

APA Citation Format

One of the most important parts of a research paper is the documentation of the information sources used in writing the paper (see our webpage on [Avoiding Plagiarism](#)). The vehicles for providing this documentation are the in-text citations (or parenthetical references) at the point in the paper where the information is presented and a works-cited page at the end of the paper listing all of the sources used in the paper. This guide includes samples of in-text citations and works-cited entries using the [Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association \(APA\) 2001](#) (REF or 4th floor BF76.7.P82 2001). Check this handbook and the [How to Cite Sources](#) webpage for additional examples.

In-Text Citations

Whether the source is print or electronic, has an author or not, is an entire work or part of a work, it is important that the in-text citation begin with the same name/word as the corresponding reference in the works-cited list, so that the reader can find the complete reference.

If you are citing a work by a single author, use the surname (do not include suffixes such as Jr.) and the year of publication separated by a comma in parentheses:

In a recent study of reaction time (Rogers, 1994) it was shown that

If you have just stated the author's name in the text, put the year of publication only in parentheses:

Peplau (1985) defines loneliness as a difference between desired and achieved social relationships.

If you are citing a work with two authors, always cite both names every time the reference occurs in text and note that the & is used for 'and':

Loneliness is inversely related to communication competence (Reinking & Bell, 1991).

If there are fewer than six authors cite all of them the first time and subsequently use the first author's name followed by "et al." and the year:

The misbehaviors of teachers have been investigated (Kearney, Plax, Hays, & Ivey, 1991).

Misbehaviors were found to reduce to three factors: incompetence, offensiveness, and indolence (Kearney et al., 1991).

If a work has six or more authors, cite only the first author's last name followed by "et al." and the year:

Communication apprehension has many correlates (McCroskey et al., 1981).

If there is no author's name, use the first few words of the reference list entry (usually the title) and the year. Use double quotation marks around the title of an article or chapter, and italicize the title of a periodical, book, brochure, or report:

on free care ("Study Finds," 1982)

the book *College Bound Seniors* (1979)

If you are including a quotation from the text put the page number(s) after the quote or the author and page number(s) if the author was not mentioned in the sentence.

Reinking (1991) suggests "A lack of career success may lower men's value in the marketplace of relationships" (p. 368).

She stated, "A lack of career success may lower men's value in the marketplace of relationships" (Reinking, 1991, p. 368), but did not elaborate.

- Quotations that are fewer than 40 words should be set off with quotation marks and be incorporated within the normal flow of your text, as shown above.
- For material exceeding that length, omit the quotation marks and indent the quoted language one half inch from your left-hand margin. The entire quote should be double-spaced.
- Put the parenthetical reference immediately after the quote.

If the source is electronic and does not have page numbers, use paragraph numbers, if available:

As Myers (2000) aptly phrases it, "positive emotions are both an end - better to live fulfilled, with joy [and other positive emotions] - and a means to a more caring and healthy society." (para. 5)

If you are citing an entire website and not a specific part of the site, reference the website in the text (no need to include in the works-cited list):

Douglass (<http://douglass.speech.nwu.edu/>) is a well organized site for locating American speeches.

If you are citing personal communications, oral interviews, memos, letters, conversations, e-mail communication, or other unpublished communications, reference it in the paper only. Include the name, type of communication, and date. These should not be listed in the works-cited list, because the text is not available for others to examine.

R. Pugliese (personal communication, March 23, 1990) also verified this information.

For legal codes, public laws, statutes, and cases treat the citation as a work with no author. Use the title of the document followed by the date:

Your comments on Mental Health Systems Act (1988). [Full reference under Mental Health ... in works-cited list]

Your comments on the Tasini copyright case (New York Times Co. v. Tasini, 2001). [Full reference under New York... in works-cited list]

For patents give the patent number and the issue date (not the application date).

Your text on Smith's patent (U.S. Patent No. 123,445, 1988). [Full reference under Smith... in works-cited list]

Format for Works-cited Page

- All entries should be double-spaced.
- The first line of each entry is at the left margin and subsequent lines are all indented. This is referred to as a hanging indent.
- Use the author's initials only, even if the full name is given.
- Arrange entries alphabetically by author's last name or first word of the title if there is no author.
- Entries by the same author are arranged by publication date, earliest first.
- Titles of books and journals should be italicized. Also italicize journal volume numbers, but not issue numbers.
- Use n.d. (no date) when a publication date is not available.
- Capitalize only the first word of the title, the first word after a colon or dash, and proper nouns in titles of books, articles, films and broadcasts.
- However, capitalize all major words and all words of four letters or more in periodical titles.
- Separate data elements by periods, i.e. Author. Title. Journal info. Publication info. Database info. However, there is no period at the end of a URL.
- Put the date on which you retrieved the electronic resource in month day, year order followed by a comma, i.e. July 7, 2004,
- Entries retrieved from RIT licensed research databases do not require a URL; use database name only.

Sample References for Works-Cited List – for more examples or specific types of works not covered here refer to the complete manual in REF or on the 4th floor BF76.7.P82 2001.

Book/Edited Book

Buss, A. H. (1980). *Self-consciousness and social anxiety*. San Francisco: W. H. Freeman.

Chickering, A. W., & Smith, L. E. (Eds.). (1981). *The modern American college: Responding to the new realities of diverse students and a changing society*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

Book, 2 to 6 authors

Eggins, S., Smith, J. R., & Slade, D.J. (1997). *Analysing casual conversation*. London: Cassell.

Book, more than 6 authors - include first 6 authors then abbreviate remaining authors as et al.

Quirk, R., Eggins, S., Smith, J. R., Slade, D. J., Buss, A. H., Jones, B.D. et al. (1985). *A comprehensive grammar of the English language*. London: Longman.

Book by a Corporate Author

Public Agenda Foundation. (1992). *The health care crisis: Containing costs, expanding coverage*. New York: McGraw.

Book with no author or editor

Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary (10th ed.). (1993). Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster.

Work in an Anthology or Edited Book

Allende, I. (1992). Toad's mouth. (M. S. Peden, Trans.). In T. Colchie (Ed.), *A hammock beneath the mangoes: Stories from Latin America* (pp. 83-88). New York: Plume.

Good, T. L., & Brophy, J. E. (1986). School effects. In M. C. Wittrock (Ed.), *Handbook of research on teaching* (3rd ed., pp. 570-602). New York: Macmillan.

Work Reprinted in a Multi-volume Collected Work

Washington, M. H. (1992). An essay on Alice Walker. In J. P. Draper (Ed.) *Black literature criticism*. (Vol. 3, pp. 1810-12). Detroit: Gale. (Reprinted from *Sturdy black bridges: Visions of Black women in literature*, pp. 133-49, by R. P. Bell, B. J. Parker, & B. Guy-Sheftall, 1979, Garden City, NY: Anchor Press/Doubleday)

Encyclopedia Article

Bergman, P. G. (1993). Relativity. In *The new encyclopedia Britannica* (Vol. 26, pp. 501-508). Chicago: Encyclopedia Britannica.

If an entry has no author, begin the reference with the entry title and publication date.

Relativity. (1993). In *The new encyclopedia Britannica* (Vol. 26, pp. 501-508). Chicago: Encyclopedia Britannica.

Article in a Journal – include issue number only if each issue is separately paged

Lacayo, R. (1991, April 22). Global warming: A new warning. *Time*, 137(16), 32.

Smith, M. L., & Finn, J. (1997, October). The use of the World Wide Web by undergraduate social work education programs. *Journal of Baccalaureate Social Work*, 3(1), 71-84.

Stacks, D. W., & Hickson, M. (1991). The communication investigator: Teaching research methods to undergraduates. *Communication Quarterly*, 39, 351-357.

Article in the Published Proceedings of a Conference

Brock, D. (1981). New public broadcasting programs and services. In J. Brown (Ed.), *Technology and education: Policy, implementation, evaluation. Proceedings of the National Conference on Technology and Education, January 26-28* (pp. 30-59). Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.

Unpublished Convention Paper

McCornack, S. A. (1988, May). *When lovers become leery: The lie-bias of suspicion*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association, New Orleans, LA.

Article in a Newspaper or Weekly/Biweekly Magazine – do not include the volume and issue numbers

Schwartz, J. (1993, September 30). Obesity affects economic, social status. *The Washington Post*, pp. A1, A4.

If an article has no author, begin the reference with the article title and publication date.

Review – include name of work reviewed if not part of title.

Kauffmann, S. (1993, December 13). A new Spielberg. [Review of the movie *Schindler's list*]. *New Republic*, 30.

Updike, J. (2002, February 4). No brakes. [Review of the book *Sinclair Lewis: Rebel from Main Street*]. *New Yorker*, 77-80.

Doctoral Dissertation abstracted in DAI and obtained from the university

Byerly, J. (1982). An investigation of factors that condition student enrollment in broadcast courses at Coastline Community College (Doctoral dissertation, Pepperdine University, 1981). *Dissertation Abstracts International*, 43, 58A.

Unpublished Doctoral Dissertation

Wilfley, D. E. (1989). *Interpersonal analysis of bulimia: Normal-weight and obese*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Missouri, Columbia.

Motion Picture:

Lehman, E. (Producer), & Nichols, M. (Director). (1966). *Who's afraid of Virginia Woolf?* [Motion picture]. Burbank, CA: Warner Brothers.

Television Broadcast:

Crystal, L. (Executive Producer). (1993, October 11). *The MacNeil/Lehrer news hour*. [Television broadcast].
New York and Washington, DC: Public Broadcasting Service.

Legal Sources

Statutes – Name of Act, Volume Source Section (Year).

Mental Health Systems Act, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 9401 (1988).

Cases – Name v. Name, Volume Source Page (Court Date).

Lessard v. Schmidt, 349 F. Supp. 1078 (E.D. Wis. 1972).

Regulations – Title/Number, Volume Source Section (Year).

FTC Credit Practices Rule, 16 C.F.R. Sec. 444 (1999).

Patent:

Smith, I. M. (1988). *U.S. Patent No. 123,445*. Washington, DC: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Electronic Resources

General reference to an entire website or personal communication – see in-text citation

Electronic Stand-Alone Document

Author/Authoring Body. (Date). *Title of the Document*. Retrieval Date from URL

Bryant, P. (1999). *Biodiversity and conservation*. Retrieved October 4, 1999, from <http://darwin.bio.uci.edu/~sustain/bio65/Titlpage.htm>

Electronic Document from a Multi-Page Site

Author/Authoring Body. (Date). *Title of the Document*. Retrieval Date from URL [of the home (or entry) page for the document].

Bell, S. H. & Gallagher, L. J. (2001, February). *Prime-age adults without children or disabilities: The "least deserving of the poor"—or are they?* Retrieved April 20, 2001, from Assessing the New Federalism: an Urban Institute Project Web site: http://newfederalism.urban.org/html/series_b/b26/b26.html

United States Sentencing Commission. (n.d.). 1997 sourcebook of federal sentencing statistics. Retrieved December 8, 1999, from <http://www.ussc.gov/annrpt/1997/sbtoc97.htm>

Article from an Internet journal/periodical – same as article in journal/periodical, followed by retrieval date and URL.

Fine, M., & Kurdek, L. A. (1993). Reflections on determining authorship credit and authorship order on faculty-student collaborations. *American Psychologist*, 48, 1141-1147. Retrieved June 7, 1999, from <http://www.apa.org/journals/amp/kurdek.html>

Jost, K. (2001, June 7). Grade inflation. *CQ Researcher*, 505-20. Retrieved September 17, 2003, from <http://library.cqpress.com>.

Article from an online encyclopedia

Daniel, R. T. (1995). The history of Western music. *Britannica online: Macropaedia*. Retrieved June 14, 1999, from <http://www.eb.com:180/cgi-bin/g:DocF=macro/5004/45/0.html>

Item from a CD-ROM

Albatross. 1992. *The Oxford English Dictionary*. 2nd ed. [CD-ROM]. Oxford: Oxford UP.

Article from a Journal or Conference in an Electronic Database – same as article in journal or conference, followed by retrieval date and name of database.

Kramer, J. F. (1999, December/2000, January). Valuing accounting practices. *The National Public Accountant*, 44(10), 32. Retrieved April 4, 2000, from ABI/Inform Global via Proquest Direct.

Butz, A., Beshers, C. & Feiner, A. (1998). Of vampire mirrors and privacy lamps: Privacy management in multi-user augmented environments. *Proceedings of the 11th Annual ACM Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology*, 171-172. Retrieved April 20, 2001, from ACM Digital Library.

Newspaper Article in an Electronic Database – same as article in a newspaper, followed by retrieval date and name of database.

Henneberger, M. (1995, June 8). Republicans battle party on arts funds. *The New York Times*, B6. Retrieved April 4, 2000, from Lexis Nexis Academic Universe/General News.

Electronic Book in an Electronic Database – same as book, followed by retrieval date and name of database.

Gross, C. G. 1998. *Brain, vision, memory: Tales in the history of neuroscience*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. Retrieved January 19, 2004, from netLibrary.

Abstract of a Magazine/Journal Article in an Electronic Database

Holmes, M. D. (1998). Perceptions of abusive police practices in US-Mexico border community. *Social Science Journal*, 35, 107-118. Abstract retrieved April 4, 2000, from Criminal Justice Abstracts via Silver Platter.

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