MLA Format

This document is available online at http://library.stmarys-ca.edu/subjects/general/citing/mla.pdf

Every scholarly field has its preferred citation format or “style.” The MLA style, as presented in this handout, is widely accepted in most disciplines in the Humanities.

The Modern Language Association (MLA) has released the 7th edition of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (2009). General paper formatting (margins, headings, etc.) and in-text citations remain the same, but all Works Cited entries are different from the 6th edition guidelines.

Some of the most significant changes are listed here:

- **No more underlining.** MLA now recommends italicizing titles of published works (books, periodicals, films, etc.)
- **No more URLs.** Website entries still require authors, article names, website names, etc. URLs are encouraged only if the citation information is insufficient to easily find the source.
- **Identification of publication medium required.** The MLA no longer recognizes a default medium although most entries will be listed as Print or Web. These markers will appear at the end of the entry and markers for Web sources are followed by the date of access.
- **New abbreviations.** Web site entries now require a publisher name, a date of publication, and/or page numbers. When this information is not available, write n.p. for no publisher given, n.d. for no date, and n. pag. For no pagination.

Creating Parenthetical Citations

In the Text of Your Paper

The Modern Language Association (MLA) 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 page number(s), to lead the reader to the accompanying bibliographical entry. Complete information about each source cited in the text is supplied in a list of Works Cited, which is placed at the end of the research paper.

For example: *In the text of a research paper:*

Americans’ expansive food choices at the supermarket may be making them sick. “Our bewilderment in the supermarket is no accident; the return of the omnivore’s dilemma has deep roots in the modern food industry…” (Pollan 5).

At the end of the same research paper, in a section called Works Cited, this entry is included in correct alphabetical order together with other entries for works cited:


Only a few of the MLA citation rules can be demonstrated in the brief space, which follows. For more detailed information you need to consult the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (on Reserve and in Reference, 808.02 G350e).

MLA 2009 Sample Entries

Creating a List of Works Cited

At the End of Your Paper

Books
In citing BOOKS, normally arrange the information in the following order: (1) author’s name; (2) title; (3) city of publication (4)publisher’s name; (5)publication date; (6)medium of publication

No Author

By a Single Author

By Two or Three Authors

By More Than Three Authors

Two or more books by the same author

By a Corporate or Group Author

Editor in place of author

A Translation

Reference book with no author

Edition other than the first

Bible or other Sacred Text

ERIC Document

ARTICLES IN ANTHOLOGIES OR COLLECTIONS


ARTICLES IN PERIODICALS

In citing SCHOLARLY JOURNAL ARTICLES, normally arrange the information in the following order:
(1) author’s last name, first name; (2) “article title”; (3) journal title; (4) volume number; (5) issue number; (6) date of publication (year); (7) inclusive page numbers; medium of publication (print).

Example:

For journals that have consecutive page numbering across all issues in a single volume, include only the volume number in the citation:

Example:

Citing MAGAZINE ARTICLES is similar to the scholarly journal (above) but include the exact date (no parentheses) and do not include volume and issue.

Example:

If the article in not printed on consecutive pages, include only the first page number followed by a plus sign.

Example:

ARTICLES IN NEWSPAPERS

When citing newspapers:
- Omit the initial article of the title, e.g. A, An, The, even if it is present.
- If the newspaper is not a nationally recognized paper, e.g. USA Today, Wall Street Journal, etc., include the city name of the newspaper in square brackets [ ] after the newspaper name.
- Do not include the volume and issue numbers even if they are present.
- Abbreviate all months according the handbook except for May, June, and July.
- If an edition is listed, include this after the date.
- If each section of the paper has separate page numbers, include the section number or letter with the page numbers.
- If the article is not printed on consecutive pages, include only the first page number followed by a + sign.

Examples:

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Web Site
You will need some or all of the following information. Follow the general rules as for print sources, i.e. authors, titles, and publication information and follow the format below including as much information as is available.
- Author, editor, or name of person creating site (if given and relevant). If no person is named, begin with the title of the work.
- Title of work (in quotations if work is part of a larger work). Untitled works may be identified by a genre label, e.g. Home page, Introduction, etc.
• Title of the overall Web site (italicized).
• Version or edition used.
• Publisher or sponsor of the site; if not available, use n.p.
• Date of publication [day, month, and year, as available]; if nothing is available, use n.d.
• Medium of publication, i.e. Web.
• Date of when the researcher accessed the site [day, month, and year].
• URLs are now optional. However, you should include a URL if your instructor requires it or if needed if your reader may not be able to locate the resource without one. If you include it, add it immediately following the date of access, a period, and a space. Enclose the URL in angle brackets, and conclude with a period.
• Example: <http://www.blakearchive.org/blake/>.

Examples:

Individual Web Page

Scholarly Articles

Article from an Online Database (e.g. JSTOR, Academic Onefile, etc.)

Article in a Reference Database

Electronic Book

Posting to a Discussion List

E-mail Communication

OTHER SOURCES

DVD

Film or Video

TV Programs

Performance of a Play
Recordings

Interviews

Work of Visual Art

For other examples, changes in MLA citation style, or additional information consult the latest MLA Handbook (in Ref 808.02 G350e) or the official MLA Web site at http://www.mla.org.