Modern Language Association
(MLA) Citation Guide

Introduction

This handout contains information on how to cite resources in the MLA style. All information in this handout is taken from the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th edition (which is found on our Upper Level at call number 808.02 G437 2009). 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. [This guide is also not complete as at November 7th, 2014, so you’ll have to work with what’s here for now!]

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

Meta-Notes:

Places to Cite: When citing in MLA, you must cite your work in a Works Cited list and also in your text.

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

Your in-text citation is an abbreviated reference 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 Works Cited 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 21).

Name-in-sentence method: After the event, Johnson noted the crowd dispersed (21).

Multiple Authors: Citing multiple authors is a pain, but thankfully, it works the same way across all types of resources in MLA. 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: MLA recommends using one space after all concluding punctuation marks (periods, question marks, exclamation points, etc.). MLA uses one space when separating initials in a person’s name (ex. A. A. Milne).

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 online material as if it were print. Many online journals, e-books, government reports, etc. have print clones.
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Examples

**Blog**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Format</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>In-Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Author’s Last Name, First Name Middle Initial (if present), “Title of Blog Post”.  
**Web blog post.** Blog Title. Website Publisher, day month year of blog post. Web.  

Note 1: MLA does not require a URL, but if you want, you can include it at the end of your citation.

**Book (with 1 author or 1 editor)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Example 1</th>
<th>Example 2</th>
<th>In-Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Author’s Last Name, First Name Middle Initial (if present) / Editor’s Last Name,  
First Name Middle Initial (if present), ed. Title of Book. Location: Publisher,  
skinny-jeans set (Reda 89). Predictably, however, the fad was short-lived, and the  
hipster zeitgeist soon moved on (Blatche 12-21). |

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)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Example 1</th>
<th>Example 1</th>
<th>In-Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Author’s Last Name, First Name Middle Initial (if present), and Author’s First Name  
Middle Initial (if present) Last Name / Editor’s Last Name, First Name Middle  
Initial (if present), and Editor’s First Name Middle Initial (if present) Last Name,  
eds. Title of Book. Location: Publisher, publication year. Print. | Stewart, Alistair I., and Lawrence L. Juber. *Roads to Moscow*. Edinburgh, Scotland:  
In Trance Press, 1966. Print. | With Ernst Roehm’s murder, Himmler had eliminated a dangerous rival and also  
cleared any lingering Storm Battalion influence from the Nazi power structure  
Stewart & Juber 20-30). Following Roehm’s murder, Hitler was free to further  
insinuate himself into the German state apparatus (Roth & Meine 100-125). |

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

Note 2: Only the first author/editor follows the “Last Name First Name” naming convention.

**Book (with 3 authors or 3 editors)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Example 1</th>
<th>Example 2</th>
<th>In-Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Author’s Last Name, First Name Middle Initial (if present), Author’s First Name  
Middle Initial (if present) Last Name, and Author’s First Name Middle Initial (if present)  
Last Name / Editor’s Last Name, First Name Middle Initial (if present),  
Editor’s First Name Middle Initial (if present) Last Name, and Editor’s First Name  
Middle Initial (if present) Last Name, eds. Title of Book. Location: Publisher,  
‘Information Literacy’ Mean for Students?* Springfield, IL: CLA Group  
Librarians and Tenure Preparations*. Calgary, Canada: Scholars Press, 2000. Print. | The tenure question has always been a bugaboo of academic librarianship, especially  
when considering the specter of non-credit instruction which librarians perform in  
bulk (Monteith, Herscovitch, & Millard 107). Contributions to teaching ‘information  
literacy’ -- as variously and widely defined as that term is -- also play an important  
role in librarian tenure considerations (Hayman, Loyer, & Cleaver 23). |

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

Note 2: Only the first author/editor follows the “Last Name First Name” naming convention.
Book (with 4 or more authors or 4 or more editors)

**Format:** Author’s Last Name, First Name Middle Initial (if present), **et al.** / Editor’s Author’s Last Name, First Name Middle Initial (if present), **et al., eds.** Book Title. Location: Publisher, publication year. Print.


**In-Text:** 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. 20-40). Likewise, *Stupid Stories from the Set* paints a dispiriting picture of everyday idiocy, with a particular highlight being a PA who confuses his boss’ coffee with paint filler (Smith et al. 87-210).

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

Note 2: Include only the first author/editor, followed by “et al.” (which in Latin means “all others”).

**Book (translated)**

**Format:** Author’s Last Name, First Name Middle Initial (if present). *Book Title. Trans.* Translator First Name Middle Initial (if present) Last Name. Location: Publisher, publication year. **Print.**


**In-Text:** 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, 36-41).

Note 1: With translations, you do not need to include the original publication date in your citation when using MLA.

**Book (reprint)**

**Format:** Author’s Last Name, First Name Middle Initial (if present). *Book Title. Original publication year. Location: Publisher, reprint publication year. Print.**


**In-Text:** 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 50-100).

**Book Chapter (in an edited book)**

**Format:** Author’s Last Name, First Name Middle Initial (if present). “Chapter Title.” *Book Title. Ed.* Editor’s First Name Middle Initial (if present) Last Name. Location: Publisher, publication year. Chapter pages. **Print.**


**In-Text:** 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 420-428).

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**

**Format:** Reviewer’s Last Name, First Name Middle Initial (if present). “Review Title”. *Rev. of Book Title, by* Book Author’s First Name Middle Initial (if present) Last Name. *Journal/Magazine* Title day month year publication: review page number(s). **Print.**


**In-Text:** The reviews were dismal, however, and Kottke quickly went back to his guitar (Pumanti 17-19).

Note 1: If the review journal/magazine doesn’t have a day (or even a month), simply omit that information from your citation.

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**Note 2**

**particular** subject); a statistic is a particular piece of data, often represented graphically.

**Example 1**

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.

**Example 2**

Cosmetic surgery was even making inroads in socioeconomically depressed areas of the city, best epitomized by the ubiquitous *Lose 40 Pounds in 48 Hours* brochure, found throughout Chicago’s south side in the summer of 2001 (Occidental Aesthetics).

**Classical Work (i.e. a religious text)**

**Format:** Work Name. Location: Publisher, publication year. **Print.** Edition/Version.


**In-Text:** The Abrahamic religions, of course, offered guidance on the matter (The Bible, Ezekial 2:8-9).

Note 1: When citing in-text, follow this format: (Work name, Book chapter: verse).

Note 2: If the work has no chapters or verses, simply omit them from your in-text citation; if the work doesn’t have a version, omit the “Edition/Version” section from your full reference.

**Dataset / Statistic**

**Format:** Author’s Last Name, First Name Middle Initial (if present) / Rightsholder. **Dataset / Statistic Title.** Format. Location: Name of Producer, publication year.


**In-Text:** The range of datasets available to the modern consumer is enormous. Consider social registers, now available in England as far back 1779 (Stuckey), or industry datasets, now also widely available (South African Department of Mineral Resources). Visual representations of data are also readily available to the modern data consumer (as an example, [South African Department of Labour]).

Note 1: 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.

**Dataset / Statistic (online)**

**Format:** Author’s Last Name, First Name Middle Initial (if present) / Rightsholder. **Dataset/Statistic Title.** Format. Name of Producer. **Web.** Access date.


**In-Text:** 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: 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.

Note 2: MLA does not require a URL, but if you want, you can include it at the end of your citation.
Dictionary Entry


In-Text: ‘Antidisestablishmentarianism’ is the longest word in the English language (Oxford English Dictionary 23). Language evolves, however, and even words that we once thought silly – ‘defriend’, for instance – can find their way into dictionaries (Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary 101).

Note 1: If the dictionary has an edition, abbreviate the word ‘edition’ with ‘ed.’; if the dictionary does not list an edition, simply omit the “Edition (if present) ed.” section from your citation.

Note 2: If no date can be found, simply put “n.d.” for your date, meaning “no date”.

Dictionary Entry (online)


In-Text: Most people are unaware that the technology company Google took its name from the word ‘googol’, denoting the number (1.0 × 10^100) (dictionary.com).

Note 2: MLA does not require a URL, but if you want, you can include it at the end of your citation.

E-Book

Format: Author’s Last Name, First Name Middle Initial (if present). E-Book Title. Location (if present): Publisher, publication year. Web / Digital File. Access date (if necessary).


In-Text: Research has revealed that vanilla is the most popular flavor of ice cream (Johnson 50). Subsequent research, however, has confirmed that chocolate ice cream is growing in popularity (Manley 10-15).

Note 1: If the e-book does not list a publication location, simply omit that section from your reference.

Note 2: If your e-book is not on the Internet (maybe you bought it from Amazon.com, or streamed it to an e-reader, or...), replace ‘Web’ with ‘Digital File’ and omit an access date.

Encyclopedia Entry / Handbook Entry

Format: Author’s Last Name, First Name Middle Initial (if present). “Article Title.” Encyclopedia / Handbook Title. Ed. Editor’s First Name Middle Initial (if present) Last Name. Edition. Volume(s). Location: Publisher, publication year. Print.


In-Text: Though certain albums retained a more dynamic mastering, the majority of popular recordings were being mastered in a compressed fashion (Gallagher 972-979). With iTunes Radio’s volume ceiling, however, the incentive to hot master was now considerably less than was the case with terrestrial radio (Fagen 243-245).

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 (i.e. World Book could be in its 10th edition, and in that 10th edition, there might be 26 volumes, perhaps one for each letter of the alphabet).

Note 2: If the encyclopedia/handbook does not have an edition, omit the “Edition” section of your citation; if it doesn’t have a volume (or is only 1 volume), omit “Volume(s)” section of your citation; if it doesn’t have an editor, omit the “Ed. Editor’s First Name...” section of your citation.

Note 3: Abbreviate “volumes” to “vols.; abbreviate “edition” to “ed.” Ugh, this citation is a real drag, just stick with it young grasshopper!
### Essay (in a collection or anthology)

**Format:** Author’s Last Name, First Name Middle Initial (if present). “Essay Title.” Collection / Anthology Title. Ed. Editor’s First Name Middle Initial (if present) Last Name. Location: Publisher, year published. Print.


**In-Text:** Though the causes of poverty are multivariate, the inability to recognize one’s own best financial interests are complicating the problem (DeWitt 81).

Note 1: Collections and anthologies will usually have an editor; if yours doesn’t, simply omit the “Ed. Editor’s First Name...” section of your citation.

### Film / Motion Picture

**Format:** Title. Dir. Director’s First Name Middle Initial (if present) Last Night. Original release date. Distributor, year published. Format.


**In-Text:** With Satan vs. Aliens, Hollywood budgets had been taken to a ludicrous extreme (Hudson). The budget of Guns Against Wizardry was larger still (though, in fairness, the CGI work was breathtaking) (Abrahams).

### Government Publication

**Format:** Author’s Last Name, First Name Middle Initial (if present) / Government. Issuing Agency. Publication Title. Location: Publisher, publication year. Print.


**In-Text:** Health authorities mounted a campaign to assure the public that vaccinations were indeed safe (British Columbia 20). By 2003, these campaigns had a wealth of counter-evidence to discredit Wakefield’s claims (Hung 45).

### Image / Photo / Artwork (online)

**Format:** Author’s Last Name, First Name Middle Initial (if present). Image Title. Creation year (if known). Medium. Website Title. Web. Date accessed.


**In-Text:** With the rise of social media, the memorialization of pets was taken to new heights. Consider Dogs on the Couch, which depicts a dog acting in the manner of a human (Cooke). Similarly, Furby Gets Shaved, playfully captures the in-progress shaving of Furby, an impossibly fluffy dog (MacDermott).

Note 1: Oftentimes you won’t be able to locate a creation year for online artwork; simply omit the “Creation year (if known)” portion of your citation if you can’t locate that information.

Note 2: MLA does not require a URL, but if you want, you can include it at the end of your citation.

### Image / Photo / Artwork (online, without author)

**Format:** Image Title. Creation year (if known). Medium. Website title. Web. Date accessed.


**In-Text:** The number of cat image repositories was staggering, though few of the repositories required authorial attribution. For example, the drawing below is effectively anonymous (Autumn Cat By My Door).

Note 1: Oftentimes you won’t be able to locate a creation year for online artwork; simply omit the “Creation year (if known)” portion of your citation if you can’t locate that information.

Note 2: MLA does not require a URL, but if you want, you can include it at the end of your citation.
Journal Article (print and/or digital clone of print)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format:</th>
<th>Author’s Last Name, First Name Middle Initial (if present). “Article Title.” <em>Journal Title</em> volume number.issue number (publication year). Page number(s). <strong>Print.</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Text:</td>
<td>Basket weaving was held in contempt by many of the faculty, but a grassroots, student-led campaign spurred its take-up at the college (Jack, 2007 9). In time, basket weaving became a cornerstone of the curriculum (Jack, 2009 28-40).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note 1: For multiple authors, follow the format established under the Books section of the guide.

Note 2: If your journal does not have an issue number, simply omit that information from your citation.

Journal Article (from a database or online)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format:</th>
<th>Author’s Last Name, First Name Middle Initial (if present). “Article Title.” <em>Journal Title</em> volume number.issue number (publication year). Page number(s). Database / Website. <strong>Web.</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Text:</td>
<td>The device was infrequently used, though select works employed it (Suessadon 35-36).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note 1: If the journal article has a print clone, consider saving yourself some grief and just citing it as a print source.

Magazine Article

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format:</th>
<th>Author’s Last Name, First Name Middle Initial (if present). “Article Title.” <em>Magazine Title</em> publication day (if applicable) month year: page number(s). <strong>Print.</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Text:</td>
<td>Sabermetrics had been developed in the 1980s by Bill James, but prior to 2000, had mostly been used in baseball (Simmons 20-25). Their use in the NBA began to skyrocket when the Houston Rocket’s General Manager, Daryl Morey, began to use them with success (Lowe 79-82).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Magazine Article (online)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format:</th>
<th>Author’s Last Name, First Name Middle Initial (if present). “Article Title.” <em>Magazine Title</em>. Publisher/Website Owner, publication day (if applicable) month year. <strong>Web.</strong> Access date.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Text:</td>
<td>While the match rate of online dating services was increasing, the sites still retained an aura of disreputability, especially as epitomized through their unforgiving billing practices (Richards).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Works Cited


