

You **MUST** know about [COMPRESSING EndNote library files](#).

Please understand

- **If you don't follow these instructions, you risk losing data or corrupting your library.**
 - When you are working in an EndNote library, the extension for the file is .enl. You may have noticed that when you open an *.enl file, a folder appears in the folder where your EndNote library is stored, with an extension '.Data.'
- So you see this:
- mylibrary.enl [EndNote file]
 - mylibrary.Data [folder with same name as library file]

So here is what you MUST know [If you don't know this already, now you must.]:

- That .Data folder is the most important part of your library.
- If you separate the .enl file from that .Data folder by moving it to another folder, or onto a flash drive, or by emailing it to someone, critical information that connects to your library (from the .Data folder) will be lost.
- The .Data folder not only holds all the attachment files that are linked to your records, it contains the *Medical Terms List** folder that makes your journal names appear properly according to what output style you use.
- And more.

Note: *What 'Medical Terms List?' Go to the following link (*after you finish reading this*) and scroll down to find 'Term Files [for Journal Names]'--my explanation for that and the SIMPLE *instructions* to set it up in your EndNote library. <http://www.uthsc.edu/nursing/ORGS/Training.php>

STEPS to follow to COMPRESS an EndNote library file with its associated Data folder

1. When you move a library—*ever, for any reason or by any means*—**you must COMPRESS your .enl file with your .Data folder.**
2. This is not hard: you click File > 'Compressed Library enlx' (as opposed to just saving or File > Save).
3. What happens then? Well, a new file is generated with an .enlx extension.
 - This .enlx file now holds both your .enl file and its corresponding .Data folder.
4. You can then move the .enlx file (intact) to another folder, put it on a flash drive, or store it on a shared drive.
 - I caution you not to attempt to transport the .enlx file through email because the size/density of the .enlx file will be immense (usually files larger than 10MB will not go through email).
5. When you (or a colleague) next use the library, click the .enlx file. It will 'explode' open and generate a new corresponding .enl file and .Data folder in the folder where your .enlx file is placed. You will then resume work by opening the new .enl file.
6. **Just remember**—when you next close the .enl (library) file—to compress it again; make it a habit.