

All ELNs are browser based, can be saved as PDF, can be shared with everyone in your group, and applies time and date stamps. They can be used free (with advanced features available on subscription).

LabArchives

<https://www.labarchives.com/>

- Can also be used for keeping inventory of lab consumables
- Mobile friendly, apps available for Android or iOS
- Can import/export any type of data
- Handwriting recognition
- Can insert images from phone library
- Can generate DOIs for specific pages
- Storage: vendor cloud, local server, private cloud, can sync with Google Drive
- Software versions change slightly
- Can be used for sketching and drawing
- Downside: limited memory without subscription

Benchling

<https://www.benchling.com/>

- Specific for molecular biology
- Storage: vendor cloud, can sync with OneDrive or Dropbox
- Can upload any kind of data
- No apps available, sharing with people outside the group depends on them having an account, but can generate PDFs

OneNote

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/microsoft-365/onenote/digital-note-taking-app>

- Easy to use and intuitive, similar to Word
- Handwriting recognition
- Can upload any kind of data
- Can link data location
- Storage: local server, can be saved offline in a proprietary format
- Unlikely to have version issues as it is a Microsoft product
- Can be exported as Word document

RSpace

<https://www.researchspace.com/>

- Storage on vendor cloud or local server
- Integrated with protocols.io
- Has a message board

LabStep

<https://www.labstep.com/>

- Has a message board that you can use to communicate with other members
- Can be used for inventory management and order tracking
- Can be used for sketching and drawing
- Can be used to record instrument information

Hivebench (from Elsevier)

<https://www.hivebench.com/>

- Apps available
- Storage: vendor cloud, local sever
- There seem to be massive changes between software versions
- No document version history

eLabFTW

<https://www.elabftw.net/>

- Open source
- Storage: local server
- Can attach files and make comments
- Can paste images
- Has version history

protocols.io

<https://www.protocols.io/>

Finally, here is a protocol documentation tool that would make it easier to share your protocols. The RSpace online ELN is integrated with protocols.io and notebooks can be archived to repositories for public sharing.