American Psychological Association

The following entries illustrate the citation style according to the *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Edition* for sources in bibliographies (called References in APA). In APA style, an alphabetized, double-spaced list of works used in your project appears at the end of your paper that provides full publishing information for each of the sources you have used. Proper citation acknowledges the creators of each source and helps your readers locate the original source if they would like more information.

APA style has many small rules that are important to using APA style correctly. Below are a few rules for APA citations:

- Authors’ names are inverted (Last name, First initial); use only the first initial for first and middle names; if there is more than one author or editor, use the ampersand (&) rather than the word *and*. Maintain the same format and order for each additional author/editor. Use this format for up to seven authors. If a source has more than seven authors, provide the first six authors and then use ellipses (…) after the sixth author’s name. After the ellipses, list the last author of the source.
- Every line after the first must be indented one inch (hit Tab key once).
- Always locate a date of publication or the date of the last update, and place the year of publication in parenthesis after the author’s name. Example: Jones (2012). If there is no date, use *n.d.* (no date).
- Italicize the titles and subtitles of books; capitalize only the first word of the title and subtitle (as well as all proper nouns). Do not place titles of shorter works (e.g., articles, song, poems, short stories) in quotation marks; do not italicize or underline the titles.
- Capitalize titles of periodicals exactly as the periodical capitalizes the title. For books, chapters, article or web pages, capitalize only the first letter of the first word of the title and subtitle; proper nouns; and the first word after a colon or dash in the title.
- Abbreviations for “page” (p.) or “pages” (pp.) are used before page numbers of books; magazine and newspaper articles; works in anthologies and edited collections, but not before page numbers of articles appearing in scholarly journals.

There are many citation generators available on the Internet, and University Libraries even has a premium subscription to the bibliography service EasyBib. As useful as citation generators can be, they are not foolproof. You should use citation generators with caution and always be sure that all of the pertinent information is included in the final citation by checking against a style guide such as the print version of the *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Edition* (available in the Grand Reading Room of the Thompson Library); *Bedford-St. Martin’s Research and Documentation Online*; or *Purdue OWL*.

**ELECTRONIC & MULTIMEDIA SOURCES**

In the 21st century, many reliable resources are available online as well as in print. Please note that *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Edition* requires URLs to be included in citations for online sources. Use the permanent or stable URL (sometimes called a Permalink), often listed on the first page near the top of the entry. Sometimes links to the permanent URL will be found at the bottom of a page.

For scholarly journal articles, use the Digital Object Identifier (DOI). DOIs can usually be found on the first page of a document or at the top of the source’s entry in a database. However, DOIs may sometimes be hidden under a button (often named “Article”) or it may be an abbreviation of a vendor’s name (such as “PubMed”). Special note about electronic sources: technology is continually changing, but citation style guides do not change as quickly. This means it can be difficult to figure out what the approved standard is for citing new media sources. If you ever have any questions about citations, always ask your instructor, ask a librarian, visit the CSTW Writing Center, or visit the University Libraries/CSTW Writing Center research and writing tutoring center.
### General website homepage

Use the format below for the homepage of a website.


### Page within website

Use the format below for pages within a website. If you are using anything other than the homepage of a website, you will use this format. Sometimes there will not be an author, and sometimes there will be a staff or organizational author.

**No author**


**Staff author**


**Individual author**


### Personal/Professional site (individual)

Use the format below for websites developed by and dedicated to individuals (both personal and professional). If you are using a page within the website, be sure to use the appropriate page name.


### Journal articles accessed through a database

Most likely, you will access journal articles through large databases such as Academic Search Complete or JStor that index hundreds (even thousands!) of journals and other periodicals. You can access databases for free from the University Libraries website. APA does not require the database to be included in the citation, but the DOI or stable URL must be included.

**PDFs of journal articles**

PDFs are the preferred format for electronic copies of print articles because PDFs are exact replicas of the source and include original formatting, such as page numbers and charts or other images.

HTML-versions of journal articles
HTML stands for HyperText Markup Language, and it is a reformatting of the original article content. HTML-versions will not have page numbers or any images that are in the original version. If you have the option, use the PDF rather than HTML version of sources.


Electronic journal
Electronic journals are periodicals that are digitally produced, published, and maintained. Some journals publish both a print and online version of issues; some have distinct online and print versions that feature different content; and many electronic journals are only online. For online resources, you will not have page numbers because very often the sources are websites, video projects, or other digital media projects that cannot be printed or paginated. You can often access electronic journals through Google and other non-library search engines, but they are also indexed by large databases like JStor and similar databases.


Books accessed electronically
Many books are available online as ebooks (electronic books) through services such as GoogleBooks and through the OSU library system. If you read a book on a Kindle, Nook, other e-reader, or on a library or home computer, then you are accessing the electronic version and should use the format below.


Publications accessed online (corporate or organizational author)
Please note that for any source with a corporate or organizational author, you will use the same format, with the corporation or organization name taking the place of the author.


Reviews
Reviews can focus on books, movies, music, software, and more. Many academic journals have a section dedicated to reviews. Below is the format for a review found in an online journal.

Published interviews

Encyclopedia article (no author & author)
Encyclopedia articles often do not have specific authors listed, but many will have the primary authors listed at the very beginning or end of the entry. Be aware that encyclopedias are for finding general information rather than specialized details. Use the format below to cite any encyclopedia article and to cite something from Wikipedia—but be aware that most instructors will not accept Wikipedia as a valid resource for academic research projects.


Dissertations and theses
Dissertations can be a great research resource. Often, they are not published anywhere other than through dissertation and theses databases.


Blogs
Blogs are no longer just people’s personal diaries online; many blogs are considered to be authoritative and useful resources. Below is how to cite blogs, or what APA calls “Web log posts.”


Tweets
Tweets—postings from Twitter—are cited in their entirety in the Works Cited. Use the author’s “real” name (if you can locate it) and handle (username). Accounts that are managed by a group of people, such as those for corporations or organizations, will not have a single author. Simply use the handle for the author name.


YouTube
A YouTube video is cited like a video blog post. A YouTube video citation requires the information you would gather for a video or film citation (creator, director, performers, title, date created—even if the creator is SuperCoolGuy32) as well as the information you would gather for a website and database (database/site name, URL, date accessed).


Photographs and images
Although you may access a photo or image through Google Images, this is not where the photo is actually hosted. You must visit the actual website where the photograph is hosted in order to properly cite it. Many times, there will not be a title, date, or photographer, but gather as much information as possible. It is likely that any images or photographs you cite will be digital images; that is, you will be accessing the images online rather than film hard copies.


tuxxme. (n.d.). Waiting for the mother ship [Photograph found in Columbus, OH]. In Flickr. Retrieved August 1, 2012, from flickr.com (Originally photographed 2011, August 11)

Film (in theater)


Film (DVD, Blu Ray)
The Internet Movie Database (IMDb) is a great resource for locating information about movies and even television shows. Use the format below to cite movies that you view on DVDs, videotape, Blu Ray, or streaming. Note: If a movie is not available in wide distribution, add the following to your citation (in parenthesis) after the country of origin: (Available from Distributor name, full address and zip code).


Television Program (single episode)
Try to find out as much information as possible about the episode: who wrote, directed, and produced it? When and where did you view it? Use this citation format when you are citing episodes watched during the original airing or online. For television episodes viewed on DVDs, use the DVD format plus the title of the episode.


**Recording (whole album)**


**Recording (single song)**


**Live Performance**

Use the format below to cite a live performance such as a play, musical event, dance recital, etc.


Hickman, P. J. (Writer), & Kuhn, J. S. (Director). (2012, June 23). Robin Hood. Live performance in Schiller Park, Columbus, OH.

**Personal interview and personal communications**

Do not include personal communication in your reference list. Personal communication is cited parenthetically within the text.

(C. Selfe, personal communication, July 17, 2012).

G. Jones claims gender is a fluid and personal construct (personal communication, June 25, 2010).

**BOOKS & PERIODICALS IN PRINT**

Although you are likely to access many of your resources online, not all valid and useful resources are available online. Books are often the easiest citations to complete because the format has not changed much over the years. Below are a variety of book and periodical types that you may have to cite.

**Books**

**Single author**


**Two or three authors**


**Four or more authors**


**Unknown author**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Book: Edited collection</strong></th>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Book: Author with an editor (edited book)</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Sometimes, books will have both an author and an editor. Use the format below for an edited book by a single author. Use the same format for translated books, but replace “Initial. Lastname, Ed.” with “Initial. Lastname, Trans.”</td>
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<th><strong>Book: Author with an editor (chapter in anthology or collection)</strong></th>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Book: Two or more works by the same author</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>When you have two or more sources by the same author, organize according to date (oldest to newest). If there are multiple sources from the same author and the same year, use a letter to differentiate between the sources.</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Book: Introduction, Forward, or Preface</strong></th>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Periodical: Article in a journal (volume and issue)</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>If no issue number is available, only include volume. Volume and issue information can usually be found in a few different places: at the top or bottom of the first page of an article; on one of the first pages of the journal issue; on the spine of the journal. Volume and issue are important for locating journals, especially for journals that have been in publication for many years and for journals that publish more than one issue per year.</td>
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<th><strong>Periodical: Article in magazine</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Monthly magazine</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Weekly magazine</strong></td>
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IN-TEXT CITATIONS

In APA Style, there are two main aspects to citations: the References and the in-text citations. In-text citations are exactly what they sound like: source citations of information that are provided in the body of the paper or project. In-text citations are also called parenthetical citations because the information is placed in parenthesis. In-text citations are used any time you directly quote from a source as well as when you paraphrase from a source.

In APA Style, whenever you mention an author, you must place publication year of the source you are using in parenthesis after the author’s name. Example: Jones (2012) argues that...

Direct quotations require the author’s last name, date, and page number where the quotation can be found. Paraphrases require only the author’s last name and date. Whatever signal words you use to identify the source in the body of the project must be the first thing that appears on the left side of the References page. Typically, APA citations include the author’s last name, date, and the page number where the cited information can be found.

Below are the basic formats for in-text citations. Please note: commas separate the author’s name, date, and page number; place p. before page numbers, and use pp. when the cited content runs over multiple pages. Periods are placed after the parentheses.

A Note About Print versus Online:

- Unless it is a PDF, online sources generally do not have page numbers, so they cannot be included in in-text citations. Do not provide the page numbers or paragraph numbers that result when you print a source. Instead, use the author’s last name, if available, or if there is no author, use a shortened version of the source title.
For a single author, simply use the author’s last name, year of publication, and the page number where the cited information can be found. If the author’s name is mentioned in the body of the paragraph, you may include only the page number in the parentheses.

Example

In the citations below, (2008, p. 12) and (Williams, 2008, p. 12) tell the audience that the information included in that particular sentence can be found on page 12 of text by Williams listed in the References.

Williams (2008) emphasizes the importance of naming when she says, “once you can name something, you’re conscious of it. You have power over it” (p. 12).

Naming is important because “once you can name something, you’re conscious of it. You have power over it” (Williams, 2008, p. 12).

Williams (2008) argues that when we name something, we can take control over it (p. 12).

References


Unknown author (print and online)

Sometimes, valid sources will not have any author listed. In this case, use a shortened title of the source instead of the author’s last name.

Examples

Insomnia can be a frustrating and although many people assume that insomnia stems from current behaviors and contexts, “sleep habits we learn as children may affect our sleep behavior as adults” (“Insomnia”).

Insomnia can be frustrating, and surprisingly, it can have roots in the sleep habits we developed as children (“Insomnia”).

If the above examples were from a printed source with page numbers, you would include the page number as well: (“Insomnia” 32).

References


Work by two or three authors

Include all of the authors’ names in the in-text citation.

Examples

Writing for the digital age means more than being able to write well: “One important skill of good internet writing is the ability to deliver the similar or related content in a variety of different formats. For example, an online news story might use text and graphic content, but also include links to related stories and resources, or even include video or other active content” (Baeher and Schaller, 2010, p. 11).

Baeher and Schaller (2010) argue that writing for the digital age means more than being able to write well: “One important skill of good internet writing is the ability to deliver the similar or related content in a variety of different formats. For example, an online news story might use text and graphic content, but also include links to related stories and resources, or even include video or other active content” (p. 11).

References

Work by more than three authors

In-text citations for sources with three to five authors, identify all the authors in the signal phrase the first time you use the source; in subsequent citations, use the abbreviation *et al.*, which is Latin for “and others.” For sources with six or more authors, include the first author’s name followed by *et al.* This lets the audience know that there are several authors for the source.

Examples

*In their history of the computer in the writing classroom, Hawisher, LeBlanc, Selfe & Moran (1996) claim, “Multimedia computing has emerged so rapidly, and is now so widespread, that it is easy to forget how recent a development it has been in personal computing”* (p. 183).

*The computer in the classroom is ubiquitous, but “Multimedia computing has emerged so rapidly, and is now so widespread, that it is easy to forget how recent a development it has been in personal computing”* (Hawisher, LeBlanc, Selfe & Moran, 1996, p. 183).

References


Online sources

For online sources without page numbers, you can eliminate the in-text citation as long as you follow the guidelines below:

- In the text, include the item that appears first in the References list (e.g., author name, article title, website name, movie name).
- Do not include URLs in the text of your project; only provide partial URLs when the site name includes a domain name, such as OSU.edu or NationalGeographic.com. Do not write out http://www.osu.edu or http://www.nationalgeographic.com.

Examples

*On her webpage “Autistry,” (n.d.) Melanie Yergeau argues that “Neurodiversity is analogous to a social model of disability, the idea that exclusionary social systems and structures are far more disabling than individual impairments.”*

Because the above example clearly states where the quotation appears originally and there are no page numbers for webpages, there is no need for an in-text citation.

References


Dealing with long quotations

Sometimes, you may want to quote a source at length. When quoting 40 or more words, you will create something called a block quote. For block quotes, you indent the entire quotation half-inch from the left margin. Please note that block quotes should maintain the double-spacing that is required for the entire APA research project. (The example below is not double-spaced in order to save space). Please note that with block quotes, the punctuation is placed before the in-text citation.

Examples

*Emotions are often positioned as negative; one never wants to be the “emotional” one because it is somehow an insult. However, John Dirkx (2001) argues that emotions are central to understanding who we are and our place in the world. He says,*

> Emotions always refer to the self, providing us with a means for developing self-knowledge. They are an integral part of how we interpret and make sense of the day-to-day events in our lives. As we look at and come to understand our sense-making practices in daily life and the ways emotions constitute that practice, we reveal ourselves more fully to ourselves and to
others. (Dirkx, 2001, pp. 64-5)

References