

MLA Bibliographic Style

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University of Michigan

Shapiro Undergraduate Library

Examples for preparing reference citations and the list of works cited are taken from chapters 4 and 5 of *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* by Joseph Gibaldi, 5th edition (available in the Shapiro Undergraduate Library circulating collection or at the reference desk, call number PE 1478 .G43 1999).

REFERENCE CITATIONS IN THE TEXT:

Parenthetical notes are used instead of footnotes. References in the text must clearly point to specific sources in the list of works cited. Keep parenthetical references as brief-and as few-as clarity and accuracy permit. Usually **the author's last name and a page reference** are enough to identify the source and the specific location (**Townsend 10**).

If **two or three names** begin the entry, give the last name of each person (**Rabkin, Greenberg, and Olander vii**).

If the work has **more than three authors**, follow the form in the bibliographic entry: either give the first author's last name followed by *et al.*, without any punctuation (**Lauter et al. 2425-33**) or give all the last names.

If you include an **author's name in a sentence**, you need not repeat the name in the parenthetical page citation that follows, provided that the reference is clearly to the work of the author you mention. **Tannen has argued this point (178-85)**.

If you wish to cite an **entire work** rather than part of the work, it is usually preferable to include the author's name in the text instead of in a parenthetical reference. **But Peter Scotto has offered another view.**

When citing a **volume number** as well as a page reference for a multivolume work, separate the two by a colon and a space: (**Wellek 2: 1-10**).

In a parenthetical reference of **one of two or more works by the same author**, put a comma after the author's last name and add the title of work (if brief) or a shortened version and the relevant page reference: (**Durant and Durant, *Age* 214-48**).

In parenthetical references in the text, works on the **World Wide Web** are cited just as printed works. Web documents generally do not have fixed page numbers or any kind of section numbering. If your source lacks numbering, you have to omit numbers from your parenthetical references. For a document on the Web, the page numbers of a printout should normally not be cited, because the pagination may vary in different printouts.

THE LIST OF WORKS CITED:

Alphabetize entries in the list of works cited by the author's last name, using the letter-by-letter system. If the author's name is unknown, alphabetize by title, ignoring initial articles.

These are the most common citations. For sample citations of other sources of information - manuscripts, interviews, lectures, films, television programs, etc. - see the handbook.

BOOKS

Book by a Single Author

Berlage, Gai Ingham. Women in Baseball: The Forgotten History. Westport: Greenwood, 1994.

Two or More Books by the Same Author

Frye, Northrop. Anatomy of Criticism: Four Essays. Princeton, Princeton UP, 1957.
---, Double Vision: Language and Meaning in Religion. Toronto, U of Toronto Pr, 1991.
---, ed. Sound and Poetry. New York: Columbia UP, 1957.

A Book by Two or More Authors

Jacobson, Roman, and Linda R. Waugh. The Sound Shape of Language. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1979.

A Book by a Corporate Author

National Research Council. China and Global Change: Opportunities for Collaboration. Washington: Natl. Acad., 1992.

A Work in an Anthology

Allende, Isabel. "Toad's Mouth." Trans. Margaret Sayers Peden. A Hammock beneath the Mangoes: Stories from Latin America. Ed. Thomas Colchie. New York: Plume, 1992. 83-88.

An Article in a Reference Book

“Ginsburg, Ruth Bader.” Who’s Who in America. 52nd ed. 1998.

A Multivolume Work

Lauter, Paul, et al., eds. The Heath Anthology of American Literature. 2nd ed. 2 vols.
Lexington: Heath, 1994.

A Government Publication

United States. Dept. of Labor. Child Care: A Workforce Issue. Washington: GPO, 1988.

PERIODICALS

An Article in a Scholarly Journal with Continuous Pagination

White, Sabina, and Andrew Winzelberg. “Laughter and Stress.” Humor 5 (1992): 343-55.

An Article in a Scholarly Journal That Pages Each Issue Separately

Barthelme, Frederick, “Architecture.” Kansas Quarterly 13.3-4 (1984): 77-80.

An Article in a Newspaper

Goldberg, Vicki. “Photographing a Mexico Where Silence Reigned.” New York Times 23
Mar. 1997, late ed., sec 2: 39+.

Taylor, Paul. “Keyboard Grief: Coping with Computer-Caused Injuries.” Globe and Mail
[Toronto] 27 Dec. 1993: A1+.

An Article in a Magazine - Signed

Bazell, Robert. “Science and Society: Growth Industry.” New Republic 15 Mar. 1993:13-14.

An Article in a Magazine - Anonymous

“Dubious Venture.” Time 3 Jan. 1994:64-65.

ELECTRONIC SOURCES

Scholarly Journals and Magazines Articles without a URL (web address) that come from a service to which the library subscribes – ProQuest, Lexis-Nexis, Wilson Indexes, InfoTrac, FirstSearch etc. If you know the URL, add it at the end

Fox, Justin. "What in the World Happened to Economics?" Fortune 15 Mar. 1999: 90-102. ABI/INFORM Global. ProQuest. University of Michigan University Library, Ann Arbor. 2 Mar. 1999 <<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb>>

An Article in a Scholarly Journal (from the publication's own web site)

Denning, Peter J. "Business Designs for the New University." Educom Review 31.6 (1996). 23 June 1998
<<http://educom.edu/web/pubs/review/reviewArticles/31620.html>>

An Article in a Magazine (from the publication's own web site)

Kinsley, Michael. "Now Is the Summer of Too Much Content." Slate 20 June 1998. 20 June 1998. 25 June 1998 <<http://www.slate.com/98-06-20/Readme.asp>>.

An Article in a Newspaper

Markoff, John. "The Voice on the Phone Is Not Human, but It's Helpful." New York Times on the Web 21 June 1998. 25 June 1998
<<http://www.nytimes.com/library/tech/98/05/biztech/articles/21voice.html>>.

UNDERLINING vs. *ITALICS*

MLA recommends underlining titles rather than using italics, even if your word processor allows you to do italics. Where no text formatting is permitted, such as e-mail, using one underline before and after the word or phrase is common: _Life Is a Dream_. See page 65.