How to Prepare Bibliographic Citations: American Psychological Association

I. Preparing the Reference List

The reference list (References) is a list of sources used in the research paper. Sources on the reference list must be cited in the paper’s text. References specifically support the paper and provide the information needed to identify and locate each source. The reference list appears at the end of the paper, is double-spaced within and between sources, and is arranged alphabetically by the surname of the first author. Sources without authors are arranged alphabetically by title within the same list. The first line of each reference is set flush left and second and subsequent lines are indented (hanging indent). Italics are preferred over the use of underlining. Space once after all punctuation.

References

References to Periodicals

General Reference Form:


- List all authors – using surnames and initials – up to and including six. Use an ampersand (&) before the last author.
- Include the digital object identifier (DOI) to provide a persistent link to an internet location in the reference if one is assigned. DOI is an alphanumeric string assigned by a registration agency to provide a persistent link to an internet location. Example: doi:10.1348/096317903321208862. DOIs can usually be found in the database record or printed on the first page of the article. When and if available, Use the DOI in references instead of the URL.
- If no DOI is assigned to the content and it was retrieved online, include the home page URL for the journal, newsletter, or magazine in the reference using this format: Retrieved from http://www.xxxxxxxx
- Include issue number only if each issue begins on page 1.
JOURNAL ARTICLE, ONE AUTHOR

JOURNAL ARTICLE, MORE THAN TWO AUTHORS

JOURNAL ARTICLE, WITH DOI

JOURNAL ARTICLE, WITH NO DOI

PREPRINT VERSION OF JOURNAL ARTICLE

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

Unlike journals, newspapers use the abbreviation for page and pages — p. and pp.

ONLINE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

JOURNAL PUBLISHED ANNUALLY

Treat annually published series published at specified, regular dates as journals, not books.
References to Books

For an entire book, use the following reference formats:

Author, A. A. (1967). Title of work. Location: Publisher.


Editor, A. A. (Ed.). (1986). Title of work. Location: Publisher.

BOOK, PRINT VERSION


BOOK, ELECTRONIC VERSION


EDITED BOOK, EDITION OTHER THAN FIRST


BOOK CHAPTER, PRINT VERSION


BOOK CHAPTER, ELECTRONIC VERSION


ENTRY IN AN ONLINE REFERENCE WORK

References to Technical and Research Reports

Format references to technical and research reports as you would a book:


GOVERNMENT REPORT, AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE (GPO)


GOVERNMENT REPORT, ELECTRONIC VERSION


AUTHORED REPORT, FROM NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION


References to Proceedings of Meetings and Symposia

Proceedings can be published in book or periodical form. Cite published proceedings from a book using the same format as a book or book chapter. Cite proceedings that are published regularly using the same format as for a periodical.

PUBLISHED PROCEEDINGS


UNPUBLISHED PAPER PRESENTED AT A MEETING

References to Doctoral Dissertations and Master’s Theses

For a doctoral dissertation or master’s thesis available from a database service, use the following format:


For an unpublished dissertation or thesis, use the following template:


DOCTORAL DISSERTATION, RETRIEVED FROM DATABASE


DOCTORAL DISSERTATION, ABSTRACTED IN DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS INTERNATIONAL (DAI)


References to Reviews

General format:


BOOK REVIEW


VIDEO REVIEW

II. Documenting Your Sources Using Reference Citations in Text

Citing an author’s work in the text of the paper authenticates your work, indicates the source of information for readers, and allows them to find a complete reference to the source in the reference list at the end of the paper. Every author cited in text must be included in the reference list. To cite an author, put the author’s surname and the year of publication in parentheses at the appropriate point in the text. For sources without authors, put the first two or three words of the title and the year in parentheses. Use double quotation marks around the title of an article or chapter; italicize the title of a journal or book.

BASIC FORMAT OF AUTHOR-DATE METHOD OF CITATION

Text of paper with author-date method of citation:

Behaviorism is a philosophy of science and mind that involves empirical background theory and represents a certain set of values (Zuriff, 1985).

Book referred to in the reference list (“References”):


VARIATIONS OF AUTHOR-DATE METHOD OF CITATION

When the author’s name is part of the narrative of the paper, cite only the year of publication in parentheses.

As Allan (1993) so ably demonstrated…

When a work has two authors, always cite both surnames every time they are referred to in the text.

Considering Israel in the context of a developing society (Ben-Ari & Amir, 1986)

When a work has more than two authors but less than six, cite all authors the first time you refer to them. For subsequent references in text, cite only the surname of the first author followed by et al. and the year.

Pearson, Munson, and Theonnes (1983) found… [first citation]

Pearson et al. (1983) pointed out… [subsequent citation]

When a work has six or more authors, cite only the surname of the first author followed by et al. and the year each and every time the work is cited.

As a result of their study of depressive symptoms (Dixon et al., 1993)
When a work has a group author (corporations, associations, etc.), spell out the name each time it appears in the text citation. However, if the group name is long and an abbreviated version is familiar or easily understood, use an abbreviation in second and subsequent citations.

With regard to the causes of depression disorders (National Institute of Mental Health, 1981) [first citation]

In treating depression disorder (NIMH, 1981) [subsequent citation]

When citing two or more works by different authors within the same parentheses, arrange alphabetically by the first author’s surname. Insert semi-colons between each citation.

Earlier studies (Nicholson, 1983; Steinhauer & Rae-Grant, 1983)

To cite a specific part of a work, include the page, chapter, table, or figure. Always give a page number for quotations.

Coltheart (1984) found that “the dual-buffer model involves three information processing stages: a feature buffer, a character buffer, and a response buffer” (p. 278).

When citing a work from a secondary source, include the work cited in the text

Lazarus and Folkman’s seminal study (as cited in Miller & Kaiser, 2001)

Include the secondary source (Miller and Kaiser – the work you actually read) in the Reference List.


**For more examples and information see the following sources:**

- Online class guide on how to cite using the 6th ed. of the APA Style Manual: [http://classguides.lib.uconn.edu/apastyle](http://classguides.lib.uconn.edu/apastyle)

- Information on how to use RefWorks to automatically format your bibliography online in APA style: [http://refworks.uconn.edu](http://refworks.uconn.edu)