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# CiteSource

Creating and distributing a bibliography writer

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12/22/2008  
MYP 5

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## INTRODUCTION

### GOAL

The goal of this project consisted of two main objectives. The first was to create a useful application for simplifying the strenuous task of writing bibliographies. This program would automatically format each entry and apply all the punctuation necessary, making it considerably easier for students to cite their sources correctly. I planned to include all the commonly used sources (books, websites, newspapers, etc.) and utilize the Harvard Referencing Style, which is the standard at our school.

In the second part of my project, I intended to publish the program. I would create a website from which the application could be downloaded, with no cost, by the public (students, teachers, researchers or anyone else who must use the Harvard Referencing Style in their occupation or free time). I would also create a few CD-ROMs with the application for those with no internet access, which could be borrowed from the school library. Finally, in order to make the public aware of such a freeware application, I would inform the students and staff at my school, and I would submit the program to search engines such as Google.


The entire project would follow the usual software development process, a structure used in the making of software. I would write the application code in C#, “a powerful and flexible programming language,” which, “does not place constraints on what you can do; therefore, your potential with it is limited only by your imagination” (Jones, 2004). I learned this relatively new language in my free time. The webpage would be written in HTML, which I also familiarized myself with, as a hobby. Any additional necessary programming knowledge would be obtained from friends with such experience, or located on the internet.

### AREAS OF INTERACTION

It is difficult to specify exactly which of the five areas of interaction (AOI) are most suitable for this goal. They overlap in many areas, and the project definitely has aspects of each. I chose two AOI that are probably the most fitting; Homo Faber and Community and Service.

Homo Faber, meaning “Man the Maker” in Latin, is concentrated around the idea of human ingenuity and creativity, and the ability of humans to influence the society and its quality of life (International Baccalaureate Organization, 2008). Due to the great amount of imagination required to write a useful program for the society, Homo Faber is definitely involved. Additionally, a large part of my development process was research in the areas of programming and referencing, each with a historical background of discoveries and inventions. The creation of a unique product and the research required to do so are both a significant part of the Homo Faber area of interaction.

The relation of my project to Community and Service is fairly obvious. By providing an easier approach to writing bibliographies to the community, I simplify their lives and allow them to focus their efforts elsewhere. In the world we live in, time is becoming increasingly more important. Writing a freeware program allows me, or, for that matter, any other programmer, “to contribute something for the benefit of the community” (Wikipedia, 2008). In other words, by giving people the option of a computer completing time-consuming tasks for them, I improve their lives.



## PROCESS

The entire process was conducted according to the software development cycle, “a structure imposed on the development of a software product” (Vo, 2008), which has many variations, but generally includes most of the following steps. (See Appendix 2)

### PLANNING/ RESEARCH

The first step in the development of something new is brainstorming. Having only a very general idea of what I intended to do, I recorded every possible option and function that a bibliography writer could have. This creative, inspirational part of the planning process went on for approximately two months, during which I devised and noted down everything I could think of which related to the simplification of bibliography writing.

After I obtained a general impression of what was to be included in the future CiteSource application, and discussed the possibilities with my supervisor and put together a time schedule. Having three months to complete the project, I decided to finish to program in the first, its publication in the second, and have it evaluated and tested in the third. Next, I researched the possible referencing styles and decided to select two of them: Harvard, the standard at GJH, and MLA, the most popular referencing style. However, after finding that even a single referencing style varied from source to source, I chose to create the program solely based on the Harvard Referencing Guide accessible from my school website. This would eliminate and discrepancies between different guides, and simplify the development.

### DESIGN

After sketching the various aspects of the program (splash screen, main window, source window, etc.), I settled on a design that was both simple and practical. The user would select a source in the main window, input the data into a popup window, and the new bibliography entry would appear in the main window. I drew a detailed diagram of the windows and their buttons, menus, text areas, etc. Over time, as research was conducted and similar programs examined, I added other options. When the design was sufficient for programming, I drew a scheme of the program and its interactivity with the user (what a button click would affect, for example). At this stage, I was prepared to start writing the code.

### IMPLEMENTATION

Using the Microsoft Visual Studio, I recreated my sketches into their real form. This was simple and fast. More difficult was the actual programming. For each action the user performs, such as clicking on a button, I had to manually write code to tell the computer how to react. This was a demanding and challenging procedure. Many times while

programming I thought of new idea, an innovation I could make, resulting in a very different final version than originally expected.

The implementation stage took the majority of the project. After the completion of the basic structure, each source had to be programmed separately. The punctuation, brackets, and italics were at times frustrating. A minimum of half an hour was required to program each source and test its functionality, and considering the number of sources, the programming was very lengthy and time-consuming. Furthermore, as I advanced in the programming, bugs (errors in the program) would present themselves, setting me back further. Nevertheless, I managed to complete all the sources, and the program was ready for testing.

## DEPLOYMENT / PUBLICITY

In order to publicize CiteSource, I had to have a website. Being familiar with HTML a various webpage editors, I chose to create it myself, and make it as simple as possible. The same process as was used in the development of the program was applied to the website. I drew sketches, wrote the code, and tested it on the internet. No doubt that in actuality it was a bit more complex, but in comparison to CiteSource, the website took much less time and effort. The site consists of one long page, with information concerning the download of CiteSource, its use, how to contact the author, and links. I placed both the website and the program on the internet on a free SZM.sk account.

Since only the people that are aware of CiteSource can make use of its functions, I tried to broadcast the message over the internet. I submitted my website to search engines such as Google and added the program to a database of freeware, Softpedia. Additionally, I spread the word through people I know, such as classmates, teachers, and family. I made the world as aware of CiteSource as possible.


## TESTING

When the public had access to the program, I asked people with various computers and computer skills to download it and send feedback. The criticism I received was mostly positive. Many bugs I had not noticed were uncovered and fixed. However, although CiteSource is now freely available to the public, it still contains many defects and imperfections. As the testing stage is never truly complete, CiteSource can continue to be improved in the future.

## EVALUATION

The final phase of the development cycle is an assessment of the final product, and a reflection on what could have been done otherwise and what other improvements can be made in the future. The most relevant ratings will be those of worldwide users on the

internet. Each individual who downloaded CiteSource can add their personal rating to the product description and write a review with their viewpoints. This evaluation helps users decide whether the software is sufficient to fulfill their needs, whether to download it or not. With the help of evaluations from fellow classmates, from teachers, or from anyone else, further work can be done on the project in the future according to the needs of the community.



## ANALYSIS

### PROGRAM

As the entire process went relatively smoothly and without any major problems, there are not many things I would have done differently. I successfully chose specific programming techniques and applied them to create a computer program. I considered various means of performing each task and made my decisions based on my research and the influence of my family, classmates, and supervisors. I focused my efforts on making the application as simple and as practical as possible.

The first step in the creation of this project, as is in the development cycle, was research. However, I was unable to find very many of both printed and online sources that could significantly contribute to my project. Probably due to its very specific goal of creating a bibliography writer, very few documents offered applicable advice on how to do so. Therefore, most ideas used, except for those from sources found in the bibliography, were original. I attempted to include as wide a variety of sources as possible, but very few pertain to this particular subject.

As mentioned before, the entire program was written in C#, with the help of Microsoft Visual Studio. Many techniques in computer programming would not be understandable to those who do not have some experience in this field. Therefore, I will attempt to simplify the technical aspects of software development as much as possible.

One of the areas in which CiteSource lacks is the installation process. In order to install CiteSource on a computer, the .NET Framework must already be installed. Having to download and install an additional program is an annoyance to the public. However, there was no way to omit this extra step in the installation process, other than writing the entire program in a different language. Learning a new programming language would be nearly impossible in time given, but having the chance to redo the project, I would probably try to do so in a different, more convenient programming language.

The structure seen in this program is very common. Upon opening, a splash screen flashed for a few seconds, and the main program window opens. It consists of buttons labeled with source types in the upper half and the bibliography in the bottom half. I chose this structure for its property of being extremely self-explanatory. When a button is clicked, another window opens, which contains input fields for information about the source (author, date, place of publication, etc.). Finally, upon clicking "Submit," the formatted bibliography entry is added to the list. The main window also contains in menu with options such as saving, opening, and exiting. Overall, the entire program is written to be very transparent and

straightforward, so that it can be used by those with very little computer skill. I devised this simple structure after examining other programs and considering many other options.

Although the structure of the application is solid, a few minor adjustments could be made. One possible improvement in the future is the addition of more languages, especially the secondary tongue at my school, Slovak. English is an international language; however, to reach the greatest audience, more languages need to be provided. Another alternation in the program would be the automatic alphabetizing and formatting of the bibliography. I was unable to complete this task myself, the reasons being too technical to discuss in this essay.

Originally, I also planned to include other referencing styles in the program. After realizing the difficulty of completing just one, I made a decision to only include the Harvard Referencing Style, which is the one I located on my school website. Moreover, even this one style had many variations. For example, some guides included square brackets and underlines, while others did not. Therefore, I decided to format all sources according to the single guide accessible from [ww.gjh.sk](http://ww.gjh.sk). Although this limited the power of CiteSource, it also made it the only Harvard Referencing bibliography writer I found on the internet, making it unique, and increasing its chance of being downloaded.

The final problematic aspect of CiteSource is its name. After finishing the website and uploading the program to the internet, I found out the name "Cite Source" was already being used by a web site. What I considered an original name was quite common on the internet. Nevertheless, luckily, CiteSource is the only program called this way.

To conclude, in order to complete the program part of the CiteSource project, techniques were selected to make it as simple as possible. These techniques were applied successfully and the program is a considerable accomplishment. There are several things it lacks in comparison to other programs of its type, but it also has some functions that others do not. Being the only freeware Harvard bibliography writer available and combining simplicity and functionality, CiteSource is well worth the download.

## PUBLICATION

The program itself is only half of the entire project. Without being available to the public, and without the public being aware of its uses, CiteSource is completely useless. In order to publicize the application, a webpage was created.

The design of the webpage was, as with the program, a matter of simplicity. Inspired by many program websites, I decided to make it one long page, instead of many linked pages. This turned out to be a great decision. A page of this structure is easy to maintain and also easy to read by the public. The colors and layout of the page were selected after testing the look and ease of use of many combinations. I finally settled upon the color scheme blue,

white, and green, and tried to include the fewest colors whenever possible, creating a more professional look. When the page was complete, I asked my family and friends for their opinions. Most thought the page needed no changes, and so very few needed to be made.

The content of the webpage is identical to other pages of its type. It contains sections for downloading CiteSource, details about the program, a guide to its use, contact details, and links. Contact details were included so that feedback could be received from the public. The reason for inclusion of the other sections is fairly obvious.

The webpage is hosted on the server of SZM.sk, which is evident from its URL; CiteSource.szm.sk. I considered other options before making this decision. Firstly, I could have bought a domain name and paid a monthly fee for the CiteSource webpage. This would have had advantages, such as a better, easier to remember URL and unlimited space. Also, I could have placed the webpage on our school server. I disregarded this option because although I would have had a large amount of space, and it would have been free, there would have been difficulties with uploading new data to the server. I would have had to meet with a school server administrator every time I needed to make a change to the webpage. Therefore, I finally settled on the free service provided by SZM, registered, and uploaded the page. It is very simple has many shortcomings, but the webpage is more than adequate for CiteSource.

After browsing the internet for more ways to publicize CiteSource, I located one final free service I could use. Upon typing “submit program” into the Google search engine, I found Softpedia, a library of software to which I could add my own. This was, most likely, the most purposeful decision I made during the entire process. After adding CiteSource and filling out the required information, Softpedia included my program in its Home & Education section (see Appendix 3). The program was tested, “using several industry-leading security solutions and found to be completely clean of adware/spyware components” (Softpedia, 2008). Softpedia stated that they “are impressed with the quality of [my] product and encourage [me] to keep these high standards in the future” (Softpedia, 2008).

Not only did this addition to the Softpedia database increase the confidence of the public, it also boosted the placement of my program on Google. I must stress how important this is. Almost everyone looking for free software starts with a search engine. Now, after typing, for example, “download free Harvard Referencing” into Google, CiteSource comes up as the third most relevant result. Solely due to its placement in search engines, CiteSource averages, so far, approximately five downloads per day. This number is expected to rise as the public awareness rises. There is nothing more important in a freeware application than its availability to the public, a now, it is.

## CONCLUSION

The creation of CiteSource and its webpage were a demanding and time-consuming task. However, both are now functional and accessible to public use. They have an array of useful features and many options that are not present even in some commercial software. After doing a series of searches on Google, CiteSource was the only full freeware application I was able to find for the Harvard Referencing Style. The other bibliography writers were either for other styles, or not free. Therefore, I managed to write a simple and efficient program, which was before inexistent, and handed it to the community. This, I believe, is a great accomplishment.

On the other hand, CiteSource has not become the favorite bibliography writer. There are reasons why. Many large software companies have also noticed that writing bibliographies is a task that can be simplified by the use of computers, and have made programs that outrank CiteSource. A new version of Microsoft Word, a very common text editor, already contains the APA, MLA, Chicago and other referencing styles. My program has no chance of keeping up with such software monarchs. In the future, these software companies will add functions for which I have neither the programming knowledge nor the experience, and CiteSource will be rendered completely obsolete. In addition, it has many flaws, bugs, and deficiencies which were missed during the testing stage, and have still not been found. CiteSource is free, but commercial software is much more advanced.

In conclusion, I achieved all the goals I set for myself in the very beginning. However, although CiteSource is user-friendly, practical, and effective to use, it is incapable of being considered as competition to commercial programs. Nevertheless, as with all software, there is never a stage at which we can call CiteSource complete. A continuation in the project is possible at any time in the future, since all commented source code, web pages and other files are safely stored. If future work is not conducted, and the community does not find CiteSource useful, at least it was a terrific programming and learning experience.

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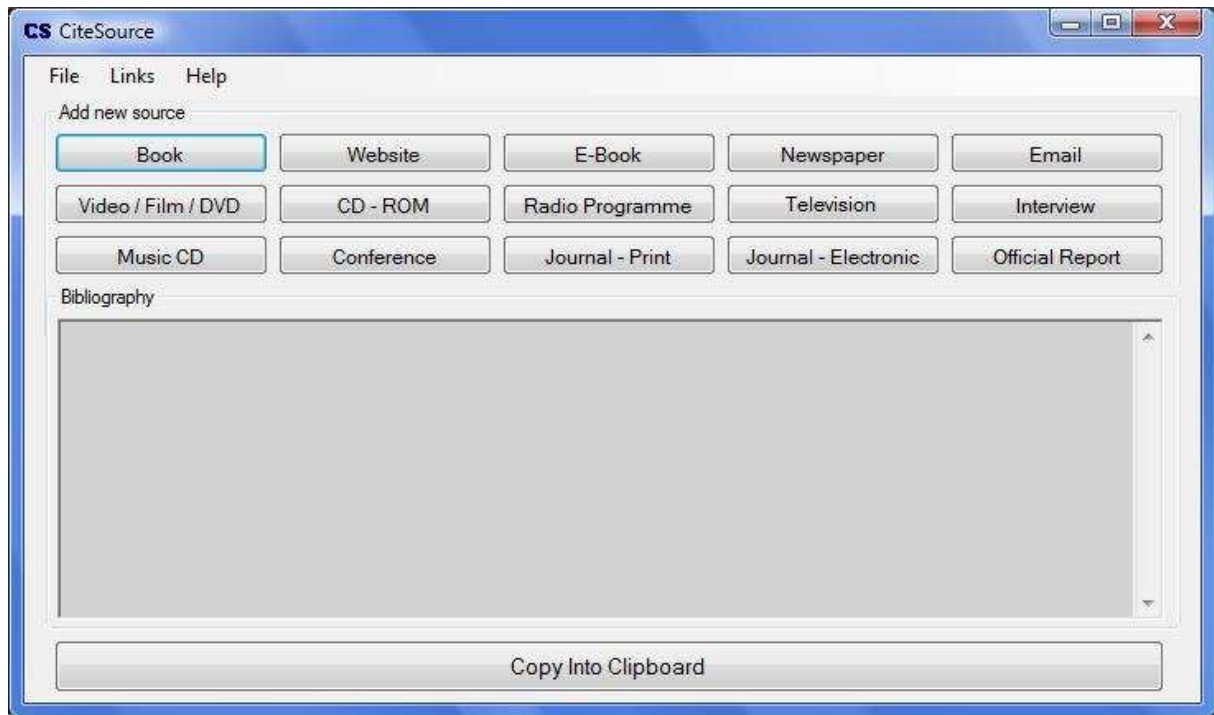
[http://www.dlsweb.rmit.edu.au/Isu/content/1\\_StudySkills/study\\_tuts/harvard\\_LL/harvard.html](http://www.dlsweb.rmit.edu.au/Isu/content/1_StudySkills/study_tuts/harvard_LL/harvard.html) [accessed 29 December 2008]

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*The main program window*



*The window used to enter data for each source*

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*An example of a bibliography in CiteSource*

CiteSource - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

http://citesource.szm.sk/ Google

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# CITESOURCE

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## Download

You can download the [CiteSource application](#) by clicking on the button below.

 **Download**

**100% CLEAN**  
 NO SPYWARE  
 NO ADWARE  
 NO VIRUSES  
**SOFTPEDIA™**  
 certified by [www.softpedia.com](http://www.softpedia.com)

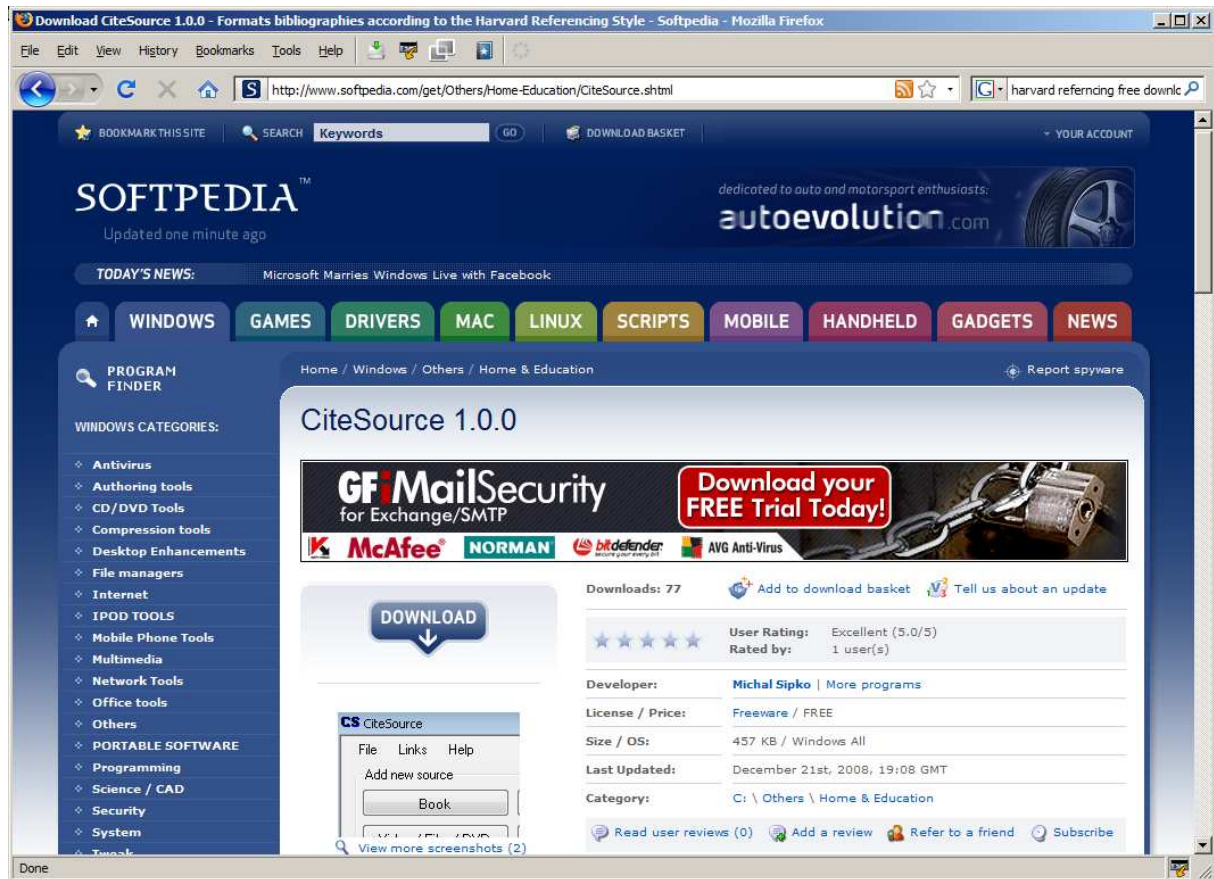
\*Note: The [.NET Framework 3.5](#) must be installed in order to run this application. If you do not already have the [.NET Framework 3.5](#) installed, it will be installed during the installation of CiteSource. If you would like to install it separately, you can do so by clicking [here](#).

## About

CiteSource is a freeware application downloadable from this internet site. It formats over 15 various source types with the Harvard Referencing Style, creating a bibliography. CiteSource does all formatting according to the [Harvard Referencing Guide](#). Combining simplicity and efficiency, CiteSource is the perfect application to ease writing bibliographies.

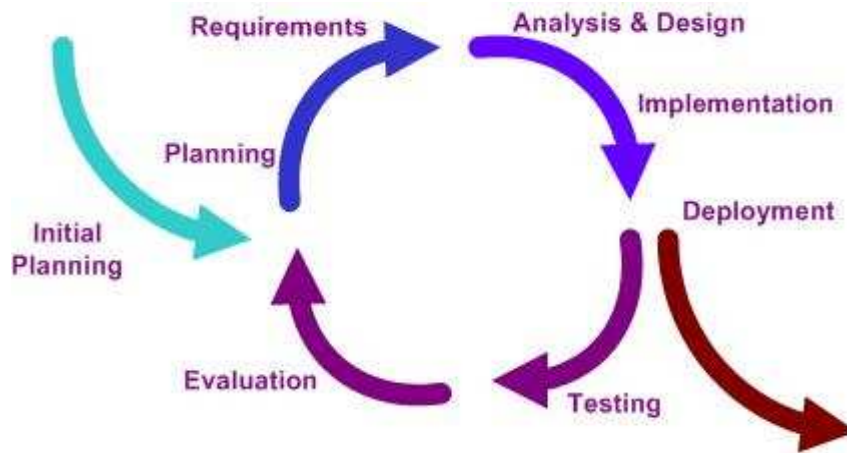
Done

*CiteSource.szm.sk – CiteSource Homepage – enables free download and provides usage information*



<http://www.softpedia.com/get/Others/Home-Education/CiteSource.shtml>

*CiteSource hosted on Softpedia*



*A diagram that visually depicts the software development process*

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EMAIL FROM SOFTPEDIA.COM – CITESOURCE ADDED

**Softpedia Editorial Team <softeditor@softpedia.com> Sun, Dec 21, 2008 at 9:05 PM**

To: sipkom@gmail.com

Congratulations,

CiteSource, one of your products, has been added to Softpedia's database of software programs for the Windows operating system. It is featured with a description text, screenshots, download links and technical details on this page:

<http://www.softpedia.com/get/Others/Home-Education/CiteSource.shtml>

The description text was created by our editors, using sources such as text from your product's homepage, information from its help system, the PAD file (if available) and the editor's own opinions on the program itself.

"CiteSource" has been tested in the Softpedia labs using several industry-leading security solutions and found to be completely clean of adware/spyware components. We are impressed with the quality of your product and encourage you to keep these high standards in the future.

To assure our visitors that CiteSource is clean, we have granted it with the "100% CLEAN" Softpedia award. To let your users know about this certification, you may display this award on your website, on software boxes or inside your product.

More information about your product's certification and the award is available on this page:

<http://www.softpedia.com/progClean/CiteSource-Clean-116440.html>

Feel free to link to us using the URLs above. If you choose to link to the clean award page for your product, you may use the award graphic or a text link: "100% CLEAN award granted by Softpedia".

If you feel that having your product listed on Softpedia is not a benefit for you or simply need something changed or updated, please contact us via email at [webmaster@softpedia.com](mailto:webmaster@softpedia.com) and we will work with you to fix any problem you may have found with the product's listing.

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Sincerely,  
The Softpedia Team

**Michal Sipko <sipkom@gmail.com> Mon, Dec 22, 2008 at 1:22 AM**

To: webmaster@softpedia.com

Dear Softpedia Team,

I am very grateful for your quick and efficient addition of my program to your website. If possible, I would like to make a small correction.

Under the Product Description, CiteSource is described as "A interesting bibliography retriever"  
The description of the product would be more accurate as "Formats bibliographies according to the Harvard Referencing Style"

Thank you for your consideration. I would be grateful if these changes could be made as soon as possible.  
Michal Sipko

**Stefan Fintea <stefan@softpedia.com> Mon, Dec 22, 2008 at 5:08 PM**

Reply-To: stefan@softpedia.com

To: sipkom@gmail.com

Hello Michal,

Listing updated as you requested.

Best regards,  
Stefan Fintea