

CITING ONLINE SOURCES USING APA

The examples on this handout follow standards of the American Psychological Association (APA) documentation style. For more extensive rules and examples for use of the APA style, consult the Publication Manual of the APA, 6th Edition (REF BF 76.7.P83 2010), and the APA style website (<http://www.apastyle.org/apa-style-help.aspx>).

References List

The reference list, which appears at the end of a research project, lists all sources cited in the body of the project. Each entry on the reference list provides all information necessary for a reader to locate and retrieve the source. Each reference cited in-text must appear in the reference list; each entry in the reference list must be cited in-text.

- Alphabetize reference list by main entry, which is usually the author.
- The first line of entries are flush with the left margin; subsequent lines are indented.
- Entries are double-spaced within and between entries.

*Note: The examples given in this handout are not double-spaced.
A sample references list can be found on the last page of this handout.*

Citing References In-Text

Each time facts, ideas, or words are taken from a source, credit must be given to the original source. This is true if information is paraphrased (reworded), or directly quoted in part, or directly quoted in entirety.

Paraphrase: When information from a source is paraphrased in the text of a paper, use the author and the year of publication, separated by a comma, enclosed in parentheses.

Example: ...a remarkable difference was reported (Jones, 2000).

Specific part: When a specific part of a source is cited, use the author and the year of publication, separated by a comma, and add the exact page, chapter, paragraph, figure or table numbers, all enclosed in parentheses.

Example: ...but were not duplicated under those conditions(Richards, 2008, p. 45).

Direct quotations: When words or facts are taken exactly from a source, include the author and year of publication, separated by a comma, and add the page numbers, all enclosed in parentheses.

Because many online sources do not include page numbers, use some other type of identifying information to direct the reader to the appropriate section in the original source, such as paragraph numbers (if visible), names of sections, or names of headings.

Example: According to a series of interviews conducted by Shimaura (1989),
“empiracle studies have found mixed results on the efficacy of labels”
(Discussion section, para. 3).

Quotes fewer than 40 words: Enclose the quote in double quotation marks and incorporate the quote into the text. Place the parenthetical citation as close as possible to the quoted material.

Example: Robbins (2003) suggested that the “therapists may have inadvertently validated parental negativity” (p. 541), contributing to the overall family dynamic.

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Quotes longer than 40 words: Omit quotation marks and place direct quotations in a free-standing block of double-spaced text, indented five spaces from the left margin. The parenthetical citation should come after the closing punctuation mark.

Example: Jones's (1998) study in four year colleges noted the following:

Students often had difficulty using APA style, especially when it was their first time citing sources. This difficulty could be attributed to the fact that many students failed to purchase a style manual or to ask their teacher for help. (p. 199)

Placement of citations: The author and year of the source being cited must always be given regardless of the placement in the text.

Beginning of sentence: Rosenblum (2006) reports that more studies need to be done.

Middle of sentence: After a number of studies, Lynch (2007) stated that the findings were alarming.

End of Sentence: A follow up study is yet to be conducted (Windhorst, 2004).

Use this chart to determine the formatting of source citations in the body of a paper. (table 6.1)

Numbers and types of authors	First citation in text	Subsequent citation in text	Parenthetical format, first citation in text	Parenthetical format, subsequent citation in text
One author	Walker (2007)	Walker (2007)	(Walker, 2007)	(Walker, 2007)
Two authors	Walker and Allen (2004)	Walker and Allen (2004)	(Walker & Allen 2004)	(Walker & Allen, 2004)
Three authors	Bradley, Wren, and Soo (1994)	Bradley et al. (1994)	(Bradley, Wren, & Soo, 1994)	(Bradley et al., 1994)
Four authors	Bradley, Wren, Soo, and Walsh (2006)	Bradley et. al. (2006)	(Bradley, Wren, Soo, and Walsh, 2006)	(Bradley et al., 2006)
Five authors	Walker, Allen, Bradley, Wren, and Soo (2008)	Walker et al. (2008)	(Walker, Allen, Bradley, Wren, and Soo, 2008)	(Walker et al., 2008)
Six or more authors	Wasserstein et al. (2005)	Wasserstein et al. (2005)	(Wasserstein et al., 2005)	Wasserstein et al., 2005)
Group easily identified by abbreviation	National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH, 2003)	NIMH (2003)	(National Institute of Mental Health[NIMH], 2003)	(NIMH, 2003)
Group without abbreviation	University of Pittsburgh (2005)	University of Pittsburg (2005)	(University of Pittsburgh, 2005)	(University of Pittsburgh, 2005)

Formatting Authors Names in the References List

One author: List last name and first initial, separated by a comma.

Example: Smith, J.

Two authors: Place an ampersand (&) between names.

Example: Smith, J. & Jones, S.

Three to seven authors: Place an ampersand before the final author's name.

Example: Kern, M. H., Cole, D. P., Sun, C. R., Berr, A., Hare, T., & Bach, J. S.

Eight or more authors: List the first six authors' names, then insert three ellipses (...), and add the final author's name.

Example: Miller, F. H., Choi, M. J., Angeli, L. L., Harland, A. A., Stamos, J. A., Thomas, S. T., . . . Rubin, L. H.

Using the Digital Object Identifier (DOI) System (6.31)

What it is: A DOI is a unique string of numbers and letters assigned to a publication to provide permanent identification of an item and a persistent link to it.

Where to find it in print publications and PDFs: Typically, the DOI is located on the first page of the article in a journal, near the publication information.

How to use it: Include a DOI in citations for both print and electronic resources whenever the DOI is available. Because the DOI string can be long, copy and paste whenever possible to avoid errors.

Provide a DOI using this format: doi: xxxxxxxx

If No Digital Object Identifier (DOI) is Found

- If no DOI is provided in a publication, provide the URL of the webpage of the journal or the publisher, which may be located by performing a World Wide Web search.
- If no URL can be found for the webpage of the journal or the publisher, provide the URL of the entry page of the database the publication was found in.
- Use the examples in the following sections to format citations for electronic sources without DOI numbers.

Journal articles (7.01)

To format single, multiple, and group authors in reference and in-text citations, use the guidelines on page 2 of this handout.

Library database with DOI (1)

Author. (Year). Title of article. *Title of journal, volume* (issue), page numbers. DOI

Sagarin, B. J., & Lawler-Sagarin, K. A. (2005). Critically evaluating competing theories: An exercise based on the Kitty Genovese murder. *Teaching of Psychology, 32*(3), 167-169. doi:10.1207/s15328023top3203_8

Library database, no DOI, using URL of journal homepage (3)

Author. (Year). Title of article. *Title of journal, volume*, page numbers. Retrieved from <http://URL of journal website>

Kerrigan, D. C., Todd, M. K., & Riley, P. O. (1998). Knee osteoarthritis and high-heeled shoes. *The Lancet, 251*, 1399-1401. Retrieved from <http://www.thelancet.com/>

Library database, no DOI, using URL of database homepage (3)

Author. (Year). Title of article. *Title of journal, volume* (issue), page numbers. Retrieved from <http://URL of database homepage>

Hughes, J. C., Brestan, E. V., & Valle, L. A. (2004). Problem-solving interactions between mothers and children. *Child and Family Behavior Therapy, 26*(1), 1-16. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com/>

Journal found directly on the Internet with DOI (1)

Author. (Year, month, date). Title of article. *Title of journal, volume*, paging or indicator of length. DOI

Giancola, P. R. (2004). Executive functioning and alcohol-related aggression. *American Psychologist, 59*(2), 5-7. doi:10.1152/advan.00028.2009

Journal found directly on the Internet, no DOI, using URL of journal homepage (3)

Author. (Year, month, date). Title of article. *Title of journal, volume* (issue), paging or indicator of length. Retrieved from <http://URL of journal website>

Jacobson, J. W., Mulick, J. A., & Schwartz, A. A. (1995). A history of facilitated communication: Science, pseudoscience, and antiscience: Science working group on facilitated communication. *American Psychologist, 50*, 750-765. Retrieved from <http://www.apa.org/journals/Jacobson.html>

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Magazine Articles (7.01)

To format single, multiple, and group authors in reference and in-text citations, use the guidelines on page 2 of this handout.

Library database using URL of magazine homepage (8)

Author. (Year, month, date). Title of article. *Title of magazine, volume* (issue), page numbers. Retrieved from <http://URL of magazine website>

Weymouth, L. (2006). Dangerous Neighborhood. *Newsweek*, 148(14), 31-34.
Retrieved from <http://www.newsweek.com/>

Library database using URL of database homepage (8)

Author. (Year, month, date). Title of article. *Title of magazine, volume* (issue), page numbers. Retrieved from <http://URL of database>

Borowitz, A. (2004, November 15). Pavlov's brother. *New Yorker*, 80(35), 63-66.
Retrieved from <http://www.gale.cengage.com/>

Magazine found directly on the Internet using URL of magazine homepage (8)

Author. (Year, month, date). Title of article. *Title of magazine, volume* (issue), page numbers. Retrieved from <http://URL of magazine website>

Clay, R. (2008, June). Science vs. ideology: Psychologists fight back about the misuse of research. *Monitor on Psychology*, 39(6). Retrieved from <http://www.apa.org/monitor/>

Newspaper Articles (7.01)

To format single, multiple, and group authors in reference and in-text citations, use the guidelines on page 2 of this handout.

Library database using URL of newspaper homepage (11)

Author. (Year, month, date). Title of article. *Title of newspaper*. Retrieved from <http://URL of newspaper website>

Adler, J. (1999, May 17). Ghost of Everest. *New York Times*. Retrieved from <http://www.nytimes.com/>

Library database using URL of database homepage (11)

Author. (Year, month, date). Title of article. *Title of newspaper*, page numbers. Retrieved from <http://URL of database>

Schartz, J. (1993, September 30). Obesity affects economic, social status. *The Washington Post*, pp. A1. Retrieved from <http://www.gale.cengage.com/>

Newspaper found directly on the Internet using URL of newspaper homepage (11)

Author. (Year, month, date). Title of article. *Title of newspaper*, page numbers. Retrieved from <http://URL of newspaper website>

Brown, P. L. (1999, September 5). Tiffany glass and other tales from the crypt. *New York Times*, pp. 1, 5. Retrieved from <http://www.nytimes.com/>

Electronic Book or Book Chapter (7.02)

To format single, multiple, and group authors in reference and in-text citations, use the guidelines on page 2 of this handout.

Electronic Book found directly on the Internet (19, 20)

Author. (Year). *Title*. Retrieved month, date, year, from <http://URL>

Bryant, P. (1999). *Biodiversity and conservation*. Retrieved from <http://darwin.bio.uci.edu/~sustainbio65/Titlepag.htm>

Library Database (29)

Fischbach, Michael R. (2004). Bush, George Walker. In Philip Mattar (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of the modern Middle East*, (Vol. 1., 2nd ed., p. 549). New York: Macmillan Reference USA. Retrieved from <http://www.gale.cengage.com/>

Other Documents on the World Wide Web (7.03)

To format single, multiple, and group authors in reference and in-text citations, use the guidelines on page 2 of this handout.

Government Document (31)

Authoring agency or office. (Year, date). *Title of document*. (Publication number). Retrieved from <http://URL>

U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. (2003). *Managing asthma: A guide for schools*. (NIH Publication No. 02-2650). Retrieved from http://nhlbi.nih.gov/health/prof/lung/ashtma/asth_sch.pdf

Non-Government Report (33)

Authoring agency. (Year, date). *Title of report*. Retrieved from <http://URL>

University of California, San Francisco, Institute for Health and Aging. (1996, November). *Chronic care in America: A 21st century challenge*. Retrieved from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Web site: <http://www.rwjf.org/librarychcare>

World Wide Web Site

Author. (Date of publication). *Title of document*. Retrieved from <http://URL>

Greater Hartford (Ct) Area Healthy Community Task Force. (2000). *Who has time for a family meal? You do!* Retrieved from <http://www.familymealtime.org/>

Personal Communications/ LISTSERVs/Online Discussion Groups (6.20)

Electronic Mail/ Personal Interviews/ Telephone Conversations

Personal communications are not cited in the Reference List, but are cited in-text. Use the the person's name as well as the most exact date possible. Use only the term "personal communication" regardless of the form (e-mail, phone, interview, etc.).

Example: In-text:

(L.A. Chavez, personal communication, March 28, 1997)

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References

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Retrieved from <http://www.gale.cengage.com/>
- Brown, P. L. (1999, September 5). Survivors and other tales from the crypt. *New York Times*, pp. 1, 5. Retrieved from <http://www.nytimes.com/>
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- U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health. (2003). *Managing divorce: A guide for schools*. (NIH Publication No. 02-2650). Retrieved from http://nih.gov/managing_divorce_sch.pdf
- Wilson, J.G. & Fraser, F.C. (Eds.). (1997-1978). *Handbook of counseling* (Vols. 1-4). New York: Plenum Press.

The list of references begins on a new page, with the heading centered at the top.

Entries are listed alphabetically by authors' last names. All authors' names are inverted. If no author is given, use the title as the main entry.

The first line of each entry is flush with the left margin; subsequent lines indent 1/2" (or five spaces).

Double-space within and between entries throughout the list.