

Citing Sources in the Sciences

There is no one model for science writing. Each scientific discipline, each specialty, and often each professional society and each journal, has its own preferred style of citation. Each style has its own manual. Your instructor may have specified which you should use. If so, use it; otherwise, see the list below as a guide to a few of the more commonly used manuals. In each manual, look for the chapter that discusses references or citation.

In science writing, journal titles are usually abbreviated. You need to use an official abbreviation; do not just make one up. To find official abbreviations, or to decode an abbreviation, you need to consult a resource like **Periodical Title Abbreviations (Z6945 .A2 A44)** available in Graduate Library reference, Undergraduate Library reference, and Science reference. Many fields have their own journal guides. These are listed below, with the style manuals.

BIOLOGY

The following style manuals are produced by the Council of Biology Editors:

Scientific Style and Format: the CBE Manual for Authors, Editors and Publishers 6th Edition

library locations:	Undergraduate Library Reference Science Library Reference
call number:	T 11 .S3861 1994
abbreviations:	Biosis Serial Sources , ask at Science Reference

CHEMISTRY

The American Chemical Society (ACS) style guide is one key source for authors:

The ACS Style Guide: a manual for authors and editors

library locations:	Undergraduate Library Reference Science Library Reference
call number:	QD 8.5 .A251 1997
abbreviations:	CASSI (Chemical Abstracts Serial Source Index) , ask at Science Reference

GEOLOGY

Writing conventions are described in:

Geowriting: A Guide to Writing, Editing and Printing in Earth Sciences

library locations:	Science Library Reference
call number:	QE 48.85 .C631 1995
abbreviations:	GeoRef Serials List , ask at Science Reference

MATHEMATICS

Try the American Mathematical Society (AMS) author handbook:

AMS Author Handbook

library locations:	Science Library Reference
call number:	QA 42 .A47 1994
abbreviations:	http://e-math.ams.org:80/msnhtml/serials-list/annser_frames.html

PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY

The American Institute of Physics (AIP) manual may be used for both:

The ACS Style Guide: a manual for authors and editors

library locations: Undergraduate Library Reference
Science Library Reference
call number: QC 5.45 .A451 1990
abbreviations: **INSPEC List of Journals and Other Serial Sources**,
ask at Science Reference

ELECTRONIC SOURCES

To cite electronic sources, see:

Li, Xia and Crane, Nancy B. **Electronic Styles: A Handbook for Citing Electronic Information**

library locations: Graduate Library Reference
Undergraduate Library Reference
Science Library Reference
call number: PN 171 .D37 L51

OTHER MANUALS

Other classic style manuals include Chicago and APA. Copies of these should be available in most U-M library reference collections.

Chicago Manual of Style

call number: Z 253 .C532

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association

call number: Z 253 .A 55

JOURNAL-SPECIFIC CITATION STYLES

In addition to the manuals listed above, many scientific journals provide specific instructions on format and citation style. If you are using a particular journal as a model, or submitting an article to a journal, be sure to follow that journal's instructions. You can find those instructions inside a current issue of the journal. (Try the first issue of the most recent volume; this information may not be included in every single issue.) Style information may also be available online, at the web site of a journal or publisher. If there is such a website, a recent journal issue should include a URL, or do a key word search on the Internet.