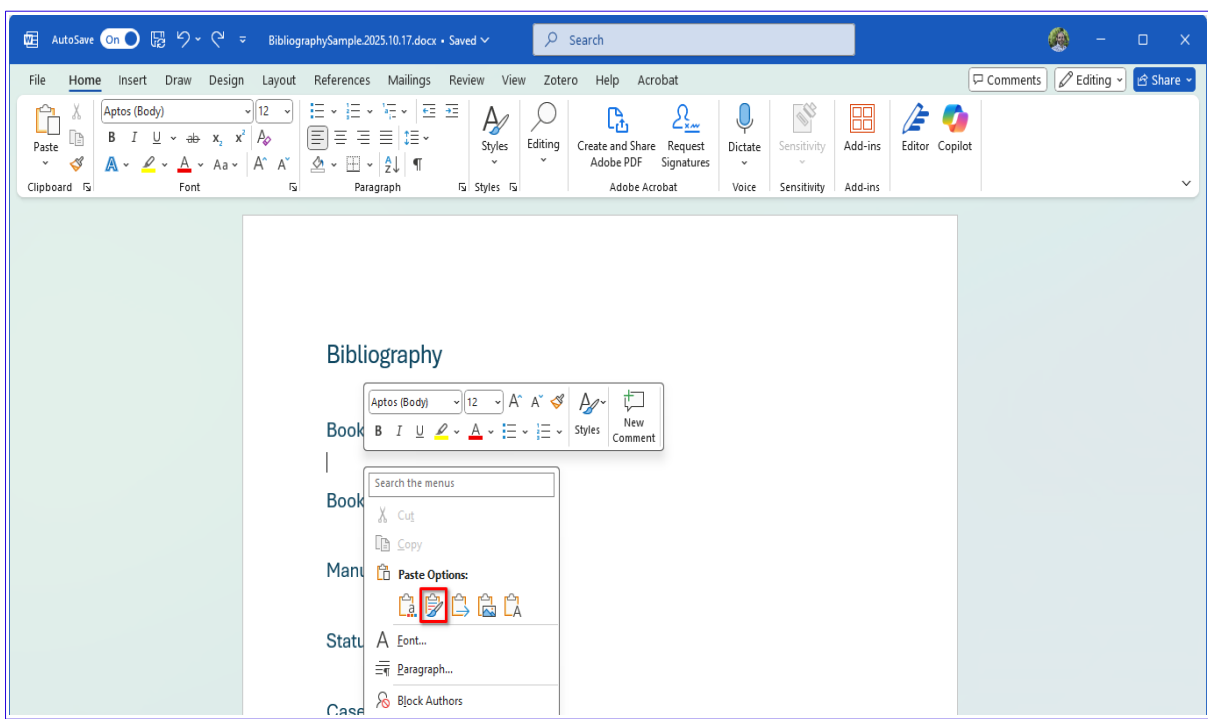
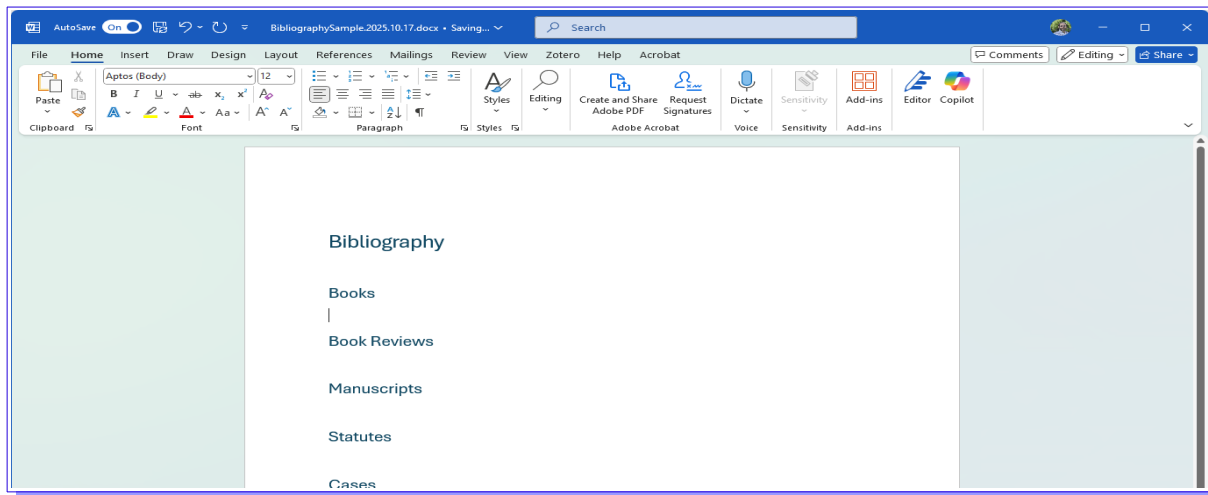
Books.rtf should now be open in Microsoft Word and look like this:



Use the mouse to highlight all of the entries, then right-click on the highlighted area to bring up a menu. On that menu, choose “Copy”.

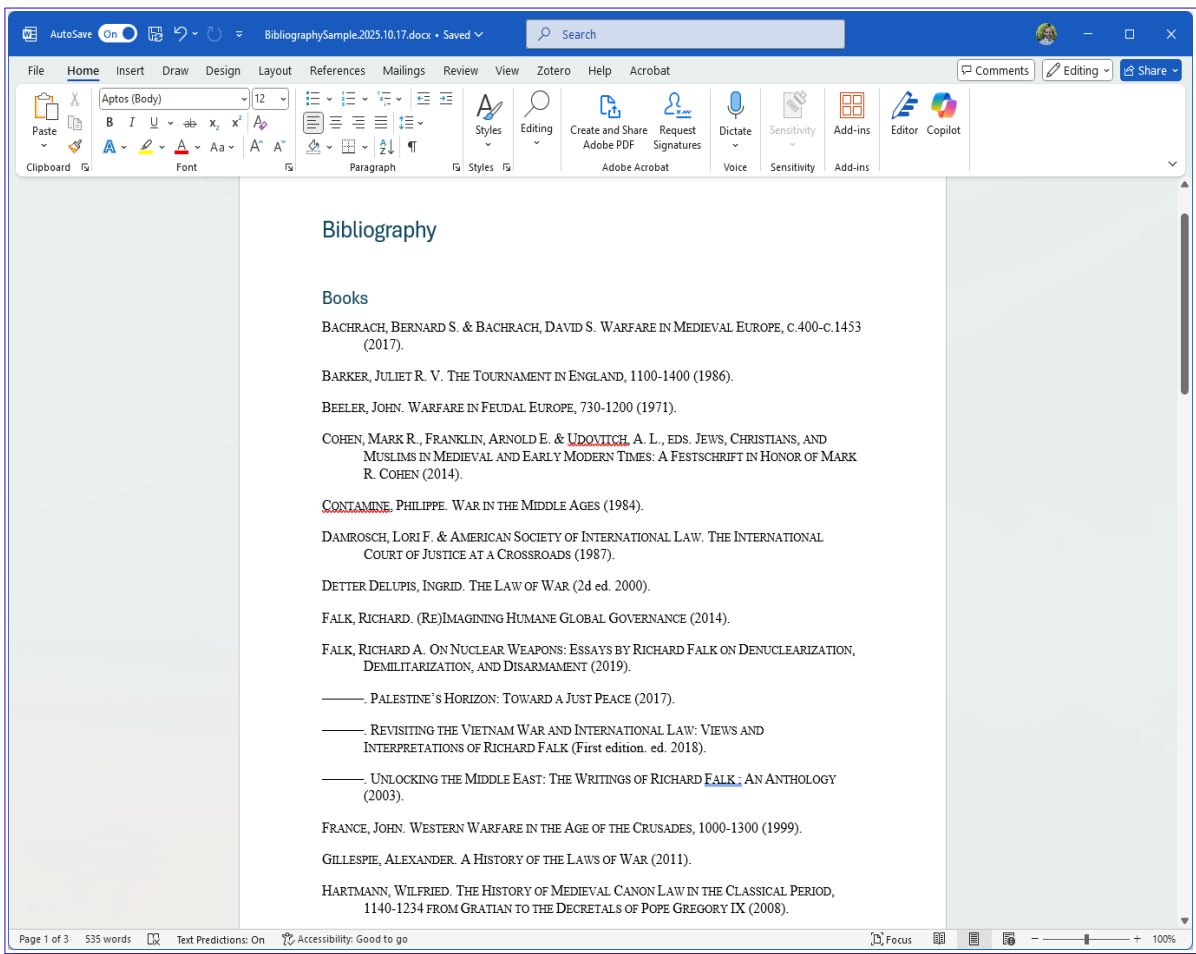


In Microsoft Word, change to your bibliography document (the one that has the section headings that you have chosen typed out). Put the cursor in the space under the appropriate heading, in this case, “Books,” and paste what you copied from the .rtf file.



Use the “Keep Source Formatting” icon.

It should now look like this:



Repeat for each section of your bibliography, and don't forget to save the file frequently.