Hofstra University
The Joan & Donald Axinn Library

Bibliographic Citations – Modern
Language Association (MLA) Format

This information sheet is designed to assist you in compiling your Works Cited page. Examples are provided of the most common kinds of formats. For complete information, please be sure to consult the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (7th edition), available at the Reference Desk (call # **[Ref.] LB2369 .G53 2009**).

This citation guide has been revised to reflect changes to the citation format in the 7th edition. See the end of this document for a summary of the changes.

Please note that this information sheet covers the format of entries in your Works Cited list **only.** For **in-text** parenthetical citations (used when making reference to other people's work in your text), please consult the Purdue University Online Writing Lab's (OWL) *Using Modern Language Association (MLA) Format* at http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/02/ or the *MLA Handbook*.

General Principles

♦ The entries must be alphabetized by the first word in each entry. Usually that is the author's last name.

♦ Double space within entries and do not skip additional lines between entries. (Entries in this guide are single spaced to conserve space).

♦ The first line of each entry should be at the left-hand margin. Indent each subsequent line by five to seven spaces (use a hanging indent).

♦ Italicize titles of books and periodicals. The first letter of each word in titles is capitalized.

♦ **BOOKS**
Note that if an author is not identified, but only names of editors, translators or compilers appear on the title page, begin the entry with the name(s) provided, insert a comma after the author's name, followed by the proper abbreviation (ed., eds., trans., comp., or comps.).

Books with one author or editor

BASIC FORMAT
Author's name (inverted)**.** *Title* (italicized)**. Location of Publisher: Publisher's Name, Date. Medium.**

Example:
Edwards, Justin D. *Gothic Passages: Racial Ambiguity and the American Gothic*. Iowa
City: University of Iowa Press, 2003. Print.

Books with multiple authors or editors
Note that the first author is listed last name first, but that subsequent authors are listed by first name followed by last name.

BASIC FORMAT
First Author (inverted)**,** and **Second Author** (*not* inverted)**.** *Title* (underlined or italicized)**. Location of Publisher: Publisher's Name, Date. Medium.**

Examples:
♦ *Two or three authors or editors*
Boyers, Robert, and Peggy Boyers, eds. *The Salgamundi Reader*. Bloomington: Indiana
University Press, 1983. Print.

Snyder, Sharon L., Brenda Jo Brueggemann, and Rosemarie Garland-Thomson, eds.
Disability Studies: Enabling the Humanities. New York: Modern Language
Association of America, 2002. Print.

♦ *More than three authors or editors*
*If there are **more than** three authors or editors, enter only the name of the first author/editor followed by a comma, followed by **et al.***

Chomsky, Noam, et al. *On Nature and Language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University
Press, 2002. Print.

Two or more works by the same author
*If the works cited list contains two or more works by the same author(s), give the name in the **first entry only**. Subsequent should have three hyphens in place of the name, followed by a period, followed by the title. The three hyphens stand for exactly the same name(s) as in the preceding entry.*

Frye, Northrop. *Creation and Recreation*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1980.
Print.

---. *The Bush Garden: Essays of the Canadian Imagination*. Toronto: Anansi, 1971. Print.

Book by a corporate author
A corporate author—as distinguished from a personal author—is a commission, an association, an institute, etc., which bears the primary responsibility for the content of the book, and whose individual members are not identified on the title page of the book.

Middle States Commission on Higher Education. *Developing Research and*
       Communication Skills: Guidelines for Information Literacy in the Curriculum.
       Philadelphia: Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 2003. Print.

Anthology or Collection
If the name of the editor, compiler or translator is on the title page, list the entry with the name of the editor), compiler(s) or translator(s).

BASIC FORMAT
Editor or **Compiler** (inverted), followed by appropriate abbreviation. *Title* (italicized). **Location of Publisher: Publisher's Name, Date. Medium.**

Example:
Donalson, Melvin, ed. *Shelly: Cornerstones: An Anthology of African American*
       Literature. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1996. Print.

Marcus, Leonard S., comp. and ed. *The Wand in the Word: Conversations with Writers of*
       Fantasy. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2006. Print.

Work within an anthology or chapter in a collection
When citing a work—essay, short story, poem, etc.—from within an anthology, list the entry by the author of the piece referred to. The title of the piece should be in quotation marks. Add the citation to the larger work, beginning with its title, followed by the name(s) of the editor(s), translator(s) or compiler(s),(first name, last name) preceded by Ed., Trans., Comp. The page numbers of the text should also be included.

BASIC FORMAT
Author of work being cited (inverted)**. Title** (in quotation marks)**.** *Title* of the larger work (italicized)**. Name** of the editor, compiler, translator (not inverted) preceded by appropriate abbreviation**. Location of Publisher: Publisher's Name, Date, Page numbers** of work being cited. **Medium.**

Example:
Paley, Grace. "The Used-Boy Raisers." *The Norton Anthology of Short Fiction*. Comp.
       R.V. Cassill. New York: W.W. Norton, 1986, 1216-1221. Print.

Multivolume work
If you are using two or more volumes of a multivolume work, give the total number of volumes of the work in your citation after the editor and title. Reference to a specific volume and page numbers is done in the in-text parenthetical reference.

BASIC FORMAT
Name of Editor (inverted). *Title* of the set (underlined or italicized). **Number of volumes** in the set. **Location of Publisher: Publisher's Name, Date. Medium.**

Example:
Alkin, Marvin C., ed. *Encyclopedia of Educational Research*. 3 vols. New York:
   Macmillan, 1992. Print.

If you are using only one volume of a multivolume work, give the volume number in the citation alone—not in the text—and give the publication information only for that volume.

BASIC FORMAT
Name of Editor or Author of article (inverted). *Title* of the volume (italicized).
Volume number of the work used. **Location of Publisher: Publisher's Name, Date.**
Medium.

Example:
Packer, Barbara. "The Transcendentalists." *The Cambridge History of American*
   Literature. Ed. Sacvan Bercovitch. Vol. 2. Cambridge, England: Cambridge
   University Press, 1995, 329-458. Print.

Book in a series
If it is indicated on either the title page or the page preceding the title page that the book is part of a series, add the series name (no italics or quotation marks,) followed by the series number, after the publication information.

BASIC FORMAT
Author (inverted). *Title* of the work being cited (italicized). **Location of Publisher:**
Publisher's Name, Date. Medium. Name of Series Number of Series.

Example:
Harris, Alice C. *Diachronic Syntax: The Kartvelian Case*. Orlando, FL: Academic Press,
   1985. Print. Syntax and Semantics 18.

Entry in a reference book
Cite an article in a general encyclopedia or a definition from a dictionary the same way as you would cite a work in an anthology, but do not list the editor of the reference work. If the article is signed, give the author first; if it is unsigned, give the title first. You do not need to list volume numbers if the encyclopedia or dictionary lists its entries alphabetically.

If you are using a very widely-used reference work, you can omit publication information; list only the edition (if provided) and year of publication. However, if you are not using a well-known reference book, provide the editor's name and full publication information.

SIGNED ARTICLE

> **BASIC FORMAT**
> **Author** of article (inverted)**. Title** of article (in quotation marks)**. *Title*** of the reference work (italicized)**. Name** of the editor, compiler, translator (not inverted) preceded by appropriate abbreviation (for lesser known works)**. Location of Publisher: Publisher's Name, Date.**

Example:

- ♦ ***Signed article in a less widely-used reference book***
  Schneider, Barry B. "Impression Management." *Encyclopedia of Psychology*. Ed. Alan E. Kazdin. 8 vols. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000. Print

UNSIGNED ARTICLE

> **BASIC FORMAT**
> **Title** of article (in quotation marks)**. *Title*** of the larger work (italicized)**. Name** of the editor, compiler, translator (not inverted) preceded by appropriate abbreviation (for lesser known works)**. Location of Publisher: Publisher's Name, Date.**

- ♦ ***Unsigned article in widely-used reference book***
  "Singer, Isaac Bashevis." *The New Encyclopaedia Britannica*. 15th ed. 1998. Print.

Electronic Books

> **BASIC FORMAT**
> **Author** (inverted). *Title* (italicized). **Location of Publisher: Publisher's Name, Date.** *Name of vendor* **or free internet site (italicized). Medium. Date of Access**

Examples:

Roisman, Joseph. *Rhetoric of Manhood: Masculinity in the Attic Orators*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005. *ebrary*. Web. 11 June 2009.

Wharton, Edith. *The Age of Innocence*. New York. D., 1920. Appleton. *Bartleby.com*. Web. 11 June 2009.

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- ♦ **<u>GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS</u>**

A government publication is one that emanates from some level of government (federal, state, city, etc.) and from a government agency (United States Department of Justice, New York State Education Department, etc.). Often you will not know the personal author of the document. Cite the government agency that issued it as author listing the name of the government followed by the name of the agency (you may abbreviate this if it can be identified by context), followed by the title of the publication. Then list publication information as usual. **Because they may differ so considerably from each other in terms of authorship, they may present some difficulty. Be sure to consult the MLA Handbook.**

BASIC FORMAT

Name of Government from which the document emanates**. Name of Agency** responsible**.** *Title* of the document (italicized)**. Location of Publisher: Publisher's Name, Date. Medium.**

Example:
United States. General Accounting Office. *Vietnamese Amerasian Resettlement:*
       Education, Employment, and Family Outcomes in the United States.
       Washington: General Accounting Office, 1994. Print

When citing congressional documents, include the number and session of congress and the type of publication it is (e.g., bills, hearings, reports, resolutions, etc.)

BASIC FORMAT

Name of Government. Part of Congress that produced the document. *Title* of the document (italicized)**.** *Type of publication* (italicized)**, number, session. Location of Publisher: Publisher's Name, Date. Medium.**

Example:
United States. Cong. S. Committee on Government Operations. *Watergate*
       Reorganization and Reform Act of 1975. *Hearings* 94th Cong., first sess.
       Washington: GPO, 1975. Print.

Acts and court cases
To cite an act, give the name of the act, its Public Law number, the date and its Statutes at Large cataloging number. Use Pub. L. *to abbreviate Public Law and* Stat *for Statures at Large.*

BASIC FORMAT

Name of Act. Public Law Number. Date it was enacted**. Statutes at Large Cataloging Number. Medium.**

Example:
Aviation and Transportation Security Act. Pub. L. 107-71. 19 Nov. 2001. Stat. 115.597.
       Print.

To cite a court case, list the names of the first plaintiff and the first defendant, the number of the case, the name of the court that decided the case, and the date of the decision.

BASIC FORMAT
Name of first plaintiff, Name of first defendant. Case Number. Name Court. Date of decision.

Example:
Board of Education, Island Trees Union Free School District v. Pico. No. 80-2043 .
        Supreme Ct. of the US, 25 June 1982.

♦ **PERIODICALS**
A periodical *is any publication that appears* periodically*, including newspapers, magazines and scholarly journals. For articles with more than one author, follow the same form as for books.*

Scholarly journals
Scholarly journal appear less frequently than do magazines or newspapers; they usually appear no more frequently than three or four times per year. As is done for books, periodical articles are entered under the author's name, followed by the title of the article, enclosed in quotation marks, followed by the volume number, issue number or month or season, if given, year of publication (in parentheses), followed by a colon, followed by the page numbers of the article, followed by the medium of publication. Such publication information as the place of publication and the name of the publisher is NOT included.

BASIC FORMAT
Author of article (inverted)**. Title** of article (in quotation marks)**. *Title*** of journal (italicized) **Volume number.Issue (Year): Page numbers. Medium.**

Examples:
        Jelinek, Eloise. "The Agent Hierarchy and Voice in Some Coast Salish
          Languages." *International Journal of American Linguistics* 49.2 (1983):
          167-185. Print.

        Lehman, David. "The Visionary Walt Whitman.: *American Poetry Review*
            37.Jan/Feb. (2008): 11-13. Print.

Magazines
Do not list volume numbers for magazine articles. It the magazine appears every week or every two weeks, give the complete date, beginning with the day and followed by the month and the year, as illustrated below:

BASIC FORMAT
Author of article (inverted)**. Title** of article (in quotation marks)**.** *Title* of magazine (italicized) **Date: Page numbers. Medium.**

Examples:
Rosen, Jeffrey and Charles Lane. "Neo-Nazis!." *New Republic* 31 Oct. 1994: 14-15.
    Print.

If the magazine appears every month or every two months, give the month or months and the year.

Fraser, Nicholas. "To BBC or Not to BBC." *Harper's Magazine* May 2004: 55-64. Print.

Newspapers
Citing newspaper articles is similar to citing articles in magazines that appear weekly. In listing the name of the newspaper, omit beginning articles (e.g., New York Times, not The New York Times). If sections are numbered separately, list the section number or letter followed by the page number on which the article begins. When an article is continued on a non-consecutive page, indicate this with a + immediately following the beginning page number.

BASIC FORMAT
Author of article (inverted)**. Title** of article (in quotation marks)**.** *Title* of newspaper (underlined or italicized) **Date, Edition** (if stated on the masthead)**: Section** (if numbered separately) **Page number(s). Medium.**

Examples:

Urquhart, Ian. "Ontario Weighs Gay Marriage Options." *Toronto Star* 17 July 2002: A21.
    Print

Jeromack, Paul. "This Once, a David in the Art World Does Goliath a Favor." *New York*
    Times 13 July 2002, New England ed.: A13+. Print.

Film/videorecording
List by title (in italics), and include the director, distributor and the year of release. Any other data you think should be added—the names of the lead actors, writers, producers—between the title and the distributor.

BASIC FORMAT
Title (italicized)**. Director. Distributor, Date. Medium.**

Example:

Raisin in the Sun. Screenplay by Lorraine Hansberry. Dir. Daniel Petrie. Perf. Sidney
   Poitier, Claudia McNeil and Ruby Dee. Video Shack, 1982. Videorecording.

Missing. Screenplay by Costa-Gavras. Dir. Costa-Gavras. Perf. Jack Lemmon, Sissy
   Spacek. The Criterion Collection, 2008. DVD.

WEB PUBLICATIONS
*You cite electronic publications for the same reasons you cite printed sources: to identify your sources and to enable readers to locate them. often, therefore, citations to electronic sources have similar elements to citations to printed sources, as indicated below. For example, you include the URL of web sites in a citation to enable readers to locate the source. Note that one of the most significant differences between print and electronic documents is that electronic documents can be easily modified after you have consulted them. **Therefore, when citing electronic documents, you should include the date that you accessed the document, in addition to the date that the document was published.***

Article from an online subscription database
If the work is from a subscription database, provide the citation to the original print source, as well as the name of the database (e.g., LexisNexis, Academic Search Premier, JSTOR, etc.), and the name and location of the subscribing library. Because of the complexity of the URLs for articles within a database, either provide the URL to the library's list of databases or the URL to the database's main search page, whichever is simpler to locate.

BASIC FORMAT
Author of article (inverted)**. Title** of article (in quotation marks)**. *Title*** of journal
(italicized) **Volume number.Issue (Year): Page numbers. Title of Database**
(italicized)**. Medium (Web). Date of access** (d/m/yyyy)**.**

Example:

Hayes, Kevin J.. "Melville and Balzac." *Resources for American Literary Study* 26.2
(2004): 159-183. *Project Muse*. Web. 8 June 2009.

Article from an electronic journal (without a print version)

BASIC FORMAT
Author of article (inverted)**. Title** of article (in quotation marks)**.** *Title* of journal
(underlined or italicized) **Volume number. Issue number (Year): n. pag. (or page
numbers if provided). Medium (Web). Date of access.**

Craven, Timothy C. "What is the Title of a Web Page? A Study of Webography
Practice." *Information Research* 7.3 (2002): n.pag. Web. 8 June 2004.

Open-access (Unrestricted) Internet Sites
*The BASIC FORMAT boxes below that pertain to Internet sites show the information that
will ideally appear in a citation. However, the format of Internet sites is not uniform and
not all of the information will always be given. Cite the information that is available.*

Entire Internet site

**It is very difficult to give a BASIC FORMAT for Internet sites because there is so
much variation in the information provided. If available, give the name of the
author, compiler, editor, etc. if relevant, followed by the title (italicized), followed
by the title of the overall website, publisher or sponsor of the website (N.p. if not
available), date of publication (n.d. if not available), Medium (Web), date of access
(d/m/yyyy).**

Examples:
"The Zora Neale Hurston Plays at the Library of Congress."*The Library of Congress
American Memory*. Library of Congress. n.d . Web. 8 June 2009.

Smith, Martha Nell, ed. *Dickinson Electronic Archives*. N.p., 1994. Web. 11 June 2009.

"All Things Considered." *National Public Radio.* Natl. Public Radio, 11 June 2009. Web.
11 June 2009.

"Payback Time." Editorial. *New York Times*. New York Times, 10 June 2009. Web. 11
June 2009.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES IN THE 7TH EDITION OF MLA

1. *Italicize* **instead of** <u>Underlining</u>**:** All titles of books, journals, magazines,
websites, etc. should now be underlined.

2. **Do NOT provide URLs:** Normally, MLA no longer recommends providing URLs for online sources, unless they would be required in order to lead the reader to the website.
3. **Always provide the issue number in addition to the volume of a scholarly publication**: You no longer have to distinguish between journals with continuous pagination and those without. You now always provide the issue number (or month) in addition to the volume number.
4. **Medium of Publication:** You must now indicate the medium in which the source was published: E.g., Print, Web, DVD, etc.