American Psychological Association

(APA) Citation Guide

Introduction

Précis: This handout contains information on how to cite resources in the APA style. All information in this handout is taken from the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th edition (which is found in our Reference Collection at call number 808.02 P976 2010). This guide covers a lot of ground, but it doesn’t cover everything – if you’re having trouble citing a resource, please contact Mike Westbrook (mwestbro@mail.ic.edu) or Luke Beatty (luke.beatty@mail.ic.edu) for some help.

You might also consider Diana Hacker’s A Pocket Style Manual (which is found on our Upper Floor at call number 808.042 H118) for additional assistance with your writing.

Meta-Notes:

Places to Cite: When citing in APA, you must cite your work in both a References list and in-text.

Your References list appears at the end of your paper, and is titled “References”. This list is organized alphabetically by author last name, and contains full citations of the work you have used in your paper. See the References section of the guide for samples.

The in-text citation is an abbreviated reference that is found in your paper’s text. You will see sample in-text citations throughout this guide.

In-Text Citations: While there is only one way to cite a work in your References list, there are two ways you can cite in-text. The two in-text citation methods are the name-in-sentence method and the parenthesis method. Your choice of one over the other will boil down to a stylistic preference (we use the parenthesis format in this guide). Here are examples of each:

Parenthesis method: After the event, the crowd dispersed (Johnson, 2012).

Name-in-sentence method: After the event, Johnson (2012) noted the crowd dispersed.

Multiple Authors: Citing multiple authors is a tricky business in APA, but thankfully, it works the same way across all types of resources. We’ve covered the rules for citing multiple authors under the Books section of this guide, so look there if you need some guidance.

Spacing: APA uses two spaces after all sentence-ending punctuation marks (periods, questions marks, exclamation points, etc.). APA uses one space between periods which separate initials in a personal name.

Print Equivalents: Oftentimes you’ll find material online which obviously has a print clone (i.e. the material online is exactly the same as a print version somewhere). In these cases, you may cite the material as if you were using the print version. Many online journals, government reports, etc. have print clones.
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Website (with an institution, organization, or company as author)

Website (without an identifiable author) / Wiki / Discussion Board

References
Examples

Blog


In-Text: The market for theatre safety materials was burgeoning, and had even extended into the blogosphere (Wayne, 2014).

Note 1: Include a retrieval date (i.e., “Retrieved January 22, 2014, from URL”) only if you believe the source is likely to change over time.

Note 2: The “Blog post title” is NOT italicized.

Book (with 1 author or 1 editor)


In-Text: In a few short years, bike polo had become a popular activity with the flannel-and-skinny-jeans set (Reda, 2008, p. 89). Predictably, however, the fad was short-lived, and the hipster zeitgeist soon moved on (Blatche, 2014).

Note 1: The “(Ed.)” refers to an editor, and is only included when you are citing for an editor.

Book (with 2 authors or 2 editors)


In-Text: With Ernst Roehm’s murder, Himmler had eliminated a dangerous and resourceful rival (Stewart & Juber, 2008, p. 20-30). With Roehm and his Storm Battalion now purged from the Nazi power structure, Hitler was free to insinuate himself further into the German state apparatus (Roth & Meine, 1966, p. 100-125).

Note 1: The “(Eds.)” refers to editors, and is only included when you are citing for editors.

Book (with 3-7 authors or 3-7 editors)


In-Text: The tenure question has always been a bugaboo of academic librarianship, especially when considering the non-credit instruction that librarians frequently take on (Monteith, Herscovitch, & Millard). Contributions to teaching ‘information literacy’ – as variably and widely defined as that term is – also play an important role in tenure considerations for librarians (Hayman, Loyer, & Cleaver).

Note 1: The “(Eds.)” refers to editors, and is only included when you are citing for editors.

Note 2: For 3-5 authors/editors, the first in-text citation will contain all authors of the work -- in this case, [Hayman, Loyer, & Cleaver, 2012] -- while subsequent in-text citations will contain only the first author, followed by “et al.” (which means “and all others”) [Hayman et al., 2012].

Note 3: For 6-7 authors/editors, all in-text citations will contain the “et al.” citation. In this example, the proper in-text citation is: (Hayman et al., 2012).
Book (with 8 or more authors or 8 or more editors)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Text:</td>
<td>The work is brimming with tales of impossible stupidity, ranging from a user who confuses his toaster with a fax machine, to a man who plugs his amplifier into a disused toilet bowl (Stancowicz et al., 2003). Likewise, Stupid Stories from the Set paints a dispiriting picture of everyday idiocy, with a particularly notable incident being a PA who confuses his boss’ coffee with paint thinner (Smith et al., 2006).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note 1: The "(Eds.)" refers to editors, and is only included when you are citing for editors.

Note 2: All in-text citations will contain only the first author, followed by “et al.” (which means “and all others”). In this example, the proper in-text citation is: [Stancowicz et al., 2003].

Book (translated)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Text:</td>
<td>The liquor, of course, was just a pretense -- it was really just an excuse to flirt with the fisherman, laborers, and dock workers that littered the area (Glendenning, 2004/1913, pp. 36–41).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note 1: For your in-text citation, include both the original and translated publication dates.

Book (reprint)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Text:</td>
<td>Much in the style of the day, an outsized cross-hatching technique was used to portray the larger-than-life figures of the era (Parker, 2012/1921, pp. 50-100).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note 1: For your in-text citation, include both the original and reprinted publication dates.

Book Chapter (in an edited book)

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Text:</td>
<td>Forever in the shadow of Amelia Earhart, and without her knack for self-promotion, Amy Johnson was destined to be “the other” aviatrix of the pre-Depression era (Hardle, 1972, pp. 420-428).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note 1: You would only cite a book chapter in an edited book (i.e. a book where every chapter is written by a different author, but assembled by an editor); if the book only has one author, you would just cite the entire book, even if you’re only using one chapter.

Book Review

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Text:</td>
<td>The reviews were dismal, however, and Kottke quickly went back to his guitar (Pumanti, 2004, pp. 17-19).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Italicize title, journal name, & volume #/issue#
Note 1: Don’t include a month in your in-text citation, even if it appears in the reference.

Note 2: A dataset is simply a collection of data (data being a body of facts or information about a particular subject); a statistic is a particular piece of data, often represented graphically.
As at July, 2014, France had the 5th largest GDP in the world (World Bank, 2014). France is unusual amongst the G10, however, in the unusually high percentage of household income which goes toward the payment of state tax (International Monetary Fund, 2014).

Note 1: Don’t include a month in your in-text citation, even if it appears in the reference.

Note 2: A dataset is simply a collection of data (data being a body of facts or information about a particular subject); a statistic is a particular piece of data, often represented graphically.

Dictionary Entry

Format: Word. (Publication year). In Title of dictionary. Location: Publisher.


In-Text: ‘Antidisestablishmentarianism’ is the longest word in the English language (Oxford English dictionary, 2012). Language evolves, however, and even words that we once thought silly – ‘defriend’, for instance – can find their way into dictionaries (Merriam-Webster’s dictionary, n.d.).

Note 1: If you can’t find a date, or the work doesn’t have one, put “n.d.” (meaning, “no date”) for the publication year.

Dictionary Entry (online)

Format: Word. (Publication year). In Title of dictionary. Retrieved from URL.


In-Text: Most people are unaware that the tech company Google took its name from the word ‘googol’, indicating the number ($1.0 \times 10^{100}$) (dictionary.com, 2014).

Note 1: If you can’t find a date, or the work doesn’t have one, put “n.d.” (meaning, “no date”) for the publication year.

E-Book


In-Text: Research has revealed that vanilla is the most popular flavor of ice cream (Johnson, 2013). Subsequent research, however, has confirmed that chocolate ice cream is growing in popularity (Manley, 2014, pp. 10-15).

Note 1: If the e-book has a doi: and a URL, only include the doi.
### Encyclopedia Entry / Handbook Entry

<table>
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<tr>
<td>In-Text:</td>
<td>Though certain albums retained a more dynamic mastering, the majority of popular recordings were now being mastered in a compressed fashion (Gagan, 2000). With iTunes Radio’s volume ceiling, however, the incentive to hot mastering was considerably less than was the case with terrestrial radio (Fagen, 2014, pp. 243-245).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note 1: *Edition* refers to the version/printing/iteration of the encyclopedia, while volume refers to the number of different books which make up the encyclopedia. For example, *World Book* could be in its 10th edition, and in that edition, there might be 26 volumes, perhaps one for each letter of the alphabet.

Note 2: If the encyclopedia and/or handbook only has one volume, simply leave out the “Vol. number, page numbers” section of your citation.

### Essay (in a collection or anthology)

<table>
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<tr>
<td>In-Text:</td>
<td>Though the causes of poverty are multivariate, the inability to recognize one’s own financial interests are complicating the problem (DeWitt, 2002, p. 81).</td>
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### Essay (in a reprinted volume or course pack)

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<tr>
<td>In-Text:</td>
<td>The prevailing attitudes of the day were profoundly hostile to communities of color, though these prejudices were, to a degree, lessened in popular children’s fantasies of the late 1890s and into the early 1900s (Millions, 2003/1981, p. 25-28).</td>
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### Film / Motion Picture

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<tr>
<td>In-Text:</td>
<td>With <em>Satan vs. Aliens</em>, Hollywood budgets had been taken to a ludicrous extreme (Boone and Hudson, 2011). The budget of <em>Guns Against Wizardry</em> was larger still, though, in fairness, the CGI work was breathtaking (Spolborg and Abrahams, 2014).</td>
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### Government Publication

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Text:</td>
<td>Health authorities mounted a campaign to assure the public that vaccinations were indeed safe (British Columbia Ministry of Health, 1999). By 2003, these campaigns had a wealth of counter-evidence to discredit Wakefield’s claims (Hung, 2003).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Image / Photo / Artwork (online, without author)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format:</th>
<th>[Subject and type of work]. (n.d.) Retrieved from URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Text:</td>
<td>Consider, even, the reification of the pre-trip experience, captured anonymously in the painting below (Untitled painting of a man ingesting peyote, n.d.).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note 1: Include a retrieval date (i.e. “Retrieved January 22, 2014, from URL”) only if you believe the source is likely to change over time.

Note 2: If you can’t find a date, or the work doesn’t have one, put “n.d.” (meaning, “no date”) for the publication year.

### Journal Article (print or digital copy of print)

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Text:</td>
<td>Basket weaving was held in contempt by many of the faculty, but a grassroot student-led campaign spurred its take-up at the college (Jack, 2007, p. 9). In time, basket weaving became a cornerstone of the curriculum (Jack, 2009).</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Note 1: For multiple authors, cite your authors in the same way you would for *Books* (pg. 4-5).

Note 2: If your journal does not have an issue number, simply omit that part of the citation.

### Journal Article (with doi)

<table>
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<tr>
<td>In-Text:</td>
<td>The device was infrequently used, though select works employed it (Suessadon, 2005, p. 35-36).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note 1: For multiple authors, cite your authors in the same way you would for *Books* (pg. 4-5).

Note 2: If the article has a doi: and a URL, only include the doi.

Note 3: If you found the article in a database, **DO NOT** include the database name in your citation.
The Cherokee relocation was comparatively swift, and the permeable Canadian border would soon find them relocating into Canadian territory. (Morantz, 2003, p. 61).
Map (online)

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Text:</td>
<td>By 1750, however, the Empire was neither Roman, holy, or really even an empire (Hogan, 2011).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note 1: Include a retrieval date (i.e. “Retrieved January 22, 2014, from URL”) only if you believe the source is likely to change over time.

Music Recording

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Text:</td>
<td>Still carrying the moniker ‘Shawn’, Larouge produced a startling array of records, most notably Arrows Through Apples, which saw him join forces with local garage rock luminaries Nikes Conroy and Butch Weatherhead (LaRouge, 2011). Three years later, Larouge had gone solo, though his output remained vital, most notably on the already-classic ‘Pumps and Paradise’ (LaRouge, 2014).</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Newspaper Article

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Text:</td>
<td>The term ‘jerkwater’ originally described trains which ran off the main line (Blatchford, 1972, p. B2). Podunk, IL was indeed a jerkwater town, but after its pumping station was engulfed in flames in 1977, things got even more difficult for trains passing through town (DeMontario, 1977, pp. C3-C7).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note 1: Most periodicals don’t use (“pp.” or “p.”) in the References list, but newspapers do because they don’t have volumes. In the References list, use “p.” if there’s only one page in the newspaper and “pp.” if there’s more than one page. Mirror that for your in-text citation. Honestly, this is the sort of lunatic particularism that gives academic citation its justifiably bad name. Happy times! 😊

Newspaper Article (online)

<table>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Text:</td>
<td>Even with proper refrigeration, a rotisserie chicken should not be eaten after 48-hours (from the time of purchase) (Karotin, 1995).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note 1: Many online newspapers won’t have page numbers; if this is the case, simply omit the page number(s) section from your reference.

Note 2: Include a retrieval date (i.e. “Retrieved January 22, 2014, from URL”) only if you believe the source is likely to change over time.

Podcast

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format:</th>
<th>Author/Producer, A.A. (Publication year, month day) Podcast title. [Audio podcast]. Retrieved from URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Text:</td>
<td>Post-punk thrived on energy, precise playing, and a fascination with odd time signatures; by the mid-1990s, however, smooth jazz had taken its toll on the best artists of the movement (Sumner, 2013).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note 1: Don’t include a month in your in-text citation, even if it appears in the reference.
### Poem (original)

**Format:**
- Author, A.A. (Publication year). Poem title. *In* Book title (page number[s]). Location: Publisher.

**Example:**

**In-Text:**
- Brown’s work was typical of the period, as best exemplified by his seminal piece, *Black Cream, Black Coffee* (Brown, 2002, pp. 32-33).

### Poem (reprinted)

**Format:**
- Author, A.A. (Publication year). Poem title. *In* Book title (page number[s]). Location: Publisher. (Reprinted from Original book title, original year published)

**Example:**

**In-Text:**
- His work was becoming more confrontational, as wonderfully illustrated in *Red Caps in Green Hats* (Yorrick, 2002/1982, pp. 50-51).

### Presentation (online or digital)

**Format:**
- Author, A.A. (Publication year). *Presentation title* [Presentation type]. Retrieved from URL

**Example 1:**

**Example 2:**

**In-Text:**
- Online training materials, particularly for Prezi and PowerPoint, had become ubiquitous by 2014 (Blaine, 2012; John Robarts Training Institute, 2013).

Note 1: Include a retrieval date (i.e. “Retrieved January 22, 2014, from URL”) only if you believe the source is likely to change over time.

### Screenplay / Play Script

**Format:**
- Author, A.A. (Publication year). *Script/screenplay title*. Location: Publisher

**Example:**

**In-Text:**
- The script was irreverent and insightful. Consider the following passage, which illustrates Janet’s exasperation with her gormless aunt, Susan (St. Jean, 2014, p. 13):

  SUSAN: Now, you see, Janet, one can never be too clean! Never, never, never! For cleanliness is next to godliness – and you want to be closer to God, don’t you???

  JANET: No, no I don’t. [JANET calmly deposits her freshly laundered clothes on the floor]. Poo poo to God, and poo poo to you! [JANET reaches into her pocket, removes a handful of dirt, and throws it across her bed]. Filth is my only god! [JANET walks to her aquarium, reaches inside, and flings a ream of algae into SUSAN’s face].

  SUSAN: Dammit, Janet!

Note 1: If the script or screenplay is online, simply follow the reference format for E-Books [APA doesn’t actually give any guidance on screenplays at all, so we’re improvising here…]

Note 2: For dialogue and/or stage direction, apply a block quote.
### Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Example 1</th>
<th>Example 2</th>
<th>In-Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Note 1:** Include a retrieval date (i.e. “Retrieved January 22, 2014, from URL”) only if you believe the source is likely to change over time; for social media, the source post can often change over time (edited, deleted, made private, etc.), so include a retrieval date.

**Note 2:** If you want to cite a social media page, and not a particular post on the page, simply omit the “Name of post” section from your citation.

**Note 3:** For Twitter, the name of the post is the first 40 or so characters of the post.

### Television Program (episode)

| Format                                      | Example 1: Scheneker, R.R. (Writer), & Robinson, D.N. (Director). (2005). The t-rex and the toad [Television series episode]. In C.C. Horowitz (Producer), Worlds of fantasy. Hollywood, CA: Windsurfer Productions, LLC. In-Text: The Emmy-winning episode, however, was childish, puerile, and delivered none of the high fantasy the series was known for (Scheneker & Robinson, 2005). |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### Television Program (series)

|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### Video (online)

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### Videogame

|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
# Web Resources

**Website (with personal author)**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Example 1</th>
<th>Example 2</th>
<th>In-Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Note 1: Include a retrieval date (i.e. “Retrieved January 22, 2014, from URL”) only if you believe the source is likely to change over time.

Note 2: If you can’t find a date, or the work doesn’t have one, put “n.d.” (meaning, “no date”) for the publication year.

**Website (with an institution, organization, or company as author)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Example 1</th>
<th>Example 2</th>
<th>In-Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Note 1: Include a retrieval date (i.e. “Retrieved January 22, 2014, from URL”) only if you believe the source is likely to change over time.

Note 2: If you can’t find a date, or the work doesn’t have one, put “n.d.” (meaning, “no date”) for the publication year.

**Website (without an identifiable author) / Wiki / Discussion Board**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Example 1</th>
<th>Example 2</th>
<th>In-Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Note 1: If you can’t find a date, or the work doesn’t have one, put “n.d.” (meaning, “no date”) for the publication year.

Note 2: Include a retrieval date (i.e. “Retrieved January 22, 2014, from URL”) only if you believe the source is likely to change over time; for wikis and discussion boards, it is almost assured that the source will change over time, so do include a retrieval date for these resources.
References


Sobriquet Studios. (2014). *Castle adventure redux* [Playstation 4 game]. Montreal, Canada: Rataxes Ltd.


