APA Format

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.

Every scholarly field has its preferred citation format or "style." The APA style, as presented in this handout, is widely accepted in the Social Sciences. The American Psychological Association (APA) citation format requires citation within the text rather than endnotes or footnotes. Citation in the text provides information, usually the name of the author and the date of publication, to lead the reader to the accompanying bibliographical entry. Complete information about each source cited in the text is supplied in a list called "References," which is placed at the end of the research paper.

For example: 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, together with other entries for works cited:


If there are multiple authors do the following:

Two authors:
(Smith & Jones, 1998)

Three-five authors:
(Smith, Jones, Roberts, & Clarke, 1998)

Six or more authors:
(Smith et al., 1998)

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)
Citation of a work discussed in a secondary source.

In the Text:

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

Creating a Reference List at the End of Your Paper

Only a few of the APA citation rules can be demonstrated in the brief space which follows. For more detailed information you need to consult the American Psychological Association. (2010). Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. (Ref 150.149 Am35b). Copies are also on Reserve at the Circulation Desk.

Books

In citing BOOKS, normally arrange the information in the following order: (1) author or editor’s name; (2) year of publication; (3) title of the book; (4) edition, if applicable, followed by number of volumes, if applicable; (5) place of publication; (6) publisher.

By a Single Author


By Two or More Authors


By a Corporate (Group) Author


Edited Book


No Author


Articles/Chapters in Books


Article in an Encyclopedia

Article with a named author:


Article with no named author:


Dictionary Entry


Articles in Journals

In citing JOURNALS, normally arrange the information in the following order: (1) author(s); (2) Date of publication; (3) Article title; (4) Periodical title with publication information, including volume, number and page numbers.

From a Journal, one author, journal paginated by volume


From a Journal two or more authors (up to seven authors), journal paginated by issue:


Note: If an article has more than seven authors, list the first 7 authors and then after the seventh author’s name and initial, use “…” and then the last name and first initials of the last author.


From a Magazine


Book Review, published in a journal


Articles in Newspapers

In citing NEWSPAPER ARTICLES, arrange the information in the same way you do JOURNAL ARTICLES (listed above).

Newspaper Article


No author


Newspaper Editorials, & Letters to the Editor


Test Reviews

Test Review (print)

Sandoval, J. (2003). [Review of the test Woodcock-Johnson III]. In B. S. Plake, J. C. Impara, & R. A. Spies (Eds.), The fifteenth mental measurements yearbook (pp. 1024-1028). Lincoln, NE: Buros Institute of Mental Measurements

Test Review (online)


Charts, Tables and Graphs

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


Electronic Resources

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)

A document on a Web site:

Authors and date provided; part of a larger Web site:


No Author or date; stand-alone document:


Electronic Books:

Book from a website:


Book from a database:


Article, entry, or chapter from an online reference book:

From a database:

From a Web site, no date, no author, no editor:

Article in an Internet-only journal:

Electronic copy of a journal article retrieved from a database:
Since online materials can potentially change URL's, APA recommends providing a Digital Object Identifier (DOI), when it is available. DOI's are an attempt to provide stable, long-lasting links for online articles. They are unique to their documents and consist of a long alphanumeric code. Many-but not all-publishers will provide an article's DOI on the first page of the document. If you are unable to identify a DOI use the format shown below*.

Article with DOI:

*Article without DOI:

Electronic copy of a thesis or dissertation from a database:

Electronic copy of an abstract obtained from a secondary database:


Electronic copy of technical reports obtained through ERIC online

Citing Email Communications:
Email communications should be cited as personal communications in the text only (no reference necessary) in the following format:
L. A. Chafez (personal communication, March 28, 1999)

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.