Citing Sources Using **American Psychological Association (APA) Style**

The APA style is used in psychology, the social sciences, nursing and other science fields.

APA style is easy to recognize. It abbreviates the first and middle names of the authors and displays the date of publication immediately after the author names. This guide includes examples of citations and references that are frequently encountered.

*The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th ed.* is the authoritative resource used as the basis for this guide. A copy is shelved in the Alden Library’s Reference collection at **REF BF 76.7 .P83 2010**.

Other helpful resources include *An EasyGuide to APA Style, 2nd ed.* – **REF BF 76.7 .S39 2014**. It includes tips for using word processing software to format citations. The Online Writing Lab at Purdue University offers extensive examples at [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/). Most library databases have citation generators, but these citations require careful checking for accuracy.

**General Layout of the References list:**

The first line of each reference source starts flush with the left margin. The following lines are indented one-half inch from the left margin. The entire list is double spaced. The entries are in alphabetical order.

The “References” page appears at the end of the paper. The citations are arranged alphabetically. Each source cited in the paper must be included in the references list.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Layout of the References:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Article</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Journal Name</em>, number or volume, pages of article.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>doi:xx.xxxxxxxxxxxxx.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Book</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place of publication: Publisher.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examples of parenthetical citations are found on the last page of this guide.
A Single Author or Editor

☐ Author, A. A. (yyyy).


Two to Seven Authors


More Than Seven Authors

☐ Provide the authors’ names of up to six, then use an ellipsis “...” in place of other names except for the final author’s. There should be no more than seven names no matter how many authors contributed.


A Source with one or more Editors


A Source with a Corporate (or Group) Author


A Source with No Author

☐ Use the title as the first element and list it alphabetically in the references.
An Article in a Journal with Continuous Pagination
☐ No issue number is required. Most scholarly articles will be of this type.


A Journal Article from a Printed Publication


A Journal Article from a database

doi:10.1016/j.jml.2013.06.004

☐ If there is no DOI, the journal publication information is usually all that is used. No database name or address is required.

A Journal Article from a website
☐ if no DOI, give the URL: Retrieved from http: //go.galegroup.com/


An Article from a Journal Where Page Numbers Restart with each Issue

References for Articles from Magazines or Newspapers

☐ Author, A. A., Author B. B., & Author C. C. (yyyy, Month dd). Article title. Journal Name, number or volume(issue), pages. doi:xx.xxxxxxxxxx. (Note that pages in a newspaper are preceded by p. or pp.)

A Monthly Magazine Article

A Weekly Magazine Article

A Daily Newspaper Article

A Daily Newspaper Editorial

An Article on a Website


Nonprint Sources

☐ Producer, A. A. (Producer [or Director]). (yyyy). Title, (Series). [Format], Retrieved from URL.

References for Books

A Book with an Author:
☐ Author, A. A. (Year of publication). Title of work: Capital letter also for first word of subtitle. Location: Publisher.


An Ebook from a Website


An Ebook from a Library Database


A Book in an Edition Other than First


A Chapter in an Edited Book

Stevens, K. (2010). Oregon’s death with dignity act is being abused. In J. Dorman (Ed.), At issue: The right to die. (pp. 40-45). Detroit, MI: Greenhaven.

References for Encyclopedias

A Signed Encyclopedia Article


An Unsigned Encyclopedia Article


An Article on a Website

Writers must acknowledge where they found the information and ideas they are writing about in the body of their papers. Writers indicate when the work is not their own by stating in the text the author, year, and page number where the original text was found—whether it is an idea or data from an experiment and whether it is a direct quote or an indirect paraphrasing of what another person has written. Readers use that information to find the complete citation in the list of references. Here are two examples.*

**Direct quote, authors are named in parentheses:**

The role of the human services professional, psychological counselor, or admitting nurse is to listen carefully to the needs expressed by the client or patient before them. “Cultural competency at this level involves culturally appropriate interpersonal sensitivity, assessment, rapport building, therapeutic alliance, and credibility” (Divitale, Ghiya, Jordan, Montaldo, & Sue, 2013, p. 160).

**Idea paraphrased, author is named in the text:**

The care-givers are obliged to be aware of their own cultural assumptions. When possible, and appropriate, they should expose themselves to the living situations, neighborhoods, and heritage of their clients. Black (2005) identified numerous studies which found that an attitude of humility, open-mindedness, and respect was a key component of successful interactions.

**Sources cited above appear this way in the references page:**

**References**


* Note that when works written by multiple authors are cited in the document, APA has complicated rules. A table explaining this is found in section 6.15 of the *Publication Manual of the APA, 6th* ed. When a source is mentioned for the first time, up to five authors are listed. In later references to the same source, the author listing is less detailed.