10,000 Workflows
A Community-Centered Approach to Personal Information Management

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Introduction
Who are we?
We are the University of Minnesota (UMN) Libraries Personal Information Management (PIM) team. We gather and share resources on citation managers, productivity tools, and personal archiving. Our primary audience is UMN Libraries staff.

Our blog: http://z.umn.edu/howiwork

The PIM blog: Land of 10,000 Workflows is where our group posts reviews of software, updates on citation managers, and anything else PIM-related. In 2016 we broadened the scope and tapped into the whole UMN community for content.

“How I Work” is an interview series that uses a simple, three-question format to showcase the tools and workflows of students, faculty, and staff. The interview is conducted via email in order to make the process as simple as possible for everyone involved. Interviews respond in their own time in whatever format they prefer.

“Part of my job as a conductor is to learn, research, and do study scores before going to rehearsal. Most of my work is done on Internet sites, such as music publisher web pages (EarthSongs, Hal Leonard, Boosey, Walton Music, chorusonline.com) for background research and YouTube and iTunes to compare performance recordings of the piece I’m studying.”


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Katie Sisneros, Ph.D. Candidate, trivia host, writer

Amanda Costello, Content Strategist, “A Workflow for Self-Care”

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Impact
PIM explores emerging tools, productivity methods, and pain points. Active outreach to the university community has revealed more useful information than monitoring productivity blogs or waiting for questions to arise. The blog reaches a sizable local audience (approximately 413 hits per post) and also educates Libraries staff about the habits of our users. We challenged us to think creatively about how the library can serve colleagues from departments as diverse as physics, facilities management, and IT.

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