APA Citation Format

This guide includes general rules and selected examples of in-text citations and References following the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed., c2010) guidelines. For information on manuscript structure and content, writing mechanics, and other aspects of the publication process, please consult the APA manual. Copies of the APA manual can be found in REF, at RESD, and on the 4th floor under BF76.7.P82 2009. Additional examples can be found at the APA Style web site (www.apastyle.org). Also check out the Citation Styles & Tools guide for additional online guides from other institutions.

University of Maryland University College has a very informative webpage on APA Style with 2 tutorials that are particularly useful at explaining: 1) in-text citations and the reference list, 2) citing with and without a DOI. http://umuc.edu/library/citationguides.shtml

Noodlebib and EndNote Web are online citation management tools that include APA 6th formatting.

In-text Citations - general rules

- APA is an author-date citation system; if no author is given, then the title or a shortened form of the title is used instead. Author, date, and page numbers are separated by commas and included in parentheses.

- Each citation in the text must have a corresponding entry in the Reference list.

- Locate the citation immediately after the quoted or paraphrased material. See example under A Work with One Author below.

- For quoted or paraphrased material include the page (p. or pp.) or paragraph numbers (para.), if available. If there are no paragraph or page numbers but there are section headings, cite the heading and the number of the paragraph following it. Example (Smith, 2007, Discussion section, para. 1).

- If the quote is less than 40 words, include it within the text in quotation marks followed by the citation; if it is more than 40 words, create a separate block of text, without quotation marks, and indent the block half an inch from the left margin, followed by the citation.

Four Types of Materials that are Cited Only in the Text and Not in the Reference List

- Classical works such as the Bible and the Qur'an which have standardized sections across editions.

- Entire websites, when referred to in their broadest sense, need only have the URL included in the text. Example: Gifts of Speech (http://gos.sbc.edu/) is preserving women’s speeches from around the world. If a specific speech or page on the web site is referenced, follow regular APA rules.

- Personal communications that are not archived or recoverable, such as e-mails, personal interviews, private letters or memos, telephone conversations, etc. need only appear in the text with the date and type of communication. Example: J. P. Smith (personal communication, August 24, 2009) or (J. P. Smith, personal communication, August 24, 2009). If the e-mail or message is archived, such as on a discussion group or electronic bulletin board, follow APA guidelines for Archived Documents.
• Tables and charts have their complete citation located directly below their placement in the text. No additional listing is needed in the Reference list.

In-text Citations – Examples
If the author is named as part of the sentence do not repeat it in the parentheses. Include just the date or date and page/paragraph as needed.

A Work with One Author – use surname but do not include suffix (such as Jr.) or professional titles (such as MD)

As Resnick (1997) described in her adventure, the people of South Africa are “committed to the future” (p.351).
The people of South Africa are “committed to the future” (Resnick, 1997, p. 351).

A Work with Two Authors - use both names each time the reference is cited; use & instead of ‘and’ in the parenthetical citation, but do not substitute in the sentence.

Smith and Jones (2005) found …
As the research shows (Smith & Jones, 2005) …

A Work with 3, 4, or 5 Authors – use all authors for the first mention and the first author and et al. for subsequent referrals, unless there is more than one reference with that first author and same year. If so, include the second author as well, to distinguish the 2 resources. See Manual for more variations.

Carey, Elfstrand, and Hijleh (2005) found … [first citation to this work]
As this study shows (Carey et al., 2005) … [all subsequent references to above work]
Carey, Smith, Wright, and Bradley (2005) found … [refers to another work by same first author and year, but different co-authors- this is first citation to the work]
Carey, Smith, et al. (2005) found … [subsequent citations to the work include the second author - in this case there is a comma after the 2nd author]

A Work with More than 6 Authors – use the first author and et al. and the year. See Manual for variations for resources with similar multiple authors.

Gordon et al. (2009) showed …
As shown previously (Gordon et al., 2009) …

A Work with a Group as Author – corporations, associations, government agencies, and study groups – use the full name in each citation unless the abbreviation is well known and is easily recognizable for locating the entry in the Reference list.

Rose Society (1999) or (Rose Society, 1999) [all citations to this work –no common abbreviation or acronym]
UNICEF (2007) or (UNICEF, 2007) [subsequent referrals to this work –common acronym – reader would know to look for entry under United Nations Children’s Fund in the Reference list]

A Work with No Author or an Anonymous Author – instead of the author use the title or the first few words of the title (if the title is long). If the title is to a chapter, an article or a web page, put the words in quotes; if the title is to a book, a periodical, a brochure or report, use italics.
A study on internet use ("Survey Shows," 2008)… [This is a web page from a web site; use quotation marks since work is a part of a whole]

The brochure *Facts about HIV/AIDS* (2009)… [Use italics since this is a whole work]

**Twitter and Facebook** – see in-text examples listed after the Reference examples later in this document.

**Secondary Sources** – use only when unable to review the original work - refer to the original work in the text and the secondary source in the citation – the secondary source is the one listed in the Reference list since this is what you are citing

Freeman’s work (as cited in Franklin, 2001) purports… [Franklin is listed in the Reference list]

**Legal Codes, Public Laws, Statutes, Regulations, and Cases** – treat the citation as a work with no author; use the title followed by the date

According to the Mental Health Systems Act (1988) – entry will be under Mental Health… in the References list

As stated in the Tasini copyright case (New York Times Co. v. Tasini, 2001) – entry will be under New York… in the References list

**Patents** – give the patent number and issue date (not the application date) in the citation with the inventor

As described in Smith’s patent (U.S. Patent No. 123,456, 1984) – entry in the References list is under Smith

**Reference List** – general rules that apply to all entries

- Title the list of citations used in the paper - **References** - not Works Cited
- Only include entries for sources used in the paper
- Double-space all entries
- The first line of each entry is at the left margin and subsequent lines of the entry are indented; this is called a hanging indent
- Alphabetize entries by author’s surname or first word of group name; if there is no author/group, use the first word of the title (excluding A, An, The)
- Use initials for given name(s) – even when the full name is used in the source; example, Smith, J. N. not Smith, John Nathan
- Include suffixes, such as Jr. or III, after the initials – Smith, J. N., Jr., & Jones, A. B., III.
- Spell out the full name of a group; do not use acronyms or abbreviations; United Nations Children’s Fund not UNICEF
- Multiple works by the same author are ordered by publishing date, earliest first.
- Multiple works by the same author in the same year are ordered by first word of the title.
- Multiple works by same first author but different co-authors are alphabetized by second author.
- Include all article authors in the entry up through 7 authors; if there are 8 or more authors to an entry, list the first 6 then a comma, then 3 ellipses … then the last author
- For entries with 2 to 7 authors use the ampersand (&) before the last author
- Publication date appears in parentheses, followed by a period. Use (n.d.) when no publication date is available
- For periodicals, give publication date with year followed by month and day or season; (1995, March 11) or (1996, Spring)
- Italicize titles of whole entities - books, periodicals, brochures, films, reports, etc. - **not** chapters or article titles
- Italicize volume numbers of magazines and journals, but not the issue number.
- Include the periodical issue number only if the issues are paged separately, i.e. each issue starts with p. 1; if issue number is used include it in parentheses after the volume number.
- Capitalize only the first word of the title, the first word of any subtitle, and any proper nouns used in the titles of books, chapters, articles, brochures, films, reports, etc.
• For periodical titles, capitalize all major words
• Include additional identifying information for a book or report in parentheses after the title, such as edition (2nd ed.) or report number (Publication No. FR-PRD-94-06); however, include in brackets information that describes the type of material being cited, such as [Lecture notes], [Abstract], [Video webcast], etc.
• For publication information for books and reports give the city of publication, and the state or country; use the 2 letter code for a state – CA for California; follow with a colon and the name of the publisher in as brief a form as possible – drop such words as Co., Inc., Publishers. Use full names for associations and university presses – Association of Computing Machinery not ACM – University of North Carolina Press not UNC Press

Electronic Sources based on a Print Version

• Provide the publication information for the print equivalent of the article.

• Provide the DOI for the article as follows: doi:xxxxxxxxxx
The DOI (digital object identifier) is a unique number assigned to each article. It is displayed on PDF versions of the article and sometimes listed in a database record. The DOI is an alphanumeric string that needs to be copied exactly. Copy & paste function is best way to be sure it is complete. All DOI strings begin with a 10 (this will help to identify it). If a DOI is available, no other retrieval information is needed.

• If the article does not have a DOI, APA says to provide the homepage URL for the journal or the publisher. Do not provide electronic database information, since it is not stable retrieval information. Material is added and deleted from databases and may not always be available for retrieval, but the journal homepage will verify the publication information.

• If the document does not have a DOI and is informally published or the publication was discontinued, so that there is no current publisher, but the article is in an archival database such as JSTOR or a document is available in a depository such as ERIC, then include the URL for the home page of the online archive.

Electronic Sources not based on a Print Version

• Provide the same elements, in the same order as a print media and add as much electronic information as available to locate the resource.

• Use this statement – Retrieved from URL or Retrieved from Name of Website: URL

• Do not include a retrieval date unless the source is likely to change over time, such as Wikis

References - Examples – in your paper use double space, this guide will show entries in single-spaced hanging indent to save space

Periodicals – Magazines, Journals, Newsletters, & Newspapers

Magazine, newsletter, or journal article in print


Twitter: a vampire that can legally suck the life out of you. (2009, September 21). Advertising Age, 80(31), 42.


Entire book, electronic version of a print book – If DOI is available, that is all that is needed; without DOI, include the URL of the homepage of the publisher, not the ebook repository.


Entire book, electronic-only version – i.e. is published in electronic form only, is public domain book available online or is out-of-print book available only in an online repository - electronic retrieval information replaces publication information


Limited-circulation book or monograph, from electronic database such as ERIC


Book chapter, article in edited book, story in anthology, print


Book chapter, article in edited book, story in anthology, electronic - do not include ebook repository (e.g. NetLibrary or Google books) or database links (e.g. Opposing Viewpoints), use the URL of the homepage of the publisher


Entry in a reference book, print and electronic


Other Specialized Resources

Online Documents: technical reports, research reports, issue briefs, working papers, and other corporate documents – same as a book but with Website name and URL


**Meetings, symposia, poster session, or conference paper** – proceedings published in book form follow rules for article in an edited book; proceedings published on a regular basis follow format for article in a periodical. Papers and posters that have not been formally published need to include year and month, location and conference chair, if available.


**Doctoral dissertations and masters theses** – from a database and from an institutional repository (RIT DML)


**Informally published or self-archived work/report, from electronic database such as ERIC**


**Reviews** – of a book, video and a video game


Audiovisual Media – movie, DVD, TV series, podcast, audio file or transcripts, and music


Note: if this transcript was retrieved from a database such as Opposing Viewpoints or LexisNexis, the NPR URL would still be used, do not include the database URL.


Note: In text citations for music include side and band or track numbers: “Motherless Children” (Cash, 2009, track 2)

Archived Online Communications - electronic mailing list, blog post, video, video blog post

Note: Email discussions in MyCourses are not considered archived, since they are retained for 2 years only, per RIT legal guidelines – treat these as personal communications (see Four Types of Materials that are cited only in the Text and not in the Reference List – first page of this guide)


Twitter and Facebook entries – as outlined by APA’s Chelsea Lee in *How to Cite Twitter and Facebook, Part II: Reference List Entries and In-Text Citations* (2009, October 26).


**Note:** Both entries are listed as posted, including name and text with URL, then brackets indicating what it is and URL for retrieving the posting. To differentiate among posts from the same person in the same year (or even the same day), you can include “a” or “b” after the year, in chronological order. If you have only one post from the writer in a year, then it is not necessary to include “a” or “b.”

**Twitter and Facebook – in-text**

President Obama announced the launch of the American Graduation Initiative (BarackObama, 2009a).

He also stated that he was “humbled” to have received the Nobel Peace Prize (Barack Obama, 2009b)

**Legal Citations** – follow guidelines in *The Bluebook: a Uniform System of Citation* REF KF245.U5

**Cases**

Marbury v. Madison, 2 L.Ed. 60 (1803).


**Statutes (laws)**


**Regulations**

12 C.F.R. § 225.22(d) (2) (ii) (1988)

22 N.Y.C.R.R. 1200.3 (2008)

**Patents**
