APA citation style refers to the rules and conventions established by the American Psychological Association for documenting sources used in a research paper. APA style requires two elements for citing outside sources: **Reference Citations in Text** and a **Reference List**. Together these elements identify and credit the sources consulted in the paper and allow others to access or retrieve this material.

The examples of APA styles and formats listed on this page include many of the most common types of sources used in academic research. For additional examples and more detailed information about APA citation style, refer to the APA resources listed on page 7.

**Reference Citations in Text**

In APA style, citations to sources are placed in the text of the paper in order to briefly identify sources for readers and enable them to locate the source of the cited information in the Reference List. These parenthetical (in text) references include the **author's last name** and the **year of publication** enclosed in parentheses. Citations are placed within sentences and paragraphs so that it is clear what information is being quoted or paraphrased and whose information is being cited.

**Examples:**

**Works by a Single Author**

The last name of the author and the year of publication are inserted in the text at the appropriate point.

- In a recent study of reaction times (Walker, 2000)

- If the name of the author appears as part of the narrative, cite only the year of publication in parentheses.

  Walker (2000) compared reaction times

**Works by Multiple Authors**

When a work has two authors, always cite both names every time the reference occurs in the text. In parenthetical material join the names with an ampersand [&].

- as has been shown (Jöreskog & Sörbom, 1989)

In the narrative text, join the names with the word "and."

- as Nightlinger and Littlewood (1993) demonstrated
When a work has three, four, or five authors, cite all authors the first time the reference occurs.

Wasserstein, Zappulla, Rosen, Gerstman, and Rock (1994) found

In all subsequent citations per paragraph, include only the surname of the first author followed by "et al." (Latin for "and others") and the year of publication.

Wasserstein et al. (1994) found

**Works by Associations, Corporations, Government Agencies, etc.**

The names of groups that serve as authors (corporate authors) are usually written out each time they appear in a text reference.

(National Institute of Mental Health [NIMH], 1999)

When appropriate the names of some corporate authors are spelled out in the first reference and abbreviated in all subsequent citations. The general rule for abbreviating in this manner is to supply enough information in the text citation for a reader to locate its source in the Reference List without difficulty.

(NIMH, 1999)

**Works with No Author**

When a work has no author, use the first two or three words of the work's title (omitting any initial articles) as your text reference, capitalizing each word.

the book *College Bound Seniors* (1979)

Place the title in quotation marks if it refers to an article or chapter of a book, or italicize it if it refers to a book, periodical, brochure or report.

on free care ("Study Finds," 1982)

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**Reference List**

References cited in the text of a research paper must appear in a Reference List or bibliography. This list provides the information necessary to identify and retrieve each source.

- Entries should be arranged in alphabetical order by authors' last names. Sources without authors are arranged alphabetically by title within the same list.
- Write out the last name and initials for all authors of a particular work.
- Capitalize only the first word of a title or subtitle, and any proper names that are a part of a title.
- Use an ampersand [&] instead of the word "and" when listing multiple authors of a single work.
- Use the abbreviation p. or pp. to designate page numbers of articles from periodicals that do not use volume numbers, especially newspapers. These abbreviations are also used to designate pages in encyclopedia articles and chapters from edited books.
* **Indentation:** The first line of the entry is flush with the left margin, and all subsequent lines are indented (5 to 7 spaces) to form a "hanging indent."

* **Underlining vs. Italics:** It is appropriate to use italics instead of underlining for titles of books and journals.

* The APA has special formatting standards for the use of indentation and italics in manuscripts or papers that will be typeset or submitted for official publication. For more detailed information on these publication standards, refer to the APA resources listed on page 7, or consult with your instructors or editors to determine their style preferences.

**Examples:**

**Books**
References to an entire book must include the following elements: author(s) or editor(s), date of publication, title, place of publication, and the name of the publisher.

**No Author or Editor**

**One Author**

**Two Authors**

**Corporate Author, author as publisher**

**Edited book**
**Essays or Chapters in Edited Books**
References to an essay or chapter in an edited book must include the following elements: essay or chapter authors, date of publication, essay or chapter title, book editor(s), book title, essay or chapter page numbers, place of publication, and the name of the publisher.

**One author**

**Two editors**

**Encyclopedias or Dictionaries and Entries in an Encyclopedia**
References for encyclopedias must include the following elements: author(s) or editor(s), date of publication, title, place of publication, and the name of the publisher.

**Encyclopedia set or dictionary**

**Encyclopedia article**

**Journals, Magazines, and Newspapers**
References to periodical articles must include the following elements: author(s), date of publication, article title, journal title, volume number, issue number (if applicable), and page numbers.

**Journal Article, one author**

**Journal Article, two authors**

**Journal Article, more than two authors**

**Magazine article**
Newspaper article, no author

Newspaper article, one author, discontinuous pages

Technical and Research Reports
References to a report must include the following elements: author(s), date of publication, title, place of publication, and name of publisher. If the issuing organization assigned a number (e.g., report number, contract number, or monograph number) to the report, give that number in parentheses immediately after the title. Additional information is included when a report is published by the Government Printing Office (GPO) or when it is available from a document deposit service such as NTIS or ERIC.

Government report

Government report, GPO publisher

Report available from a document deposit service

Audio-Visual Media
References to audio-visual media must include the following elements: name and function of the primary contributors (e.g. producer, director), date, title, the medium in brackets, location or place of production, and name of the distributor. If the medium is indicated as part of a retrieval ID, brackets are not needed (see example for Audio Recording).

Videocassette

Audio recording

Motion Picture

Television broadcast
Television Series

Music Recording

Electronic Media and Online Sources
APA’s recommendations for citing electronic media call for consistent observation of at least two important guidelines: 1) Direct readers as closely as possible to the information being cited – whenever possible, reference specific documents rather than home or menu pages; 2) Provide addresses that work. At a minimum, a reference of an Internet source should provide a document or title description, a date (either the date of publication or update or date of retrieval), and an address (in Internet terms, a URL). Whenever possible, identify the authors of the document as well.

Listed below are examples of citation styles for several types of electronic resources.

**Internet articles based on a print source (exists in print and online)**

**Article in an Internet-only journal**

**Article from an online encyclopedia**

**Professional web site**

**Document available on university program or department Web site**
When citing an entire web site (and not a specific document on that site), no Reference List entry is required if the address for the site is cited in the text of your paper.

Witchcraft In Europe and America is a site that presents the full text of many essential works in the literature of witchcraft and demonology (http://www.witchcraft.psmedia.com/).

For additional examples and more detailed information about APA citation style, refer to the following APA resources:


  CU Library Reference locations include:
  Uris and Hotel (BF76.7 .P83x 2001)
  Olin (BF76.7 .P83x 2001+)
  ILR (BF76.7 .A51 2001)
  Mann (BF76.7 .A51x 2001)

- Electronic Reference Formats Recommended by the American Psychological Association

  http://www.apastyle.org/elecref.html

- Frequently Asked Questions about the Publication Manual

  http://www.apastyle.org/faqs.html

Prepared by Cornell University Library IRPC Documentation Committee
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