

MLA Format

Citing & Giving Credit to Sources

This short guide describes how to cite commonly used sources in MLA (Modern Language Association) format. For sources not listed here, refer to the [MLA Handbook](#) (6th ed.). Copies of this book are available at the **Reserve Desk (PE1478 M165 2003)**. If you need further help, ask the Reference Librarian. Some examples are taken directly from the [MLA Handbook](#).

Parenthetical Citation (citing sources in the body of the paper)

For more examples of parenthetical citation, see pp. 237-260 in the [MLA Handbook](#) (6th ed.).

Author's name is not in the Sentence:

The effect of outside radiation is harmful to all people who are not protected (Davidson 71).

Author's Name is in the Sentence:

John Davidson contends that "exposure to radiation is a constant risk" (71).

More than One Work by the Same Author:

One theory asserts that "any level of sun exposure" may cause cancer (Standish, [Skin Cancer](#) 145).
Sunscreens can "insulate and protect the skin from harmful rays" (Standish, [Cancer and You](#) 334).

Two or More Authors:

Economists blame sunburn for the recent economic slump (Barnes and Baker 377-79).

No Author Listed:

Sales of sunscreen have increased dramatically ([Economic Trends](#) 71).

No Page Numbers (e.g. electronic resources):

Refer to *internal headings* (chapter, section) or *paragraph numbers* (abbreviate as "par." or "pars.):

Sunscreens provide "free cosmetic surgery" ([Sunscreen Facts](#), par. 3).

If there are no headings, provide the author's name in the sentence (or the title if no author is given):

Researcher Ann Taylor notes that "one size fits all."

[Sunscreen Facts](#) contends sunscreen use has actually declined over the past 20 years.

Works Cited Page

Double-space all entries and list them in alphabetical order by the author's last name. If no author is given, alphabetize by the first word of the entry. Indent all lines of each entry one-half inch (or five spaces) EXCEPT the first line.

Books (5.6)

For more information on citing book sources, refer to pp. 147-179 of the [MLA Handbook](#) (6th ed.).

One Author (5.6.1)

Smith, Karen. [A Handbook of California Hiking](#). Berkeley: U of California P, 2002.

Two or More Authors (5.6.4)

Vess, Ron W., and Mark Hammond. [The Card Catalog Kitchen](#). New Haven: Yale UP, 2003.

No Author Listed (5.6.11)

Encyclopedia of Botulism and Food Disease. New York: Macmillan, 1999.

A Work in an Anthology (5.6.7): an essay, short story, poem, or other work that appears in a collection

-- Original

Laramie, Sidney. "Literature and Livelihood." The Writer Speaks. Ed. Marisa Abramo. New York: Macmillan, 2000. 19-23.

-- Reprint

Tibbals, John. "Poetry of America." Poetry Review Quarterly 64 (1988): 23-38. Rpt. in Contemporary Literary Criticism. Ed. Naomi Trapp Davis. Vol. 88. Detroit: Gale, 1994. 46-52.

Articles in Major Encyclopedias or Dictionaries (5.6.8)

Jones, Ronald M. "Pakistan." The New Encyclopaedia Britannica. 15th ed. 1998.

Articles in Reference Books (5.6.8)

Sellman, Stephanie H. "Cloning." International Bioethics. Ed. John P. Bibbo. Rev. ed. 5 vols. New York: Macmillan, 1999.

Government Publications (5.6.21)

United States. Dept. of Labor. Employment Projections. Comp. Ron Vess. Washington: GPO, 2003.

Periodicals (5.7)

Periodicals are magazines, journals, newspapers, or any other publication that appears on a regular basis. For more help citing periodical sources, consult pp. 180-193 in the MLA Handbook (6th ed.).

Scholarly Journals**• Continuous Paging (5.7.1)**

Homyak, Bill. "Turf Grass Management." Journal of Turf Sciences 37 (1999): 239-47.

• Each Issue Paged Separately (5.7.2)

Gustafson, Diane. "Set Design and Construction." Journal of Theatre Sciences 52.2 (1994): 23-44.

Magazine (5.7.6)

McGee, Tony. "Jazz in Everyday Life." Time 18 August 1998: 24-26.

Newspaper (5.7.5)

Carr, Tanya. "Library Use Continues to Rise in California." Los Angeles Times 13 Dec. 2000: B1+.

Articles Without Authors (5.7.9)

"Gun Violence in Our Schools." Newsweek 8 Jan. 1988: 44-45.

Electronic Publications (5.9)

The format guidelines for electronic documents continue to evolve. Your source may not have all of the elements listed here. Your aim is to ensure your reader can find the original source you are citing. For more information on citing electronic publications, see pp. 207-235 in the MLA Handbook (6th ed.).

Document from Internet Site (5.9.1)

It is best to provide the entire URL of the exact document. However, if the URL is extremely long and complex, you may provide the URL of the main page of the site and the sequence of links the reader can use to find the document. After providing the URL, use the word *Path* and a colon and then specify the sequence of links (separate each link with a semicolon).

Format:

Author's name. "Title of the document." Information about print publication (if relevant). Title of site.

Ed. Name of site editor. Publication date (or last update). Sponsoring organization. Date of access <URL>.

Examples:

"City Profile: San Francisco." CNN.com. 2002. Cable News Network. 14 May 2002

<<http://www.cnn.com/TRAVEL/atevo/city/SanFrancisco/Intro.html>>.

Ross, Don. "Game Theory." 11 Sept. 2001. Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy. Ed. Edward N. Zalta.

Fall 2002 ed. Center for the Study of Lang. and Information, Stanford U. 1 Oct 2002

<<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/game-theory/>>.

"This Day in Technology History: August 20." History Channel.com. 2002. History Channel. 14 May 2002

<<http://historychannel.com/>>. Path: Technology History; This Day in Technology History.

Entire Internet Site (5.9.2)

Online scholarly project, information database, journal, or professional site

Format:

Title of Site. Ed. Name of site editor. Publication date (or last update). Sponsoring organization. Date of

access <URL>.

Examples:

CNN.com. 2002. Cable News Network. 15 May 2002 <<http://www.cnn.com/>>.

Victorian Women Writers Project. Ed. Perry Willett. May 2000. Indiana U. 26 June 2002

<<http://www.indiana.edu/~letrs/vwwp/>>.

Personal Home Page (5.9.2 c):

Lancashire, Ian. Home page. 28 Mar. 2002. 15 May 2002 <<http://www.chass.utoronto.ca:8080/~ian/>>.

E-Mail Communication (5.9.8 j)

Format: Name of the writer. "Subject line of message." Description of message including recipient.

Date of message.

Example: Boyle, Anthony T. "Re: Utopia." E-mail to Daniel J. Cahill. 21 June 1997.

Articles in Online Periodicals (5.9.4)

Format:

Cite the article according to relevant print format guidelines for the periodical source (ie. scholarly journal, magazine, or newspaper). When page numbers are not given, use numbered information (if available) such as total number of pages, paragraphs, or sections. At the end include the date of access and URL.

Examples:

Megling, Sara. "The Voice on the Phone is Not Human, but I Don't Care." San Diego Union-Tribune. 17 Jan. 1999. 29 Aug. 1999 <<http://www.sduiontribune.com/library/tech/99/01/articles/voice.html>>.

Sohmer, Steve. "12 June 1599: Opening Day at Shakespeare's Globe." Early Modern Literary Studies 3.1 (1997): 46 pars. 26 June 2002 <<http://www.shu.ac.uk/emls/03-1/sohmjuli.html>>.

Library Databases (5.9.7)

Articles, documents, or electronic books in an online database such as ProQuest, Ebsco, Literature Resource Center, NetLibrary or other library-supported databases.

Format:

Cite the document according to relevant print format guidelines. Complete the citation with information about the online database from which you accessed the article or book: Name of Database Used. Name of the Database Service. Library Name, City (if useful to identification). Date of Access <URL of Service's home page>.

Examples:

Dean, Carolyn J. The Frail Social Body: Pornography, Homosexuality, and Other Fantasies in Interwar France. Berkeley: U California P, 2000. Southwestern College Ebook Collection. NetLibrary. Southwestern Community Coll. Lib. 25 June 2003 <<http://www.netlibrary.com/>>.

Mazzetti, Mark. "Taking a (Gun) Powder?: The Gun Control Movement Gets Pragmatic." U.S. News & World Report. 7 May 2001: 26. ProQuest General Research Collections. ProQuest Direct. Southwestern Community Coll. Lib. 21 Aug 2001 <<http://proquest.umi.com/>>.

McGowan, Ian. "Emma: Overview." Reference Guide to English Literature. Ed. D.L. Kirkpatrick. 2nd ed. St. James P, 1991. Reproduced in Literature Resource Center. Gale Group. Southwestern Community Coll. Lib. 21 Aug 2001 < <http://galenet.galegroup.com/>>.

Miscellaneous Print and Nonprint Sources (5.8)

Pages 194-207 of the MLA Handbook (6th ed.) provide guidelines for miscellaneous sources such as Television Programs, Radio Programs, Sound Recordings, Film or Video, Performance, Musical Composition, Painting, Sculpture, Photograph, Interview, Map, Cartoon, Advertisement, Speech, Manuscript, or Letter.