

MLA Guidelines for Citing Electronic Sources

User Guide

Centennial Library

Cedarville University

Electronic sources include articles from subscription 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, First M., and Second M. Author. "Title of article." Name of periodical volume.issue (year): pages.
Database name. Database Provider. Library name, city, ST. Day month year accessed <URL>.

Online Document:

Author, First M., and Second M. Author. Document title. Date of Internet publication. Day month year
accessed <URL>.

2. Arrange bibliography entries in *alphabetical* order by the surname of the first author. If there is no author given, the first significant word of the title is used.
3. Double-space the bibliographic entries, and indent all lines of the entry after the first line.
4. Title of *article or chapter*: capitalize all significant words of the title and subtitle, if any. Place quotation marks around the title. Example: "Access Services and RILI."
5. Title of *periodical, book or document*: give the title in full, using a colon to separate the title and subtitle, capitalizing all significant words. Underline the title (italicization is per instructor preference) but not the ending period. Example: Journal of Christian Education.
6. Certain titles do not need underlining or quotation marks in the text, although they are underlined when cited. These titles include versions of sacred writings (titles of specific editions should be underlined); laws, acts, and political documents; and workshops and courses. (See Gibaldi, section 3.6.5.) Example of a version: New International Version. Example of edition: Interlinear Bible.
7. If citing a source from a *subscription database*, use the URL of the database's main page. Also include the name of the service (Example: Academic Search Premier), and the name and city and state abbreviation of the library (Example: Centennial Lib., Cedarville, OH.).
8. The electronic address, or URL, of the source is always in angle brackets <> and not underlined. If you need to divide a URL, do so only after a slash. Example: <www.netlibrary.com>.
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 the search page. See a reference librarian if you have a question about a specific URL.

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10. To cite sources in the text, use the author's last name and page number(s) cited as described in the MLA Handbook (Gibaldi 203-229). Example: The Basque people are primarily in Europe – over 2.3 million – though there are about 500,000 outside of Europe (Minahan 283). If the source does not have set pages, e.g. an HTML document, provide either the paragraph number preceded by the abbreviation "par." or "pars." or cite the number of the screen. Example: (Smith par. 2).
11. When citing the Bible in text, use a period instead of a colon between the chapter and verse(s). Example: I Tim. 1.7.

CITING A WEBSITE

Personal site

Opp-Beckman, Leslie. Home page. 6 Jun. 2003. 25 Feb. 2003 <<http://www.uoregon.edu/~leslieob/pizzaz.html>>.

Professional site

The William Faulkner Society Home Page. Ed. Philip Weinstein. 4 Apr. 2002. William Faulkner Soc. 14 Aug. 2003 <<http://www.acad.swarthmore.edu/faulkner>>.

Ford Motor Company. 2003. 25 Feb. 2003 <<http://www.fordvehicles.com>>.

CITING AN ARTICLE FROM A MAGAZINE ON A WEBSITE

Powell, Mark A. "Pop Music With Brains." Christianity Today. Mar. 2003: 42. 24 Feb. 2003 <<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2003/003/4.42.html>>.

CITING AN ENTRY IN A WEB ENCYCLOPEDIA

"Basketball." Columbia Encyclopedia. 6th ed. 2001. Bartleby.com. 3 Mar. 2003 <<http://www.bartleby.com/65/>>.

Note: If the individual entry is signed with an author's name, start with the author.

CITING AN ELECTRONIC BOOK

Nieto, Sonia. Language, Culture, and Teaching: Critical Perspectives for a New Century. Mahwah: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 2002. NetLibrary. Centennial Lib., Cedarville, OH. 21 Feb. 2003 <<http://www.netlibrary.com>>.

CITING ARTICLES FROM A RESEARCH DATABASE

Journal article

Zuber, Irena. "Patients' Own Problem Formulations and Recommendations for Psychotherapy." Journal of Psychotherapy Integration 10.4 (2000): 403-414. Electronic Journal Center. Centennial Lib., Cedarville, OH. 29 Jan. 2002 <<http://journals.ohiolink.edu>>.

Magazine article

Nash, J. Madeleine. "New Insights into Its Cause Lead to New Drug Strategies." Time 15 Jan. 2001: 80-82. Academic Search Premier. EBSCO. Centennial Lib., Cedarville, OH. 2 Aug. 2002 <<http://search.epnet.com/>>.

Newspaper Article

Collins, Glenn. "Still Family After All These Years; New York Companies 100 Years Old and Going Strong." The New York Times 29 Jan. 2002, late ed., sec. B: 1+. LexisNexis Academic. LexisNexis. Centennial Lib., Cedarville, OH. 21 Feb. 2003 <http://web.lexis-nexis.com/universe/form/academic/s_guidednews.html>.

Note: The URL for the search page is used because the URL to the article is not stable. Also use the search page URL instead of long and complicated URLs.

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, Winston L.S. [Remark about Dunkirk Evacuation, House of Commons]. 18 June 1940.

Gale's Quotations: Who Said What? CD-ROM. Detroit, MI: Gale Research, 1994.

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

Resource within Logos Bible Software

Harris, R. Laird, ed. Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament. Chicago: Moody Press, 1980.

Logos Bible Software. Series X. Centennial Lib., Cedarville, OH. 21 Feb. 2003.

Note: Logos places publication information at the end of each printout, which can be used to create a citation.

CITING AN E-MAIL

Boyle, Anthony T. "Re: Utopia." E-mail to Daniel J. Cahill. 21 June 1997.

CITING AN ABSTRACT

Robbins, Paul, Annemarie Polderman, and Trevor Birkenholtz. "Lawn and Toxins: An Ecology of the City." Cities 18.6 (2001): 369-380. Abstract. Sociological Abstracts. Centennial Lib., Cedarville, OH. 25 Sept. 2003 <<http://www.ohiolink.edu/resources.cgi>>.

REFERENCES

Gibaldi, Joseph. MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 6th ed. New York: MLA, 2003.