

APA Reference Guide



What is APA format? The American Psychological Association (APA) has developed standards for paper preparation. These standards include rules for how your research paper should look and how your references should appear within the text and at the end of the paper.

What is a reference? When you write a research paper you must make a reference to everything in your paper that is not your own original idea. When you do this in the body of your paper, this is often called a parenthetical or in text citation. You should also include a **reference list** at the end of your paper. This list will appear in alphabetical order and include the information required to access everything you consulted when writing your paper (e.g. articles, books, websites, etc.).

What is in this guide? This guide includes sample citations for the following types of media: **Electronic**, **Print**, and **Audiovisual Resources**. Carefully observe the punctuation and capitalization in each sample. You should *not* indent the first line of a citation, but *should* indent the second line and each succeeding line by five spaces. Except for web pages & web sites, we do not recommend including a URL in your citation. Instead, include the name of the database where you accessed the material and the last date of access.

What is not in this guide? This guide includes examples for most commonly consulted resources. For additional samples or for parenthetical references (these appear within the text of your research paper), consult the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* located in the MCTC Library reference collection at BF 76.7 .P83 2001, the *APA Style Guide to electronic References*, (access the PDF at <http://www.minneapolis.edu/library/pages/citing.htm>), or visit www.apastyle.org. The following websites might help you prepare a citation: <http://citationmachine.net> or www.calvin.edu/library/knightcite. **Always** proofread citations created by databases & electronic citation machines for accuracy.

What about Personal Communications? The following is an excerpt from *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*:

“Because they do not provide recoverable data, personal communications are not included in the reference list. Cite personal communications in text only. Give the initials as well as the surname of the communicator, and provide as exact a date as possible.” (2001, p.214).

Electronic Resources

Web Page

When citing a Web page, try to get as much traditional citation information as possible. In addition, you will need to include the Web page address (URL) of the specific web page you are citing. If the URL is very long, use the URL of the main web site. At minimum, a citation for a web page should include a title, date of publication and/or access, and the URL. If no publication date is available, note that with (n.d.) in place of where you would cite the date.

Author's Last Name, Author's First Initial [if no author, Name of organization sponsoring website].

(Date). *Title of the web page*. Retrieved [access date], from URL

Bendersky, Y. (2004, August 18). *India: a Rising Power*. Retrieved November 29, 2007, from Power and Interest News Report's website: <http://www.pinr.com>

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). (n.d.). *Pet Shops: No bargain for animals*.

Retrieved February 6, 2007, from [http://www.helpinganimals.com/](http://www.helpinganimals.com/Factsheet/files/FactsheetDisplay.asp?ID=36)

[Factsheet/files/FactsheetDisplay.asp?ID=36](http://www.helpinganimals.com/Factsheet/files/FactsheetDisplay.asp?ID=36)

Use n.d. when publication date is not provided.

Article from an online reference resource (non-encyclopedia)

Author's Last Name, Author's First Initial. (Date). Title of article. *Title of Reference Resource, Volume, Page Numbers of Article* (if available). Retrieved [Month date, year], from [Name of database].

Katel, P. (2005, December 16). Minimum wage. *CQ Researcher, 15*, 1053-1076. Retrieved November 29, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online database.

Transgender rights. (2002, May 24). *Issues & Controversies on File*. Retrieved November 29, 2007, from Issues & Controversies @ FACTS.com database.

McKinley, B. M. (2002). Abortion does not violate human rights. In *Abortion*. San Diego: Greenhaven Press. Retrieved November 29, 2007, from Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center database.

Article from an online encyclopedia

Author's Last Name, Author's First Initial. (Date). Title of Article. In *Title of encyclopedia*. Place of Publication: Publisher. Retrieved [Month date, year], from [Name of database].

Minimum Wage. (2005). In *West's Encyclopedia of American Law*. Detroit: Gale. Retrieved November 29, 2007, from Gale Virtual Reference Library database.

Periodical article from an online database

Author's Last Name, Author's First Initial. (Date). Title of magazine Article. *Title of Periodical, Volume(Issue)*, page numbers. Retrieved [Month date, year], from [Name of database].

Delves, D. P. (2004, July/Aug). How Much Pay . . . for How Much Performance? *Across the Board*, 14-18. Retrieved November 29, 2007, from MasterFILE Premier database.

Levy, P. (2004, August 4). Minneapolis gets top shelf in literacy study; St. Paul is ranked no. 16, but experts say national report's books don't add up. *Star Tribune*, p. B1. Retrieved November 29, 2007, from ProQuest: Newspapers database.

Kifner, J. (1969, Dec. 5). Police in Chicago slay 2 panthers. *New York Times*, p. 1. Retrieved February 6, 200, from ProQuest: Historical Newspapers The New York Times database.

Periodical article from an online database with more than one author

Author's Last Name, Author's First Initial, 2nd Author's Last Name, 2nd Author's First Initial, & 3rd Author's Last Name, 3rd Author's First Initial. (Date). Title of magazine Article. *Title of Periodical, Volume(Issue)*, page numbers. Retrieved [Month date, year], from [Name of database].

Declercq, E., Sakala, C., Corry, M., & Applebaum, S. (2007, Fall). Listening to mothers II: Report of the second national U.S. survey of women's childbearing experiences. *Journal of Perinatal Education*, 16(4), 9-14. Retrieved February 15, 2008, from Alt HealthWatch database.

Kull, S., Ramsay, C. & Lewis, E. (2003/2004). Misperceptions, the media, and the Iraq War. *Political Science Quarterly*, 118(4), 569-598. Retrieved November 29, 2007, from Academic Search Premier database.

E-book

Author's Last Name, Author's First Initial. (Date). *Title of electronic book*. Place of Publication: Publisher. Retrieved [Month date, year], from [Name of database].

Gold, J. R., & G. Revill. (2004). *Representing the environment*. New York: Routledge. Retrieved November 29, 2007, from NetLibrary.

Print Resources

Book with a single author

Author's Last Name, Author's First Initial. (Date). *Complete title of work*. Place of Publication: Name of Publisher.

Gibaldi, Joseph. (2003). *MLA handbook for writers of research papers* (6th ed.). New York: Modern Language Association of America.

Book with two to six authors

Author's Last Name, Author's First Initial, & Second Author's Last Name, Second Author's First Initial. (Date). *Complete title of work*. Place of Publication: Name of Publisher.

Herman, E. S., & Chomsky, N. (1988). *Manufacturing consent: The political economy of the mass media*. New York: Pantheon Books.

Book with translator

Author's Last Name, Author's First Initial. (Date). *Complete title of work* (Translator's First /Middle Initials and Last Name, Trans.) Place of Publication: Name of Publisher. (Original work published ____)

Korn, F. & Eichhorst, S. (2006). Born in the Big Rains: A Memoir of Somalia and Survival. (Tobe Levin. Trans.) New York: Feminist Press at the City University of New York. (Original work published 2004)

Book with an editor

Editor's Last Name, Editor's First Initial. (Ed.). (Date). *Complete title of work*. Place of Publication:
Name of Publisher.

Davis, C. M. (Ed.) (2004). *Complementary therapies in rehabilitation* (2nd ed.). Thorofare, NJ: SLACK.

Article in an encyclopedia or other reference book

Author's Last Name, Author's First Initial. (Date). Title of Article. In *Title of encyclopedia or reference book* (Vol. XX, pp. xxx-xxx). Place of Publication: Name of Publisher.

Bedau, H. A. (1998). Civil Disobedience. In *Encyclopedia of applied ethics*. (Vol.2, pp. xxx-xxx). San Diego: Academic Press.

Randall, M. (2000). Barbara Kingsolver 1955-. *Contemporary literary criticism*. (Vol. 130, pp. 70-72). Detroit: Gale Group.

Periodical article

Author's Last Name, Author's First Initial. (Date). Title of article. *Title of publication*, Volume(Issue), page numbers of article.

Roddick, A. (2004, July-August). There is a human being behind that label. *Ecologist*, 23-27.

Frye, R. V. (2004). Therapeutic communities: A therapeutic bridge. *Journal of psychoactive drugs* 36(2), 265-271.

Madrick, J. (2004, August 5). If higher education is so important to the economy, why is its financing being cut more than that of other large programs? *New york times* (late ed.), p. C2.

Precede newspaper articles pages numbers with p. or pp.

Periodical article from an online database with more than six authors

Wolchick, S. A., West, S. G., Sandler, I. N., Tein, J., Coatsworth, D., Lengua, L., et al. (2000). An experimental evaluation of theory-based mother and mother-child programs for children of divorce. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 68, 843-856.

Resources with more than 6 authors will end with et al. after the sixth author

Audiovisual Resources

🗣️ Motion Picture

Name(s) of primary contributors (function). (Date). *Title*. Country of origin: Movie studio.

Collins, M. (Producer/Writer), & Wolfinger, K. (Director). (2002). *Bioterror* [Motion picture]. United States: a Nova production by the New York Times/Granada Factuals USA, Lone Wolf Pictures, Inc., for WGBH/Boston.

Achbar, M., Wintonick, P., & Symansky, A. (Producers). (2002). *Manufacturing consent: Noam Chomsky and the media*. United States: Zeitgeist Films. (Original released in 1992).

🎧 Audio Recording

Last Name, First Initial (Speaker). (Date). Title of track (if applicable). *Title of album* [Medium]. Place of publication: Name of publisher.

Babbich, P. (Producer/Host). (2001). *Ballot access: Race and the U.S. electoral system*. [Cassette]. Oakland, CA: National Radio Project.

Hill, J. (1990). *Don't mourn—organize!: Songs of labor songwriter Joe Hill* [CD]. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian/Folkways.

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Reference

American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Fifth Edition*. Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association (APA).