

APA Guidelines for Citing Electronic Sources

User Guide

Centennial Library

Cedarville University

Electronic sources include articles from aggregated databases, online journal articles, web sites, newsgroup messages, web or e-mail based discussion group messages, and web or e-mail based newsletters. References cited in text must appear in the reference list; conversely, each entry in the reference list must be cited in text.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Citations for electronic sources include the same information as a paper source, but also include a retrieval statement:

Online Periodical:

Author, A. A., Author, B. B., & Author, C. C. (year). Title of article. *Title of Periodical*, volume, page range. Retrieved month day, year, from source.

Online Document:

Author, A. A. (year). *Title of work*. Retrieved month day, year, from source.

2. Arrange entries in alphabetical order by the last name of the first author. If there is no author given, the title of the work is moved to the author position.
3. Double-space the entries, and use a hanging indent.
4. Include only the initials of the authors' first and middle names.
5. Title of article or chapter: capitalize only the first word of the title and subtitle, if any, and any proper nouns. Do not italicize or place quotation marks around it.
6. Title of periodical: give the periodical title in full, capitalizing all significant words. Italicize the periodical title and volume number, if any. For *journals* paginated by issue, include the issue number in parentheses immediately following the volume number.
7. Title of book or document: capitalize only the first word of the title and subtitle, if any, and any proper nouns. Italicize the book or document title.
8. Retrieval information: provide the date accessed. If the information is obtained from a document on the internet, provide the internet address (URL) for the document. If information is retrieved from an aggregated database (such as Academic Search Premier) simply provide the name of the database. If the citation ends in a URL, DO NOT place a period at the end of the citation. If it is necessary to break up the URL onto two lines, break after a slash or before a period.
9. It is important to give the URL that will send the reader to the correct document. Double check the URL before placing it in the reference list. If you have a URL that will change with each reader that uses the web page, it may be necessary to cite a search page. See a librarian if you have a question about a specific URL.
10. Reference entries are not required for classical works, including the Bible; simply identify in the first in-text citation the reference and the version used.
11. To direct readers to an entire web site (but not a specific document on the site), it is sufficient to give the address of the site in the text of your paper. No reference entry is needed.

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12. Email communications from individuals should be cited within the text as personal communication, as described in The American Psychological Association's (APA's) *Publication Manual* (2001, p. 214). No reference entry is needed.
 13. To cite sources in-text, follow the author/date format described in APA's *Publication Manual* (2001, pp. 207-214). Example: In a recent study of reaction times (Walker, 2000).... To cite a direct quote or specific part of a source, include a page number. Example: (Shimamura, 1989, p. 332). If the source is not paginated, provide the paragraph number preceded by the paragraph symbol (§) or the abbreviation "para." If neither page numbers or paragraphs are visible, cite a heading, or omit the location altogether.

CITING A SPECIFIC SECTION OF A WEBSITE

Toole, B. (n.d.). *Ada Byron, Lady Lovelace*. Retrieved January 29, 2002, from <http://www.agnesscott.edu/lriddle/women/love.htm>

Note: When citing an internet document comprised of multiple pages, provide a URL that links to the home (or entry) page for the document.

CITING AN ENTRY IN A WEB ENCYCLOPEDIA

Boss, A. P. (2000). Solar system. In *Access science encyclopedia*. Retrieved January 31, 2002, from http://www.accessscience.com/server-java/Arknoid/science/AS/Encyclopedia/6/63/Est_633800_printable.html

Note: If the individual entry is signed, put the author at the beginning, and the entry title after the date.

CITING ARTICLES OBTAINED FROM ELECTRONIC DATABASES

Articles Based on a Print Source

If the article found online is an exact duplicate of the print version in content, format, and pagination (a PDF file, for example), you may use the citing format used for a print journal article, with the addition of [Electronic version] after the title, before the period. For example, a journal found in the Electronic Journal Center that is full text as a PDF file may be cited in this manner:

Woike, B., & Polo, M. (2001). Motive-related memories: Content, structure, and affect [Electronic version]. *Journal of Personality*, 69, 391-415.

If you are referencing an article online that you have reason to believe has changed in content, format or pagination (such as an HTML document), refer to the following examples.

Electronic Journal Center

Zuber, I. (2000). Patients' own problem formulations and recommendations for psychotherapy. *Journal of Psychotherapy Integration*, 10, 403-414. Retrieved January 29, 2002, from Electronic Journal Center database.

OhioLINK Databases

Journal article

Doukas, D. J., & Berg, J. W. (2001). The family covenant and genetic testing. *American Journal of Bioethics*, 1(3), 2-10. Retrieved November 18, 2002, from CINAHL database.

Note: Only include the issue number if the journal is paginated by issue (if every issue starts at page 1).

Magazine article

Micrologic extends estimates for Bluetooth. (2002, July 15). *Wireless Week*, 8, 26. Retrieved August 5, 2002, from Business and Industry database.

Note: When no author is given, the title of the article is moved to the author position.

Ebsco Databases

Journal article

Rapach, D. E. (2001). Macro shocks and real stock prices. *Journal of Economics & Business*, 53, 5-26. Retrieved August 1, 2002, from Business Source Premier database.

Magazine article

Nash, J. M., & Song, S. (2001, January 15). The antibiotics crisis. *Time*, 157, 90-92. Retrieved August 1, 2002, from Academic Search Premier database.

Lexis-Nexis

Newspaper Article

Collins, G. (2002, January 29). Still family after all these years; New York companies 100 years old and going strong. *The New York Times*, p. B1. Retrieved January 29, 2002, from Lexis-Nexis Academic database (News).

Journal Article

Sommer, J. H. (2000). Against cyberlaw. *Berkeley Technology Law Journal*, 15, 1145. Retrieved January 29, 2002, from Lexis-Nexis Academic database (Legal).

SIRS Researcher

Frick, R. (1999, February). Investing in medical miracles. *Kiplinger's Personal Finance*, 80-87. Retrieved January 10, 2000, from SIRS Knowledge Source database (SIRS Researcher).

Gale's Quotations

Example of Gale's Quotations entry:

Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill
1874-1965
English. Statesman, Author

This was their finest hour.

-- Remark about Dunkirk evacuation, Speech, House of
Commons, June 18, 1940

Churchill, W. L. S. (1940, June 18). [Remark about Dunkirk Evacuation, House of Commons].

Retrieved January 4, 2002, from Gale's Quotations: Who Said What? database.

Note: For a quote, do not italicize the topic; use brackets to indicate that the material is a description of content, not a title.

Resource within Logos Bible Software

Harris, R. L., Archer, Jr., G. L., & Watke, B. K. (Eds.). (1980). *Theological wordbook of the Old Testament*. Chicago: Moody Press. Retrieved January 4, 2002, from Logos Bible Software (Series X) database.

Note: For electronic books, include the publisher information.

NetLibrary Electronic Books

Eckes, T., & Trautner, H. (Eds.). (2000). *The developmental social psychology of gender*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates. Retrieved September 24, 2002, from http://www.netlibrary.com/ebook_info.asp?product_id=44644

Note: For electronic books, include the publisher information.

CITING AN ABSTRACT

From an OhioLINK Database

Keown, L. J. (2001). Parent-child relationships, peer functioning, and preschool hyperactivity. *Dissertation Abstracts International: Section B: The Sciences & Engineering*, 62, 1617. Abstract retrieved February 7, 2002, from PsycINFO database.

From Digital Dissertations

Keown, L. J. (2001). *Parent-child relationships, peer functioning and preschool hyperactivity* (Doctoral dissertation, University of Auckland, 2001). Dissertation Abstracts International, 62(03), 1617B. (UMI No. 3010005). Abstract retrieved February 7, 2002, from Digital Dissertations database.

CITING ELECTRONIC MAILING LISTS

Hammond, T. (2000, November 20). YAHC: Handle Parameters, DOI Genres, etc. Message posted to Ref-Links electronic mailing list, archived at <http://www.doi.org/mail-archive/ref-link/msg00088.html>

Note: Provide the name of the mailing list and the address for the archived version of the message. Care should be taken when citing electronic discussion sources, such as newsgroups, online forums, discussion groups, and electronic mailing lists, since they are generally not regarded as having scholarly content and may not be archived for a significant length of time. If archives are not maintained for a particular source, the message will not be retrievable and should not be included in the reference list. At best, it can be cited as personal communication (see *Publication Manual*, 2001, p. 214).

REFERENCE

Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (5th ed.). (2001). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.