small changes: taking back control of research through open software

Simon Bowie
open source software developer

simonxix.com

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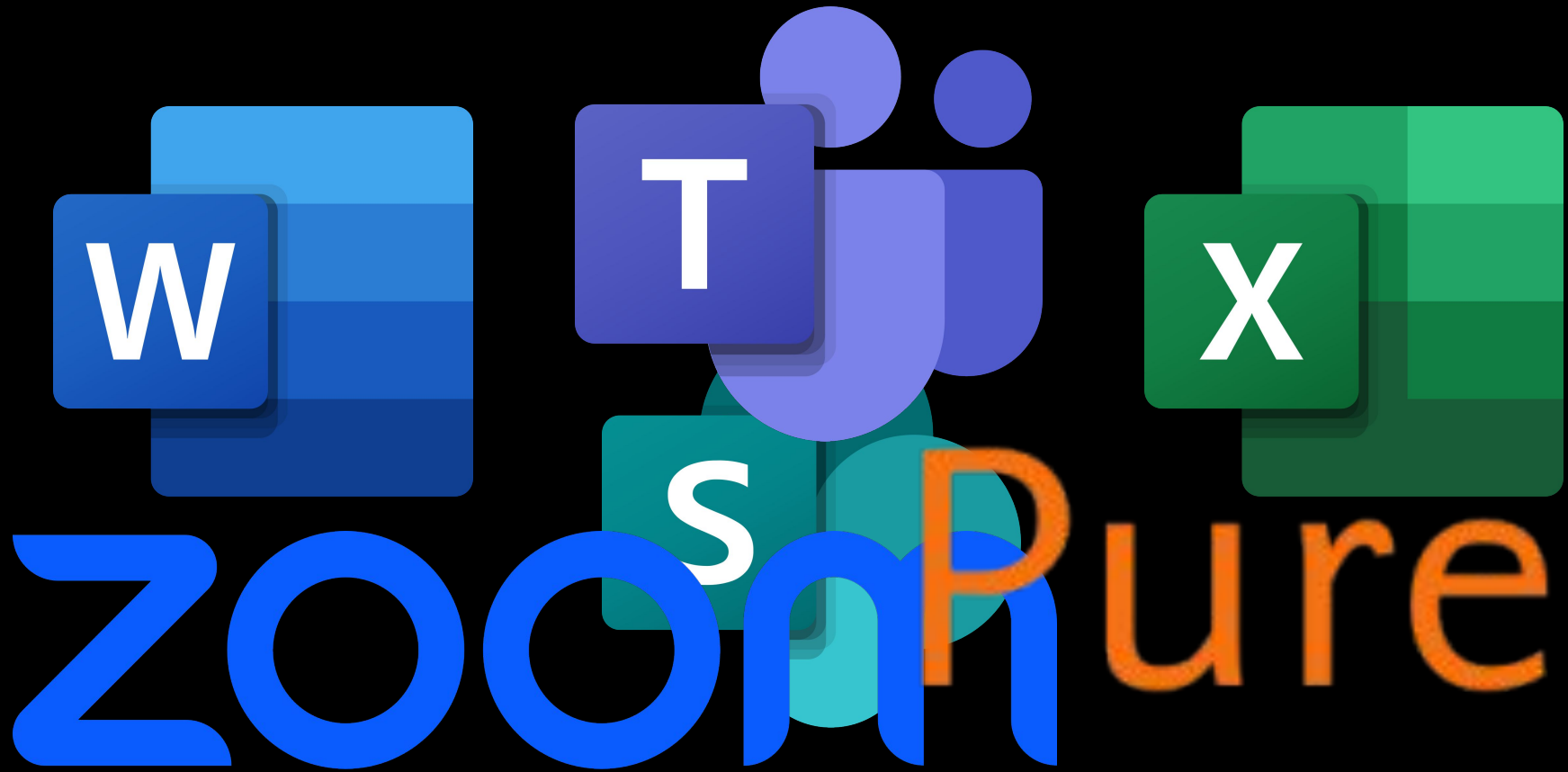
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"[t]he Technology department was overstretched before the incident and had some staff shortages which were beginning to be successfully addressed."

"[t]he increasing use of third-party providers within our network […] due to capacity and capability constraints within Technology and elsewhere in the Library"

British Library. 2024. 'Learning Lessons from the Cyber Attack: British Library Cyber Incident Review'. London, UK: The British Library. https://www.bl.uk/home/british-library-cyber-incident-review-8-march-2024.pdf.

Realising the potential of technology in education:

A strategy for education providers and the technology industry

Lanclos, Donna. 2019. 'Listening to Refusal: Opening Keynote for #APTconf 2019'. *Donna Lanclos* (blog). 9 July 2019. https://www.donnalanclos.com/listening-to-refusal-opening-keynote-for-aptconf-2019/.

6

Developing a dynamic EdTech business sector

No open access without open infrastructure.

Lethal Weapon, dir. Richard Donner (Warner Bros., 1987)

I'm too old for this shit

"small acts also often make a huge difference"

"By examining QLL's multiple small acts and how they made big changes in the creation of the library as a queer space, this can aid other libraries to make such small changes themselves."

Coltman, Z. 2025. 'Small Acts to Make Safe Space: A Case Study of the Queer Liberation Library as a "Queer Space"'. Conceptions of Library and Information Science (CoLIS) conference, 2-5 June 2025 held in Glasgow, UK.
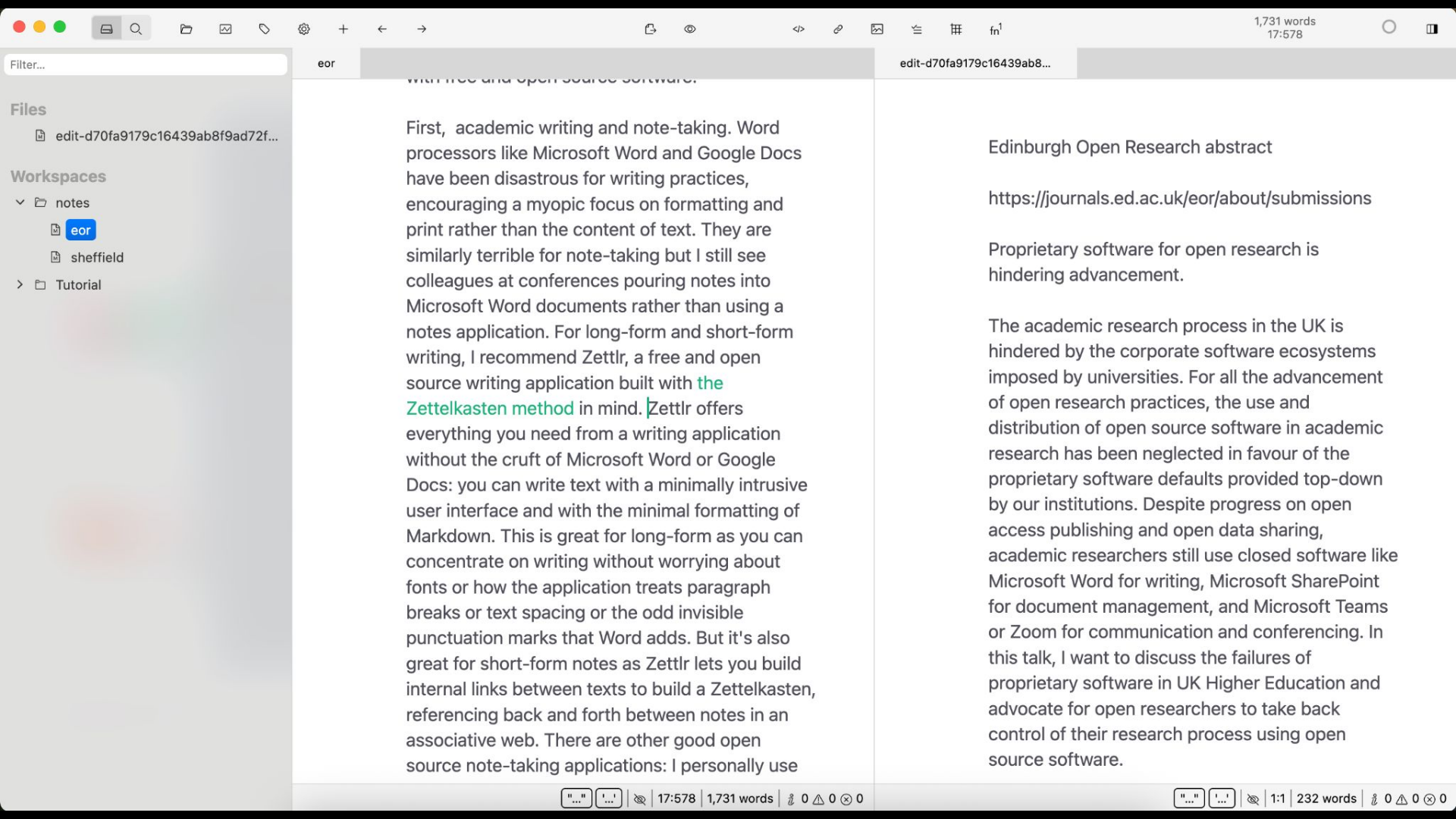
Adema, Janneke, and Samuel A. Moore. 2021. 'Scaling Small; Or How to Envision New Relationalities for Knowledge Production'. *Westminster Papers in Communication and Culture* 16 (1). https://doi.org/10.16997/wpcc.918.

Zettlr
https://zettlr.com

with free and open source software.

First, academic writing and note-taking. Word processors like Microsoft Word and Google Docs have been disastrous for writing practices, encouraging a myopic focus on formatting and print rather than the content of text. They are similarly terrible for note-taking but I still see colleagues at conferences pouring notes into Microsoft Word documents rather than using a notes application. For long-form and short-form writing, I recommend Zettlr, a free and open source writing application built with the Zettelkasten method in mind. Zettlr offers everything you need from a writing application without the cruft of Microsoft Word or Google Docs: you can write text with a minimally intrusive user interface and with the minimal formatting of Markdown. This is great for long-form as you can concentrate on writing without worrying about fonts or how the application treats paragraph breaks or text spacing or the odd invisible punctuation marks that Word adds. But it's also great for short-form notes as Zettlr lets you build internal links between texts to build a Zettelkasten, referencing back and forth between notes in an associative web. There are other good open source note-taking applications: I personally use

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Edinburgh Open Research abstract

https://journals.ed.ac.uk/eor/about/submissions

Proprietary software for open research is hindering advancement.

The academic research process in the UK is hindered by the corporate software ecosystems imposed by universities. For all the advancement of open research practices, the use and distribution of open source software in academic research has been neglected in favour of the proprietary software defaults provided top-down by our institutions. Despite progress on open access publishing and open data sharing, academic researchers still use closed software like Microsoft Word for writing, Microsoft SharePoint for document management, and Microsoft Teams or Zoom for communication and conferencing. In this talk, I want to discuss the failures of proprietary software in UK Higher Education and advocate for open researchers to take back control of their research process using open source software.

Zotero
https://zotero.org

This is a screenshot of the Zotero reference management application.

Left sidebar — My Library:
- CBT
- cjal_paper
- cmkp
- cpc_paper
- edinburgh_open_research
- patents
- privacy_thing
- reviews_per_minute
- The Dinopod
- The Xenopod
- UKSG_November
- utrecht_keynote
- yellowjackets_paper
- My Publications
- Duplicate Items
- Unfiled Items
- Bin

Group Libraries — Centre for Postdigital Cultures:
- AI & Algorithmic Cultures
- ArtSpaceCity
- Ludic Design
- Post-Publishing
- Postdigital Intimacies
- Duplicate Items
- Unfiled Items
- Bin

Commoning the Means of Knowl…
- New suggestions
- Theme: Activist/Militant Rese…
- Theme: Approaches to the Co…
- Theme: Bibliodiversity
- Theme: Black/Indigenous Kn…
- Theme: Epistemic Justice

Main panel — item list:

Title	Creator	Date	Date Added
A growing network of open infrastructures and fed…	Steiner et al.	2024-05-21	28/08/2024, 13:56…
BDS and proprietary software	Bowie	2025-04-09T10:54…	14/04/2025, 14:19…
Exposing Ex Libris	Librarians & Archivists with Palestine	June 2024	06/09/2024, 13:47…
Learning lessons from the cyber attack: British Libr…	British Library	2024-03-08	06/08/2024, 13:45…
Lethal Weapon	Donner	1987	17/04/2025, 14:15…
Realising the potential of technology in education: …	Department for Education	2019-04-03	19/03/2025, 09:15…
Scaling Small; Or How to Envision New Relationaliti…	Adema and Moore	2021-03-22	14/04/2025, 14:14…
Small Acts to Make Safe Space: A Case Study of the…	Coltman	2-5 June 2025	19/03/2025, 09:23…

Right panel — Info tab:

Field	Value
Item Type	Film
Title	Lethal Weapon
Director	Donner, Richard
Abstract	Lethal Weapon is a 1987 American acti…
Distributor	Warner Bros.
Date	1987
Genre	
Format	
Running Time	
Language	en
Short Title	
URL	https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php…
Accessed	17/04/2025, 14:15:32
Archive	
Loc. in Archive	
Library Catalogue	Wikipedia
Call Number	
Rights	Creative Commons Attribution–ShareAlike License
Extra	Page Version ID: 1285200807
Date Added	17/04/2025, 14:15:32
Modified	17/04/2025, 14:38:56

Tabs: Info | Notes | Tags | Related

kMeet
https://kmeet
.infomaniak.com

Nextcloud

https://nextcloud.com

Scribus

https://www.scribus.net
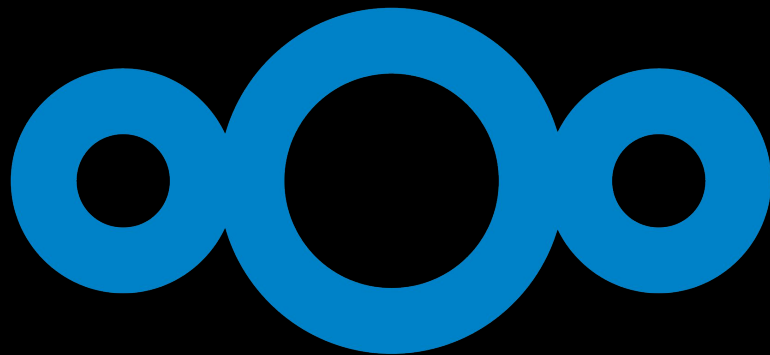
https://opensauce.simonxix.com/eor2025

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Bowie, Simon. 2025. 'BDS and Proprietary Software'. *open sauce*. 9 April 2025. https://opensauce.simonxix.com/bds-and-proprietary-software/.

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Steiner, Toby, Vincent W. J. van Gerven Oei, Hannah Hillen, and Brendan O'Connell. 2024. 'A Growing Network of Open Infrastructures and Federated Services with Thoth'. *Copim*, May 2024. https://doi.org/10.21428/785a6451.92d1c71e.