

MLA STYLE GUIDE

Below is a guide for citing sources according to the Modern Language Association style format. MLA style requires a hanging indent for its citations, and citations are double-spaced. (To save space, the citations below are single spaced.) If your source does not appear on this sheet, consult the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, Sixth Edition, available in the Ready Reference section near the library's reference desk. Also visit the library's "Citing Sources" website <http://www.library.american.edu/subject/citation.html>.

Books, Anthologies, Multivolume Works, and More!

Book by one author

Kurlansky, Mark. Salt: A World History. New York: Walker, 2002.

Book by more than one author/editor

Ehrenreich, Barbara, and John Ehrenreich, eds. The American Health Empire: Power, Profits, and Politics. New York: Vintage, 1971.

Grossberg, Lawrence, Cary Nelson, and Paula A. Treichler, eds. Cultural Studies. New York: Routledge, 1992.

Corporate author

A corporate author can be a commission, association, committee, etc. If the corporate author and the publisher are the same, the corporate author's name should still appear in the author position of a bibliographic entry as well as in the publisher position.

Alan Guttmacher Institute. State Legislative Record: 1988 Fertility-Related Bills and Laws as of December 31. Washington: Alan Guttmacher Institute, 1988.

No author identified

If no author can be identified, then a text is alphabetized by the first word of its title, excluding definite or indefinite articles.

New York Public Library History Desk Reference. New York: Macmillan, 1997.

"The Shepherd's Consort." The Norton Anthology of English Literature. Ed. M.H. Abrams. 4th ed. Vol. 1. New York: Norton, 1979. 2 vols.

Anthologies/book parts/translations

When citing an article within an edited collection (book chapter, short stories, introduction, etc.), begin the bibliographic entry with the author of the referenced text. The name(s) of the editor(s), compiler(s), translator(s) in first name/last name order should follow the title of the publication preceded by "Ed." "Trans." "Comp".

NOTE: Page numbers of an article or chapter are included at the end of the citation.

Zola, Irving Kenneth. "Medicine as an Institution of Social Control." The American Health Empire: Power, Profits, and Politics. Eds. Barbara Ehrenreich and John Ehrenreich. New York: Vintage, 1971. 80-100.

Constantine, Macaroni. Pasta Luega. Trans. George Elbow. Ed. Milo Linguini. New York: Ittegaps, 1999.

If you mainly reference the specific comments and work of the translator, then the translator's name (reversed) should appear first, followed by a comma, "trans.", and a period. The author's name (in normal order), preceded by "By", should appear after the text's title.

Nice, Richard, trans. Outline of a Theory of Practice. By Pierre Bourdieu. Ed. Billy Bob Horton. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1977.

Book in a series

Shilstone, Frederick W. Approaches to Teaching Byron's Poetry. Approaches to Teaching World Lit. 36. New York: MLA, 1991.

Multivolume works

Lucas, Robert E., Jr. and Thomas J. Sargent, eds. Rational Expectations and Econometric Practice. Vol. 1. Minneapolis: U of Minnesota P, 1981.

Encyclopedia articles (unsigned and signed)

"Mealworm." Encyclopaedia Britannica. 1987 ed.

Garvey, Lawrence. "El Paso, Illinois." Encyclopedia Americana. 1982 ed.

Conference proceedings

Conference proceedings are cited the same way as a book, with the addition of all pertinent conference information.

Gavin, McCloud, ed. Restoring Sunken Vessels. Proc. of the Maritime and Shipping Industry's Annual Conference on Ship Building, May 1990, U of Maryland. Annapolis: Annapolis P, 1991.

Footnotes or endnotes in a works cited page

Do not list the indirect source (the text listed in the endnote or footnote) in your bibliography. Only mention the actual source in which you found the information.

Harris, James. Scientists of Our Century. New York: Bantam, 1992.

Journal articles (print)

Journal with continuous pagination

**Note that with this type of journal, issue numbers are not necessary and the year is sufficient for the date.

Gardner, Eric. "'This Attempt of Their Sister': Harriet Wilson's Our Nig from Printer to Readers." New England Quarterly 66 (1993): 226-46.

Journal with non-continuous pagination (each issue has separate page numbering)

**Note here that the volume number (26) is followed by a period and then by the issue number (3); note also that the date is more specific than simply the year.

Magistrale, Tony. "Wild Child: Jim Morrison's Poetic Journeys." Journal of Popular Culture 26.3 (Winter 1992): 133-44.

Article in a weekly periodical

**Note that volume numbers are not listed for magazines. Periodical titles should be underlined.

Whitaker, Mark. "Getting Tough at Last." Newsweek 10 May 1993: 22.

Electronic Resources

The *MLA Handbook* has a section on citing electronic publications, on pp. 207-235, and general guidelines on p. 214-215. **NOTE:** The date that precedes the web site or URL is the date of access; this should be included when citing electronic sources.

Journal article

Flanagan, Roy. "Reflections on Milton and Ariosto." Early Modern Literary Studies 2.3 (1996):16 pars. 22 Feb. 1997 <<http://unixg.ubc.ca:7001/0/e-sources/emls/02-3/flanmilt.html>>.

Magazine article

Landsburg, Steven E. "Who Shall Inherit the Earth?" Slate 1 May 1997. 2 May 1997 <<http://www.slate.com/Economics/97-05-01/Economics.asp>>.

Article from a full-text database (i.e., ProQuest or LexisNexis)

**Note: If a library is the subscriber, include the library name, city and state. Also list the date you last accessed the source.

Phillips, Charles. "A Day To Remember: April 22, 1889." American History 39.1 (2004): 16-20. Academic Search Premier. EBSCOhost. U of Alabama Library, Tuscaloosa. 24 May 2004 <<http://search.epnet.com>>.

Jack, Wolfman. "Why Dogs Roll on the Ground After a Bath." Journal of Canine Psychology 24.3 (2002): 44-52. ProQuest General. American U Library, Washington. 31 October 2004 <<http://www.library.american.edu>>.

Scholarly project

Victorian Women Writers Project. Ed. Perry Willett. Apr. 1997. Indiana U. 26 Apr. 1997 <<http://www.indiana.edu/~letrs/vwwp/>>.

Professional web site

Portuguese Language Page. U of Chicago. 1 May 1997
<<http://humanities.uchicago.edu/romance/port/>>.

Personal web site

Bennett, Jeffrey W. Home page. 1 May 2007 <<http://www.jeffreywbennett.com/>>.

Posting to a discussion list

Merrian, Joanne. "Spinoff: Monsterpiece Theatre." Online posting. 30 Apr. 1994.
Shaksper: The Global Electronic Shakespeare Conference. 27 Aug. 1997
<http://www.arts.ubc.ca/english/iemls/shak/MONSTERP_SPINOFF.txt>.

Other Media

Interviews

Nelson, Cary. Personal interview. 15 Sept. 1987.
Villalobos, Joaquin. Interview. Mother Jones July 1992: 8-10.
Rico, Jose. Interview. Afternoon Edition. WILL Public Radio.
Urbana, IL. 23 Sept. 1992.

Films and Videotapes

To cite a film or video, begin with the title, which should be underlined, followed by the director's name. Then include any additional information that you find relevant, such as the names of lead actors. End with the distributor and year, separated by a comma.

Winnie the Pooh and the Honey Tree. Dir. Al Smith. With Winnie the
Pooh and Piglet. Walt Disney Home Video, 1985.

Computer Software

Include the writer of the program (if known), an underlined title of the program, the version of the program, a descriptive label, the distributor and the year of publication. At the end of the entry, add relevant information such as the operating system the program needs, number of kilobytes and form of the program. The medium can be, but is not limited to the following: online, CD-ROM, floppy disk, magnetic tapes. Pagination in electronic references is unavailable in many cases, and thus left out of the citation.

Chen, Roger. Visdata. Vers. 1.1. Computer software. Viscal, 1986.
IBM PC-DOS 2.0, 256KB, disk.

For further details on MLA citation, please refer to your instructor, to the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, and to the library's "Citing Sources" website
<http://www.library.american.edu/subject/citation.html>.