

Question:

I use Endnote X1 on more than one computer. I made a directory for my Endnote files on my USB thumb drive. When I copied them to the desktop of my other computer, I either got an error message saying Word couldn't find the Endnote file, or all of the citations in my word document link to the wrong references in my Endnote library. What's happened?

Answer:

You've accidentally broken the links between the Endnote library and the Word documents. This happens if you shift the files around through directories on one computer, or between a computer and a thumb drive.

When you created the directory on the **USB**, it sat at the top level of the thumb drive's directory tree.

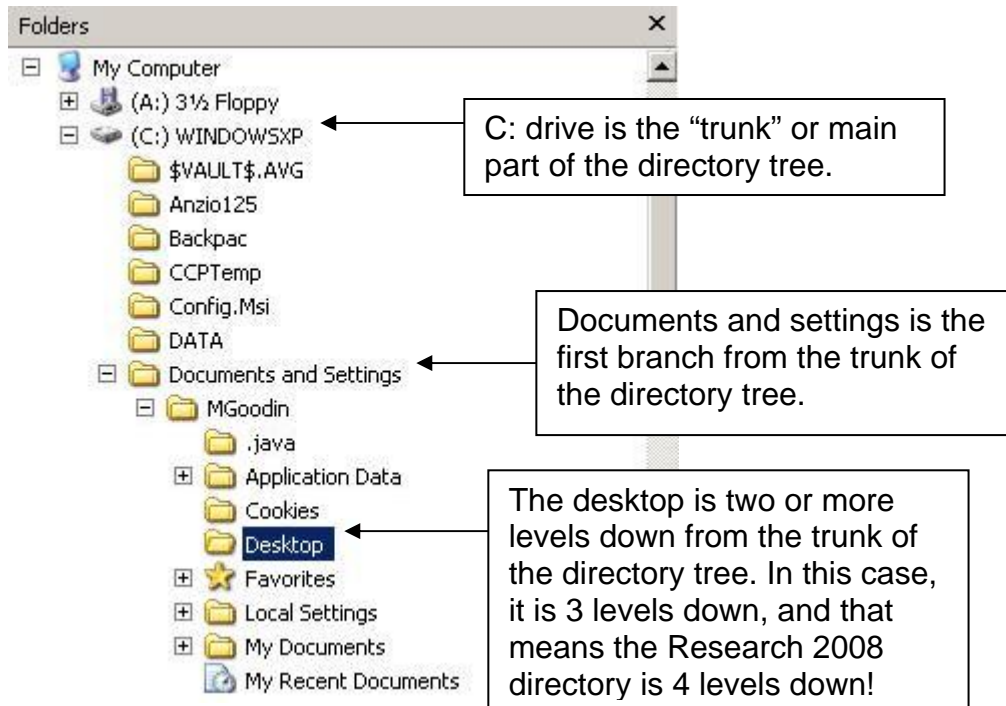
e.g. f:\research 2008

Then you copied it to the **desktop** of the computer. You may not have realised it, but the directory on the desktop is actually **three or even four** extra levels down on the computer's directory tree.

e.g. c:\Documents and Settings\Desktop\Research 2008

If you share the computer, the directory might be four extra levels down, as in the example below.

e.g. c:\Documents and Settings\Mgoodin\Desktop\Research 2008



Endnote and Word are expecting to find a directory of relevant files at c:\research 2008, but the files aren't there. The links "break" and you often get random and inappropriate citations in your document or Word and Endnote can't even locate the relevant references.

Solution:

1. Move the files up to the first branch of the computer directory tree.
i.e. c:\research 2008
That way, if you want to make a backup to another drive, or burn a backup copy to CD, the links will stay connected.
2. Now comes the painful bit:
 - a) Copy all of the text of the document into Notepad to strip out all the messed-up code.
 - b) Copy the stripped text into a new Word document
 - c) Reformat the document (i.e. any headers or tables you added)
 - d) Insert all the Endnote references into your document again.
 - e) Save the new document.
3. To prevent this from happening again, please do not shift your research directory around in the directory tree structure again.