Preparing Bibliographic Citations:
Modern Language Association (MLA)


The MLA style is used primarily by those in the arts and humanities disciplines.

A copy is shelved in the library: REF LB 2369 G53 2003.

This handout refers to MLA format for a list of works cited. The “Works Cited” page is your bibliography: a list of the sources used in writing your research paper. It appears at the end of the paper, usually arranged alphabetically by author’s last name, with anonymous works arranged by the first significant word in the title. The first line of each source is flush with the left margin; the second and succeeding lines are indented 1/2 inch (or five typewriter spaces) from the left margins. The entire list should be double-spaced.

A Book: Single Author
Author. Title of Book. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication.


A Book: Two Authors
Author’s last name first. Subsequent authors are listed first names first in the order in which they appear. Title of Book. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication.

A Book by Two Authors/Editors
Author’s last name first. Subsequent authors or editors [use ed.(s)]. Title of Book. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication.


A Book by Three or More Authors
List only the first author, followed by et al. Title of Book. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication.


A Work in an Anthology or Compilation
Author’s name. “Title of article.” Title of Book. Editor (use Ed.). Place of Publication: Publisher, Year: pages.


A Multi-Volume Work
When using two or more volumes of a multi-volume set, cite the total number of volumes in the set.

A Multi-Volume Work continued…


*When using only one volume in a multi-volume work, insert the number of the volume you are using between the title and the publication information for that volume.*


An Encyclopedia Article

*To cite an article in an encyclopedia, simply list the author of the entry (if there is one), the title of the entry, title of the reference work, the edition number (if any), and the date of the edition. Volume and page numbers are not necessary because entries in the sources are arranged alphabetically and are therefore easy to locate.*

Signed Encyclopedia Article

*Give the author first.*


Unsigned Encyclopedia Article

*Give the title of the article first.*


Literary Criticism

*Examples: Contemporary Literary Criticism, Nineteenth Century Literary Criticism and Twentieth Century Literary Criticism*

The first example pertains to material drawn from *periodicals*:

Literary Criticism continued…

*Contemporary Literary Criticism, Nineteenth Century Literary Criticism and Twentieth Century Literary Criticism*

The second example pertains to material reprinted from a *book*:


**A Government Publication**

*In most cases, an author is not listed. Instead of using an author’s name, cite the office responsible for the publication. State the name of the government first, followed by the name of the agency.*


**A Periodical Article in a Continuously Paged Scholarly Journal**

*Author(s). "Title of Article." Title of Journal Volume number (Year): page(s).*


An Article from a Weekly Magazine
For magazines published daily, weekly, or monthly, omit the volume and issue numbers. Give the complete date for daily and weekly magazines; give month and year for monthly magazines.


An Article from a Monthly Magazine


An Editorial


A Review


An Interview
*Published interview without title:*


*Published interview with title:*

Web Sources

Web Sources can be incredibly difficult to cite. When you cite a web source, remember that your goal is to provide the kind of information needed to take a reader to the web page. That means you need to include:

- Name of the author or creator. (Web pages are sometimes authored by organizations, like the American Cancer Society.)
- Title of the web page (underlined).
- Date the page or project was created.
- Date when the researcher accessed the site.
- The URL <web address> Note the use of angled brackets around the electronic address; MLA requires them for clarity.

If no author is given for a web page or electronic source, start with and alphabetize by the title of the piece.

Example:

*Author(s). Name of Page. Date of Posting/Revision. Name of Institution affiliated with the site. Date of Access <web address>.*

Peterson, Susan Lynn. The Life of Martin Luther. 1999. 9 Mar. 2001


An Article on a Website

*Author(s). "Article Title." Name of the website. Date of posting/revision. Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site. Date of Access <web address>.*

Author of website known:

An Article on a Website continued…
Author of website unknown:

“Using Modern Language Association (MLA) format.” Purdue Online Writing Lab.


A Personal Web Site
To document an online personal site, begin the entry with the name of the person who is created it (if given and relevant). Continue with the title of the site (underlined) or if there is no title, with a description such as Homepage (no quotations marks or underline necessary). The names of any institution of organization associated with the site; the date of access.


Lee, Peggy Alifii. Homepage. 8 June 1999 <http://www.2.gasou.edu/factstaff/peggylee/>.

A Scholarly Project
The typical entry for an entire online scholarly project, information database or professional site consists of the following items:
1. Title of the site (underlined)
2. Name of the editor of the site (if given)
3. Electronic publication information, including version number (if relevant and if not part of the title), date of electronic publication or of the latest update, and name of any sponsoring institution or organization
4. Date of access and URL


A Scholarly Project continued…


Welcome to Biology. 15 Apr.1999. Dept. of Biology, Georgia Southern University. 8

A Professional Web Site


Simons, Mark. Thomas Hardy Resources Library. 6 Sept. 1998

“Schistomiasis in U.S. Peace Corps Volunteers – Malawi, 1992” NMR: Morbidity


   Douglas O. Linder. School of Law, University of Missouri – Kansas City.
An Article in an Online Journal or Magazine

Author(s). “Title of Article.” Title of Journal Volume number. Issue (Year): Pages/Paragraphs. Date of Access <Electronic address>.

Some electronic journal and magazines provide paragraphs or page numbers; include them if available.


An Article or Publication retrieved from an Electronic Database

If you are citing an article or a publication that was originally issued in print form but that you retrieved from an online database that your library subscribes to, you should provide enough information so that the reader can locate the article. This way, they may locate it either in its original print form or retrieve it from the online database.

Provide the following information in your citation:

- Author's name (if not available, use the article title as the first part of the citation)
- Article Title
- Publication Name
- Publication Date
- Page Number/Range
- Database Name
- Service Name
- Name of the library where service was accessed
- Name of the town/city where service was accessed
- Date of Access
- URL of the service (but not the whole URL for the article, since it is very likely long and won't be able to be re-used by someone trying to retrieve the information)
The following is an example for an article retrieved from the database **Infotrac**. All the Infotrac databases are referred to as “Gale Group Databases.” The Web address is <http://www.infotrac.galegroup.com>.

**Infotrac: Expanded Academic ASAP**


Here's a few examples for databases accessed from **EBSCOhost**. EBSCOHost databases are noted as “EBSCO Publishing.” The proper Web address is <http://www.epnet.com>.

**EBSCOhost: Academic Search Premier**


**EBSCOhost: MasterFILE Premier**


**EBSCOHost: Academic Search Premier**

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NOTE: The standards for documenting electronic and Internet sources are still being formulated. We have chosen to follow as closely as possible the examples set forth in the fifth edition of the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers.

5/4/03,07/15/05,08/18/05,01/10/06
Basic Parts of a Citation

In general, citations will have four parts: **author, title, source, and year**. The main differences concern what source information is given.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source Information:</th>
<th><strong>Books</strong></th>
<th><strong>Articles</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Place of Publication</td>
<td>Periodical Title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Publisher</td>
<td>Volume/Issue numbers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Page numbers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Magazine/Journal Articles

An article citation will often include a month/season of publication, in addition to a volume number, issue number, and range of pages. In contrast to a book citation, you will not find a place of publication or publisher.

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**Sample Article Citation from an InfoTrac Database**

v12 n1 p29(7)

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**Note:** InfoTrac citations give the beginning page number followed by the total number of pages in parentheses.

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**Sample Article Citation from the CINAHL Database**

TI: Emerging innovations: caring in action
AU: Anderson-KH
SP: Spring; 1(1): 11
PY: 1997
SN: 1091-5710
ISSN (International Standard Serial Number)

The above citations were created by the following institution: Webster University Library

“How to read a citation.” Webster University Library. 15 July 2005 <http://library.webster.edu/readcite.html>.