Research Guides:

APA Citation Examples

APA Style Guide Citations Examples for print and electronic resources

Books, Periodicals, Electronic Sources: Articles, E-books, Personal Communications

Update 9/28/09: APA style guidelines for electronic resources have changed, again.

Referencing articles has changed to emphasizing using an assigned DOI (digital object identifier).

Guidelines for citing electronic material without DOIs have also changed.

For more detailed information see:


Reference Citations in Text - Parenthetical references

Reference citations in the text of your paper (instead of footnotes or end notes) cite the *author* and *date* of the works you used in your research. These references are brief but should give enough information to enable the reader to find the full citation in the references list at the end of the paper. See section 6.11- 6.21 for details on citations in text.

The 6th edition of the publication manual does not require page and paragraph numbers in citations in text. The full citation for each parenthetical reference must be documented in the references list at the end of your paper.

Examples:

The most pressing issue threatening gorilla survival is the lack of support for gorilla conservation among government officials and local resident groups (Garen, 2000).

Schaller (1963) stresses that rotational agriculture, which promotes the growth of secondary forest, is strong factor in providing favorable habitat for gorillas.

List of References: The list of “References” identifies and makes it possible for the reader to retrieve all of the sources you have referred to in the body of your paper. Each entry in the reference list
must also be cited in text.

**Basic Elements:** There are several basic elements that are usually included in each citation, including author, title of article or book chapter, title of book or journal, date of publication, publisher, place of publication, volume, issue number, etc. Not all of these elements are present for each item; use only what is appropriate.

**Format:** "The reference list must be double-spaced, and entries should have a hanging indent." Here is an example of a correctly formatted entry:


**Examples** - Based on the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th ed.*

**Print Sources: Books and Documents**

**No Author:**

**One Author:**

*Note on capitalization: Capitalize only the first word of the title and of the subtitle, if any, and any proper noun. See 4.15 for more information.*

**Two or More Authors:**

**Corporate Author:**


*In this example the corporate author is also the publisher.*

**Editor:**

**Two or More Editors:**

**Author and Translator:**

In text, cite the original publication date and the date of the translation: (Camara, 1980/1984).

**Edition:**

**Several Volumes:**

In text, use the following format: (Grzimek, 1972-1975).

**Article in an Encyclopedia:**

**Essay or Article in a Collection:**

**Government Publications available from GPO:**

**Government Publications not available from GPO:**

**Government Report:**

**Signed Encyclopedia Article:**
Periodicals / articles from Print Sources (magazines, journals, newspapers, newsletters)

Scholarly Journal:
Note on capitalization: Capitalize on the first word of the [article] title and of the subtitle, if any, and any proper nouns; do not italicize the title or place quotation marks around it. Give the periodical title in full, in uppercase and lowercase letters. Italicize the name of the periodical [journal] and the volume number.

UPDATE (9/28/09) For journal articles:

- Include the issue number if the journal is paginated by issue.
- If there is no DOI assigned and the reference was retrieved online, give the URL of the journal home page [not the database].
- No retrieval date is needed.


Magazine Article, Signed:

Magazine Article, Unsigned:
A river runs through it, tearing down the water walls: 75,000 dams were built. Now a few are coming down. This year, dams will come down from Maine to California. In August, tourists will even be able to watch the demolition of the Cascade Dam in Yosemite Valley. (1999, July 12). *Newsweek, 134*(2), 46.

Newspaper Article, Unsigned:
Man is the mane meal (2003, February 13). *Scottish Daily Record & Sunday Mail ltd. Daily Record*, p. 15. Note: use p. or pp. before the page numbers in references to newspapers.

Book Review:
Electronic Sources

APA style guidelines use the DOI (Digital Object Identifier) as assigned. This alpha-numeric code usually appears on the article or in the database record. More information on DOI

If the DOI is not provided on the article or in the database record, enter the citation information using DOI Lookup.

If the work does not have a DOI assigned, see additional examples below.

Always provide issue number (if available) following volume number.

Include author first & middle initials, and issue number if provided. Works with a DOI do not need a database name. Also, because they are final versions of articles, do not include date of retrieval, and the URL is not included. Since DOI numbers are complex, we suggest copying and pasting the DOI into your reference.

Notes: About retrieval dates: “The date an electronic source was retrieved is important if the content you are citing is likely to be changed or updated....No retrieval date is necessary for content that is not likely to be changed or updated a, such as a journal article or book.”

About URLs: Do not insert a hyphen if you need to break a URL across lines; instead, break the URL before most punctuation (an exception would be http://). Do not add a period after the URL...This is not a style issue but a retrieval issue.

Internet articles based on a print source:

Article in an Internet-only journal:

Electronic copy of a journal article, retrieved from database: with DOI assigned:

Web Sites/ Pages
Entire web sites (as opposed to specific documents or sections of the web site) are not cited in the
reference list, but are cited within text as shown in the following sample sentence:

David Rumsey Historical Maps Collection web site has over 15,800 maps online as well as other visual arts collections (http://www.davidrumsey.com/).

Note: This may be confusing (If in doubt, consult with your instructor as to how they prefer citations to entire web sites). Here is the guideline from the FAQ on the APA website.

Q: How do I cite an entire Web site (but not a specific document on that site)?

A: When citing an entire Web site, it is sufficient to give the address of the site in just the text. For example, Kidspsych is a wonderful interactive web site for children (http://www.kidspych.org).

Individual web page with personal author

Document available on large Web site (like university or government sites):
US Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs Travel Warnings & Consular Information Sheets

ERIC Documents:

Online Abstract:

"In scholarly research, it is preferable to read and cite primary sources [entire articles] whenever possible."

Electronic Books / E-Books


Denning, D.E.R. and Lin, H. *Rights and Responsibilities of Participants in Networked Communities*
Articles from Databases

New guidelines from the 6th Edition, Section 6.32

- In general, it is not necessary to include database information. Journal coverage in a particular database may change over time; also, if using an aggregator such as EBSCO...[which contains] many discipline-specific databases such as PsycINFO, [Communication and Mass Media Complete, Education Research Complete, etc.], it may be unclear exactly which database provided the full text of an article.

- Some archival documents (e.g. discontinued journals, monographs, dissertations, or papers not formally published) can only be found in electronic databases such as ERIC or JSTOR. When the document is not easily located through its primary publishing channels, give the home or entry page URL for the online archive.

- If you do need to cite the database, use the URL for the home page of the database, not the long URL associated with the individual article.

- Do not include the retrieval dates unless the source material may change over time (e.g. Wikis).

Article with no DOI assigned; content retrieved from an online database.

New with the 7th edition:
"If no DOI has been assigned to the content, provide the home page URL of the journal or of the book or report publisher. If you are accessing the article from a private [subscription] database [such as EBSCOhost], you may need to do a quick web search to locate this URL." Section 6.32.


In this example we actually retrieved the article from EBSCO, but we did a search on the journal title to find the home page URL for the journal.

Article with DOI assigned; content retrieved from an online database.


Article with DOI assigned (another example); content retrieved from an online database.

Article with DOI assigned; content retrieved from journal freely available on the Web.


doi:10.1136/bmj.39062.555405.80

Note: the issue number for this article was not available on the web version - we had to go to Pubmed database to get a complete citation.

LexisNexis:


In this example we actually retrieved the article from LexisNexis, but we did a search on the journal title to find the home page URL for the newspaper.

LexisNexis - Transcript of radio news program: This article has a very long title.


In this example we actually retrieved the transcript from LexisNexis. We gave the URL for NPR because the audio version of the story, and the transcript are actually available from that web site.

Personal Communications

Includes: letters, memos, e-mail, personal interviews, telephone conversations, and the like.

Because they do not provide recoverable data, personal communications are not included in the reference list. Cite personal communications in text only. Give the initials as well as the surname of the communicator, and provide as exact a date as possible.

Examples:

Place this type of citation within the text:
J. M. Welch (personal communication, June 26, 2007) suggests that ....

Place this type of citation at the end of your cited passage:
(T.K. Lutes, personal communication, April 18, 2001)