How to Prepare Bibliographic Citations: American Psychological Association

The APA style is used primarily by writers in the Social Sciences, particularly Psychology, and by students in Nursing and other science fields.

The rules suggested in the following are guidelines and in no way replace the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 5th* ed.

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REF BF 76.7 P83 2001

Preparing the Reference List

The reference list (References) is a list of sources used in the research paper. Sources on the reference list must have been 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 last name 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, but second and subsequent lines are indented one half inch (or five typewriter spaces) from the left margin. APA style recommends the use of Italics, rather than underlining certain elements, such as book and journal titles and for the volume number for journals. Use underlining only if your instructor requires it. Space once after all punctuation.

A Book: Single Author


A Book: Two or More Authors

When a work has up to six authors, cite all the authors. When a work has more than six authors, cite the first six followed by “et al.”


An Edited Book with an Edition other than First


A Book by a Corporate Author


An Article or Chapter in an Edited Book


Books with No Author


An Encyclopedia Article with Author


An Encyclopedia Article with No Author

References to Journal Articles

Journal Article, One Author


Journal Article, Two to Six Authors:

List up to and including six authors, using last name first, then initials for the first and middle name. Use an ampersand (&) before the last author.


Journal Article (Continuous Pagination)


Page numbers start with the first issue of the year and continue through the last issue. This may mean the issues are not numbered separately.

Journal Article (Journal Paginated by Issue)


Because pagination begins anew with each issue of this journal, it is necessary to include the issue number in parentheses after the volume number. Note that there is a comma between the issue number and the page numbers, but no comma between the italicized volume number and the issue number.

Monthly Magazine Article

Weekly Magazine Article

An Editorial

References to Newspaper Articles and Government Publications

Newspaper Articles with Author


Newspaper Articles with No Author Identified

A Government Publication

Note: If the report is not available from GPO or from a document service, cite the agency or institute that produced it as publisher.
Electronic Resources

A Specific Document on a Website


Note: This article had no date. It did have a note about who wrote it and for what agency this author produced this "pamphlet."

An Article from an Online Database:


An Abstract from an Online Database:


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