MLA (Modern Language Association) Style Citations

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Sources
Known as the "MLA Handbook," a synthesis of the rules most important for research papers, omitting some of the scholarly publishing details and options.
Call number: LB2369 .G53 2003 (Reference Desk – 1st Floor)
LB2369 .G53 2003 (Special Collections – 4th Floor)

A comprehensive guide for graduate students, scholars, and professional writers, providing details on copyright, legal issues, and writing theses, dissertations, and scholarly publishing.
Call number: PN147 .G444 1998 (Main Library – 4th Floor)

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Notes
This guide provides examples and the basic guidelines for citing sources following the 6th edition of the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (See Sources above for full citation). This citation style guide illustrates the most common types of citations that student use. The MLA style is generally used for academic writing in the field of humanities.

➢ Parenthetical documentation consists of inserting brief references, placed in parentheses, within the text of your paper identifying the exact part of each work you quote or base your ideas on (page number or section).

➢ Works Cited, At the end of your paper, you must also provide an alphabetical list of "Works Cited" listing the complete citation for each work referred to parenthetically or in the text of your paper or in your parenthetical references.

If you are not sure when you need to include a reference in your paper, consult Chapter 2 of the MLA Handbook that deals with Plagiarism.

Refer to the MLA Handbook for additional examples and detailed explanations concerning the citation style. Always be consistent and use the same citation style throughout your paper.

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Citing Books

General Format
Author#1LastName, FirstName(s), and Author#2FirstName(s), Last name. Title of Book.
Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of publication.

Single Author
Ranganathan, Darshan. Further challenging problems in organizm reaction mechanisms.

Multiple Authors
For works by more than three authors or editors, you may list all as above or only the first followed by a comma and et al.

Book (more than three authors)

Editor(s) as author(s)

Translated work

Multi-volume work

One Volume of a Multivolume Work

Corporate Author
US Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland. Trident Society. The Book of Navy Songs.
Garden City: Doubleday, 1926.

No author named on title page

April 2007
Chapter in a Book or work in an anthology or collection

**General Format**

AuthorLastName, FirstName(s). "Title of Book Chapter or Work in Other Collection." Title of Book, Anthology, or Collection. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of publication. Page numbers.

**Chapter in a book**


**Work in an anthology**

Article or chapter in an edited book


Letters, Plays, Poems, Short Stories


Reprinted Article


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Encyclopedia Article


Journal Article

General Format
Author#1 LastName, FirstName(s), and Author#2 FirstName(s) Lastname. "Title of Article." Title of Journal Volume. Issue-if-needed (Year or Date of Publication): Page numbers.

Examples


April 2007
Magazine Article

General Format
AuthorLastName, FirstName(s). "Title of Article." Title of Magazine Day Month Year of Publication: page-numbers or initial-page+ if non-consecutive.

Consecutive pages; no author named

Non-consecutive pages; author named
Heiling, Jean M. "E-Global Library: The Academic Campus Library Meets the Internet." Searcher June 2001:34+


Newspaper Article

General Format
Author#1LastName, FirstName(s). "Title of Article." Title of Newspaper [City of Publication If Not in Title] Day Month Year of Publication, edition: page-numbers or initial-page+ if non-consecutive.

Consecutive pages

Non-consecutive pages; city not in title
Films and Videos

General Format
Title. Dir. Name of Director. Perf. Performer(s)FirstName(s) Last Name(s). Distributor or
Publisher, year of release.

Film
Curse of Frankenstein. Dir. Terence Fisher. Perf. Christopher Lee, Peter Cushing, Hazel Court,

Video Recording (Videocassette or DVD)


Sound Recordings

General Format
Group-or-Artist-or-ComposerLastName, FirstName. "Title of Song If Relevant." Title of
Recording. Type of recording if not CD. Manufacturer. Year of Issue.

Specific song on a CD
Harmonia Mundi USA, 2004.

Performance on a DVD

April 2007
Interviews

General Format
IntervieweeLastName, FirstName(s). Interview, Type of interview, or "Title of Interview If Given." By InterviewerFirstName LastName if important. Publication information following the appropriate format above: Page numbers if appropriate


Government Publications

General Format
Name of Government. Name of Agency #1. Name of Agency #2. Title. Number of Congress, Session of Congress. Number of publication. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of publication.

Agency as author
Dissertations and Theses

General Format

AuthorLastName, FirstName(s). "Title of Dissertation." Diss. Degree-Granting Institution, Year.

   For theses, replace Diss. with MA Thesis. or MS Thesis.

Unpublished dissertations

Online Journal Articles

*From a Library Subscription Service with Full Text (e.g., Gale Group/InfoTrac, ProQuest)*

Author#1LastName, FirstName(s), and Author#2FirstName(s) Lastname. "Title of Article." Title of Journal Volume.Issue-if-needed (Year or Date of Publication): Page numbers or beginning page-. Title of Database. Name of Service. Subscribing Library or Consortium, Location of Library if Needed to Identify It. Day Month Year of access <URL of database search page>. **Provide in this order, omitting what is not available or relevant.**

*Pagination provided in PDF version*


*Only starting page number provided*


*From a Journal Publisher Site or Database Distributing Journals* (usually reproducing print version in PDF format)

Author#1LastName, FirstName(s), and Author#2FirstName(s) Lastname. "Title of Article." Title of Journal Volume.Issue-if-needed (Year or Date of Publication): Page numbers. Title of Site or Database if Different from Title of Journal. Day Month Year of access <URL>.

*JSTOR article*


<http://www.jstor.org/>.

April 2007
From journal publisher
Goetz, Peggy J. "The Effects of Bilingualism on Theory of Mind Development."

From journal distributor

Journal available only in Web edition (no print equivalent available)
Author#1LastName, FirstName(s), and Author#2FirstName(s) Lastname. "Title of Article."
Title of Journal Volume if given (Year or Date of Publication): Page numbers if available.
Day Month Year of access <URL>.

No pagination

April 2007
Online magazine articles

General Format
Author#1LastName, FirstName(s). "Title of Article." Title of Magazine Day Month Year
of Article or Publication: page-numbers if provided. Day Month Year of access <URL>.

Date of publication from article, not issue; no pages
Harvey, Miles. "Welcome to Armageddon: The White House Hasn't Found Any Weapons of
Mass Destruction Because It's Looking in the Wrong Place." Rolling Stone 23 Mar. 2004. 31

Article in HTML
Jamison, Anne. “Plagiarism, popularity, and the dilemma of artistic worth.” European Journal of

Article in PDF
Online Newspaper or Newswire Articles

General Format
AuthorLastName, FirstName(s). "Title of Article." Title of Newspaper [City of Publication If Not in Title] Day Month Year of Publication, edition: page-numbers or initial-page+ if non-consecutive. Day Month Year of access <URL>.

From Licensed Database

From a Website or Web News Service
AuthorLastName, FirstName(s). "Title of Article." Title of Newspaper or Newswire [City of Publication If Not in Title] Day Month Year of Publication. Day Month Year of access <URL>.

Newswire
e-Books

From a Database Provided by a Library
Author#1 LastName, FirstName(s), and Author#2 FirstName(s) Lastname. Title of Book. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of publication. Day Month Year of access <URL>.


NetLibrary

Published on a Website of electronic texts
Author#1 LastName, FirstName(s), and Author#2 FirstName(s) Lastname. Title of Book. Place of Publication: Publisher, Date of publication. Day Month Year of access <URL>.

An e-text supplier
A WEBSITE or WEB PAGE WITHIN A WEBSITE

General Format
Author Following Applicable Rules Above. "Title: Subtitle of Part of Web Page, if appropriate."
Title: Subtitle: Section of Page if appropriate. Sponsoring/Publishing Agency, If Given.
Additional significant descriptive information. Date of Electronic Publication or other Date, such as Last Updated. Day Month Year of access <URL>.

Internet Site

Web Page

Published by an academic institution

Published by an individual
Carter, Raphael. "'Hermaphrodite Protagonist': The Misreading of Bone Dance."

Website published by corporate author, with sponsors

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MLA Style In-Text Parenthetical Citations

- In parentheses, provide the last name of the author (do no include suffixes such as Jr.) followed by the year of publication. Do not include months or days even if in the reference list. Do not include ed., trans., or comp.

- All references in the text must clearly point to specific sources in the list of works cited.

- Provide the page number(s) or parts after the author and date for quotations and references to a specific part of the work. Page numbers are unnecessary when referring to a whole work.

- For web pages without page numbers, be as specific as possible in order to help your reader find what you are referring to.

- For un-authored works, use the first few words of whatever is the first element of the reference in your reference list, followed by the date and other specifics needed.

- If you have more than one work by authors with the same last name, provide initials (before the last name, not inverted order) for each author in the text and in parenthetical citations.

- If you have more than one work by the same author, provide a word of title in addition to the last name.

- MLA style does not recommend the use of footnotes or endnotes in research papers except to add a content note not appropriate as part of the text of the paper.

Parenthetical examples

**Author’s Name in Text**

Rip has argued this point (112-113).

Other, like Jakobson and Waugh (210-15), hold the opposite point of view.

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Author’s Name in Reference
This point has already been argued (Rip 112-113).
Others hold the opposite point of view (e.g., Jakobson and Waugh 210-15).
Results of Hicks-Coolick, Burnside-Eaton and Peters research indicates that: “Health care
for homeless children is not available on a regular basis and, when available, is not in a
child-friendly environment” (202).

Two references by the Same Author
Some ministers of the Cabinet were critical of the draft (Granatstein, Canada’s War 275).
According to Granatstein, “The events of the war had marked a historic change in Canada’s
place in the world” (“American Influence” 66).

Corporate Author
According to a study sponsored by the National Research Council, the population of China
around 1990 was increasing by more than fifteen million annually (15).

Citing Volume and Page Numbers of a Multivolume Work
The anthology by Lauter and his coeditors contains both Stowe’s “Sojourner Truth, the Libyan
Sibyl” (1: 2530-38) and Gilman’s “The Yellow Wall-Paper” (2: 606-19).
MLA Style Rules Governing Reference Lists

- **General.** List the elements that identify the work's author, title, and publication information. For online publications, you add elements stating where and when you retrieved the document and giving your reader the means to retrieve it again if it is still available.

  - **Punctuation.** Periods are generally used between elements in references. Commas are generally used to separate items within an element, except for colon between location and publisher of books.

  - **Capitalization.** In English-language titles and sub-titles, capitalize the first letter of the first word, the last word, and all principal words (nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and subordinating conjunctions). Do not capitalize articles, prepositions, coordinating conjunctions or the to in infinitives. For titles in other languages see the *MLA Handbook*, 3.8.

  - **Italics vs. underlining.** MLA style recommends always underlining instead of using italics. This applies to titles of books and periodicals and to other elements in your paper where italics might seem appropriate. This is because italics may not be sufficiently distinctive and recognizable for material that is to be graded or edited. If you wish to use italics, ask your instructor.

  - **Heading.** The works-cited list is sometimes referred to as a "bibliography," but MLA style recommends using a more descriptive heading such as "Works Cited," "Works Consulted," or "Annotated Works Cited."

- **Authors.** Provide the names of authors exactly as given on the work (do not abbreviate, and supply additional information in brackets only if it will help your reader). Invert the name only of the first author given for alphabetizing. For two or three authors, provide all names, separated by commas with and before the last (not &). For more than three authors, give only...
the first author, followed by a comma and et al. Or you may list all authors named in the work.

- **Corporate authors.** Corporate authors are groups whose individual members are not identified on the title page. Insert the corporate author as author (before the title) even if identical to the publisher. Corporate names as authors are written out. Omit initial articles in corporate authors' names (a, an, the).

- **Editors.** For an edited book without a named author, treat the editors as authors (name precedes the title, first named in inverted order).

- **Translators.** Following the individual work or volume translated, after a period, state Trans. translator (not inverted).

- **Anonymous works.** If no author or editor is named, begin the entry with the title. Do not use Anon. or Anonymous.

- **Reviewers and review citations.** Give the reviewer's name (if provided) as author, then the title of the review title (if there is one) in quotes, followed by a period, as an article title. Then write: Rev. of (neither underlined nor in quotes) followed by the title of the work reviewed, a comma, the word by and the names of the author(s) of the work. If the author is an editor or translator, substitute ed. or trans. for by.

- **Interviews.** As author, use the person interviewed (name inverted). After the title of the interview (in quotes) and the title of the work in which published (underlined), each followed by a period. Provide the interviewer's name after: By . See *MLA Handbook* 5.8.7 and 5.9.9e.

- **Titles.** Titles follow authors (or editors if no named author). Titles of articles and chapters or other parts of larger works are in double quotation marks. Titles of books, periodicals, and other whole works are underlined. Separate titles with periods (inside final quotations.

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and not underlined). Provide the full title of books and other works, including leading articles (a, an, the), except in titles of periodicals such as journals or newspapers (e.g., New York Times). Use a colon and space to separate a title from a sub-title unless the title ends with ?, !, or –.

➢ **Publication information:**

  - Publishers' names. Omit the articles (a, an, the), business abbreviations (e.g., Co., Inc.), and descriptive words (Books, House, Press, Publishers). Shorten "university" to U and "university press" to UP. Omit first names and initials in publishers (e.g., Norton, not W.W.Norton; Wiley not John Wiley). Use standard abbreviations as in MLA Handbook 7.4. Use commonly accepted abbreviations, like GPO, UMI.

  - Place of publication. If several cities are listed, provide only the first. For cities outside the United States, provide the abbreviation for the country if it might be ambiguous for your reader (Cambridge, Eng. to distinguish from Cambridge).

  - Publication date not provided. If there is no date available, enter (n.d.).

➢ **Periodical elements:**

  - Volume, issue, and page numbers. For journals with continuous pagination throughout a volume, follow the journal title (underlined) by the volume number, the year of publication (in parentheses), a colon, and the inclusive page numbers. If each issue begins with page 1, add a period and the issue number directly after the volume number: 14.2 If there are no issue numbers and each issue begins with page 1, designate the issue by including the month or season in parentheses before the year of publication: (May 1992). For annual publications where the year is the volume number, state Annual in place of the volume number.

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- **Issue dates and page numbers in newspaper and magazine articles.** Follow the title of the publication by the date of the issue in DD Month YYYY order, without parentheses. For newspapers, provide the edition, preceded by a comma, and then the section if relevant. Follow this publication information by a colon and a space. Provide the inclusive page numbers if the article appears on consecutive pages. If the article begins on one page and then skips to another page, provide only the initial page followed by +: 17+ or C6+. Do not include volume or issue numbers even if provided.

- **Electronic publications.** For online publications, follow the rules for print insofar as possible. For electronic sources not accessed through the Web, see the *MLA Handbook*, 5.9.5-9. For web-based publications, provide as applicable, in this sequence:

  1. If a print version is referred to, provide a complete citation as you would for the print version.

  2. Provide information about the electronic source used, such as the title of the site (underlined), the date of electronic publication of latest update, the name of any sponsoring organization for the site, an editor's name, a version number, and similar information. If no print equivalent exists, provide only the information about the electronic resource.

  3. Provide the date you accessed the document in day Month year format, followed by a period.

  4. Give the URL immediately following the date of access. Enclose URLs in angle brackets < > and place a period after the end bracket. If a URL must be broken, break it only after a slash /, and never introduce hyphens. Include the initial http:// or other protocol identifier.
5. The purpose for giving the URL is to allow your reader to retrieve the document again. One of the following may therefore be preferable to providing a long, complicated URL:

- If the URL is very long, complicated, or unique to a specific access, provide the URL of the search page from which your reader could retrieve the document (as in JSTOR articles).

- If the best way to tell your reader how to find the document is to tell how to navigate from a URL, enter the word Path: and follow it by the sequence of links to click on from a stable, reasonable URL. Separate the links with semi-colon.