APA Style

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The APA Format requires that your entire document--text, note, references--be double spaced. This Library Guide has been produced in single space in order to minimize photocopying expense. Please remember that when you produce your own APA documents, all text and reference must be double spaced.

The American Psychological Association (APA) style, as presented in this handout, is widely accepted in the Social Sciences. The APA citation format requires citation within the text rather than endnotes or footnotes. In text citations usually include the name of the author and the date of publication so as to lead the reader to the accompanying bibliographical entry found in the “References” section which is placed at the end of the research paper. Complete information about each source cited in the text is supplied in the “References” list.


### In Text Citation

In the text of a research paper, if the author’s name is part of the narrative, include only the year of publication in the parentheses.

According to Smith (1998), APA style is a difficult citation format for first-time learners.

APA style is a difficult citation format for first-time learners (Smith, 1998).

If citing a particular page or chapter of a document, include that information in the parentheses.

(Smith, 1998, p. 203)

(Smith, 1998, Chapter 3)

At the end of the paper, in a section called "References," this entry is included in correct alphabetical order (APA 6.25), together with other entries for works cited:

For multiple authors:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of citation</th>
<th>First citation in text</th>
<th>Subsequent citation in text</th>
<th>Parenthetical format, first citation in text</th>
<th>Parenthetical format, subsequent citations in text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One work by three authors</td>
<td>Bradley, Ramirez, and Soo (1999)</td>
<td>Bradley et al. (1999)</td>
<td>(Bradley, Ramirez, &amp; Soo, 1999)</td>
<td>(Bradley et al., 1999)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One work by four authors</td>
<td>Bradley, Ramirez, Soo, and Walsh (2006)</td>
<td>Bradley et al. (2006)</td>
<td>(Bradley, Ramirez, Soo, &amp; Walsh, 2006)</td>
<td>(Bradley et al., 2006)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One work by six or more authors</td>
<td>Wasserstein et al. (2005)</td>
<td>Wasserstein et al. (2005)</td>
<td>(Wasserstein et al., 2005)</td>
<td>(Wasserstein et al., 2005)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note.* From *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* p. 177. Copyright 2010 by Copyright Holder. Permission not sought.

If there is no author, use the first few words of the reference list entry (usually the title) in the citation in the text. If it is the title of an article or chapter use quotation marks; if it is the title of a book use Italics.

In the Reference List


In the Text:

(“New drug,” 1993)
Electronic Citations in Text:

Cite electronic resources in the text as you would other documents (see above). However if citing a particular part of a document which has no page numbers, include the paragraph (para.) or section heading with the number of the paragraph.

Use paragraph number or section heading with the number of the paragraph.

(Myers, 2000, para. 5)
(Beutler, 2000, Conclusion section, para.1)

Citation of a work discussed in a secondary source (APA 6.17).

In general it is expected that you seek out and use the original source of the information. However, this is not always practical. To cite a secondary source, do the following.

In the Text:

Seidenberg and McClelland’s study (as cited in Coltheart, Curtis, Atkins, & Haller, 1993)

Note: You will list the Coltheart reference in the reference list.

Creating a Reference List at the End of Your Paper (APA Chap. 7)

Remember: All references in your list must be double spaced both between references and within references.

Books and eBooks (APA7.02)

Books:

By a Single Author

Author(s) last name, first and middle initial  Title (in italics)  Publisher


Year of publication  City, state of publication

By Two or More Authors


By a Corporate (Group) Author


Edited Book

No Author


**Electronic Books:**

**Book from a database:**


**Note:** APA is inconsistent with its rules for citing electronic sources; it sometimes says, “Use this format: Retrieved from [http://www.XXXXXXXX](http://www.XXXXXXXX)” (APA 7.01) other times it says, “Retrieved from Name of database.” (APA 7.01, Ex 17 & APA 7.05). For consistency and considering that all database url’s are not stable, the library recommends, “Retrieved from Name of database” but either would be correct.

**Book from a website:**


**Articles/Chapters in Books**


**Article, entry, or chapter from an online reference book (Encyclopedia, dictionary, handbook):**

**Online:**


**Print:**


**ERIC Documents:**

**Online:**


**Print:**

Article with DOI:


*Article without DOI:*


**NOTE:** For print articles, omit doi or database name.

**One author, journal paginated by volume**


**Two or more authors (up to seven authors), journal paginated by issue:**


**Note:** If an article has more than seven authors, list the first 6 authors and then after the sixth author’s name and initial, use “…” and then the last name and first initials of the last author.


**Article in an Internet-only journal:**


**Book Review, published in a journal**

Electronic copy of an abstract obtained from a secondary database:


Newspaper and Magazine Articles (APA 7.01)

Newspaper Article

Online:

From a database:

<table>
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<th>Article Author</th>
<th>Publication Date</th>
<th>Article Title</th>
<th>Newspaper Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cieply, M.</td>
<td>2013, November 11</td>
<td>Gun violence in American movies is rising, study finds.</td>
<td><em>New York Times</em></td>
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Retrieved from LexisNexis Academic.

Database

From a website-no author:


Print:


Editorials, & Letters to the Editor


Magazine Article:

Online:

From a database:

From a website:


Print:


**Web Sources (APA 7.03 – 7.04 & APA Style Blog)**

<table>
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<th>Web page author (If specified. If not, start with the title).</th>
<th>Date (If no date, use n.d.)</th>
<th>Title of Web article or page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

URL of page or document

Date Accessed

**A document on a Web site:**

**Author and date provided:**


**Organization name as author:**


**No Author or date; stand-alone document:**


**Blog posts (APA 7.11):**


**Note:** In the first example the blogger uses his/her full name. In the comment, the commenter uses a screen name. If a full name is not given, use the screen name.
Email Communications:

Email communications should be cited as personal communications in the text only (no reference necessary) in the following format:

R. J. Smith (personal communication, August 15, 2015)

Other Sources

Test Reviews (APA 7.08)

Online


Print


Charts, Tables and Graphs (APA 5.21 – 5.23)

If you are reproducing a graphic, chart, or table, from some other source, you must provide a special note at the bottom of the item that includes copyright information. If you are submitting your work for publication or if your work is a dissertation or master’s thesis you should also submit written permission along with your work. If your work is a paper submitted for course work, permission is not necessary. In either case, begin the citation with “Note.”


If permission is not sought, substitute “Permission not sought” in place of “Reprinted with permission.”

Video (APA 7.07)

DVD or VHS:


Streaming Online:

From a database:


From a Web site:

Dissertations or Theses (APA 7.05)

Electronic copy of a thesis or dissertation from a database:


Many of the citations given in this handout were culled from the American Psychological Association. (2010). Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. (Ref 150.149 Am35b). If you have trouble finding the right form for your citation, please ask a reference librarian for help.

How to Use APA Format. PW: rev. 8/2015