MLA Bibliographic Style
MLibrary

Examples of preparing reference citations and the list of works cited are taken from chapters 5 and 6 of *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* by Joseph Gibaldi, 7th Edition (available in reference shelves of the Hatcher Graduate Library and the Shapiro Undergraduate Library [where one copy is always held on reserve at the circulation desk], call number PE 1478.G43 2009).

The List of Works Cited

Alphabetize entries in the list of works cited by the author’s last name. If the author is anonymous, alphabetize by title, ignoring initial articles (like “The,” “An,” etc.).

**Journals and other periodicals:**

The general format for periodicals (items published on a regular basis, like newspapers, magazine, and journals):


*Note:* items from this general format should be omitted in not applicable (e.g., print sources do not require “database name,” or retrieval dates. Likewise, materials accessed directly from a publisher website, rather than a database, do not require database name but do require “Web” to account for the medium of access, as well as retrieval dates. (See manual section 5.6).

**A Periodical Publication in an Online Database (Manual, section 5.6.4):**


An Online Scholarly Journal accessed directly (Manual, section 5.6.3):


Print Journal Articles (Manual, section 5.4.2):

From a Journal with Continuous pagination:

From a Journal that numbers pages in each issue separately:

From a Newspaper:

From a Magazine (signed):

From a Magazine (anonymous):

Nonperiodical Digital Materials (Manual, section 5.6.2):

A Work Cited Only on the Web:

A Work on the Web Cited with Print Publication Data:

Nonperiodical Print Materials (Manual, section 5.5):

By a single author:
Franke, Damon. Modernist Heresies: British Library History, 1883-1924. Columbus:
By Two or More authors:

By a Corporate Author:

An Anthology:

A Work in an Anthology:

An Article in a Reference Book:

A Multivolume Work:

A Government Publication (manual, section 5.5.20):

Citing Additional Common Sources (manual, section 5.7):

Television or Radio Broadcast:


A Sound Recording:
Camper Van Beethoven. “Ambiguity Song.”

A Film of a Video Recording:

A Video on the Web:

Wikis (Because the entries may change, date of last update and retrieval date are very important):

Citing References in Text (Manual, section 6)

Parenthetical notes are used instead of footnotes. References in the text must clearly point to specific sources in the list of the 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 sources 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 the 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 multi-volume 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 the work (if brief) or a shortened version and the relevant page reference. *(Durant and Durant, *Age* 214-48).*