
This brief guide provides examples of how to cite some of the most commonly used types of information resources: periodicals, books, and electronic publications. Detailed explanations and additional types of examples are given in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th ed., BF76.7 P83 2010, available at the Reference Desk.

IN TEXT (parenthetical citations)

- Follow author-date citation method (i.e., author's last name and publication year). Note the use of commas in parenthetical citations.
  - Walker (2000) compared reaction times . . .
  - In a recent study of reaction times (Walker, 2000) . . .
  - In 2000, Walker compared reaction times . . .
  - Several studies (Balda, 1980; Kamil, 1988; Pepperberg & Funk, 1990) show that . . .
  - According to Jones (1993, p.24), as society continues to undergo . . .

SHORT QUOTATIONS

- Enclose short quotations (<40 words) within double quotation marks.
- Provide author, year, and specific page (with “p.” or “pp.”) in text.
- Include complete reference in reference list.
- Note placement of period in 2nd example below.

  She stated, “The ‘placebo effect’ disappeared when behaviors were studied in this manner” (Miele, 1993, p. 276), but she did not clarify which behaviors were studied.

Miele (1993) found that “the ‘placebo effect,’ which had been verified in previous studies, disappeared when [only the first group’s] behaviors were studied in this manner” (p. 276).

LONG QUOTATIONS

- Place long quotations (>40 words) in freestanding block of typewritten lines.
- Omit quotation marks.
- Start quotation on new line indented 5 spaces from left margin.
- Double space the entire quotation on new, indented margin.
- Indent first line of additional paragraphs in quotation 5 spaces from new margin.

Miele (1993) found the following:

The “placebo effect,” which had been verified in previous studies, disappeared when behaviors were studied in this manner. Furthermore, the behaviors were never exhibited again [italics added], even when real [sic] drugs were administered. Earlier studies (e.g., Abdullah, 1984; Fox, 1979) were clearly premature in attributing the results to a placebo effect. (p. 276)
DIRECT QUOTATIONS OF ONLINE MATERIAL WITHOUT PAGINATION

Credit direct quotations of online material by giving the author, year, and page number in parentheses. Many electronic sources do not provide page numbers. If paragraph numbers are visible, use them in place of page numbers. Use the abbreviation para.

Basu and Jones (2007) went so far as to suggest the need for a new “intellectual framework in which to consider the nature and form of regulation in cyberspace” (para. 4).

REFERENCE LIST

• List, in alphabetical order by author’s last name, all references cited in the text.
• Note that personal communications (i.e., letters, memos, telephone conversations, interviews, E-mail, discussion groups, etc.) are cited in text only.
• Use authors’ last names, first initials (and middle initials, if available). When authors number eight or more, include the first six authors’ names, then insert three ellipses, and add the last author’s name.
• Reference list entries for works by multiple authors should be alphabetized by the last names of the first author of each work.
• Use “&” instead of “and” when listing multiple authors of a single work.
• If no author is given for a particular source, begin with and alphabetize by using the title of the work, which will be listed in place of the author, and use a shortened version of the title for parenthetical citations.

The following examples are single-spaced in order to save space. However, use double-space when typing your reference list. Also, use hanging indents: entries should begin flush left, and the second and subsequent lines should be indented.

PERIODICALS

Basic Form:

For a magazine or newspaper article include specific publication dates (month and day, if applicable) as well as the year.

Journal Article, One Author

Journal Article, Two Authors

Newsletter Article, No Author

Daily Newspaper Article, No Author

Magazine Article
Monograph as Part of Journal Issue

**BOOKS**

**Basic Form:**
Author, A. A. (Year of publication). Title of work. Location: Publisher.

**One Author**

**Two Authors, Edition, "Jr." in Name**

**Edited Book**

**Article or Chapter in an Edited Book, Two or More Editors**

**Government Report**

**Encyclopedia Article, with author**

**ELECTRONIC RESOURCES**

Generally, the same guidelines are to be followed for printed articles: “In general, . . . include the same elements, in the same order, as you would for a reference to a fixed-media source and add as much electronic retrieval information as needed for others to locate the sources you cited.” (APA Publication Manual, p. 1).

A new ruling is to include a Digital Object Identifier (DOI), when it is available, instead of the URL. DOI’s are an attempt to provide stable, long-lasting links for online articles. They are unique to their documents and consist of an alphanumeric code. The DOI string can be quite long. It is recommended that when DOIs are available, to include them for both print and electronic sources. “Publishers who follow best practices will publish the DOI prominently on the first page of an article.” (APA Publication Manual, p. 191)

**Journal Article with DOI Assigned**
“When a DOI is used, no further retrieval information is needed to identify or locate the content.” (APA Publication Manual, p. 191)

**Journal Article from a Database with no DOI Assigned**

**Journal Article from a Web Site with no DOI Assigned**


“If there is no DOI assigned and the reference was retrieved online, give the URL of the journal home page. No retrieval date is needed.” (APA Publication Manual, p. 199)

**Document from a Web Site**

**Document from a Web Site, without an author or date**

**Document retrieved from the Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC)**
Generally, the citation format is the same as for a printed source, but with the ERIC document number in parentheses at the end. No URL is necessary.
For example: [regular citation information here]. (ERIC Document Reproduction Service No. ED486790)

**See also:**
1. Web Site of American Psychological Association
2. The OWL at Purdue University Web Site:
   [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl)

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