HOW TO CITE REFERENCES USING APA STYLE

This guide provides examples of the American Psychological Association (APA) citation style, which is used primarily in the social sciences. For additional examples, consult the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th edition, located in the Reference area of the library (REF BF76.7 .P83 2010). Alternatively, consult Web pages accessed from the Library home page (click on “Citation Help” under the “Popular Links” heading).

REFERENCE LIST

APA style requires that an alphabetical listing of the sources actually used and cited be placed at the end of research papers and reports. Although reference entries below are single-spaced due to space restrictions, APA style references should be double-spaced. Some of the general features of APA style are:

- The first line of each citation begins flush left, and the second and subsequent lines are indented five spaces (this is called a “hanging indent”).
- Only initials are used for authors’ first and middle names. Names are inverted: Miller, J. K.
- Single spaces separate each element.
- Citations are arranged alphabetically by authors’ last names; works by the same author are in alphabetical order. If the author is unknown, alphabetization is by the first word of the title.
- Only the first letter of the first word of the title of books and articles is capitalized, with the exception of proper nouns. The first word of subtitles (after a colon) is also capitalized.

Books

- Book titles are italicized.
- The city and state in which the publisher is located are included, using United States postal codes to abbreviate states. However, the state (and/or country) is omitted for major cities and for university presses that include the name of the state. If more than one location is listed, the first is used.

No author

One author

Two or more authors (up to six authors)

Book other than the first edition

- *Other abbreviations include* Rev ed., 3rd ed., etc.

Society, association, or institution as author and publisher

Edited book

- *For multiple editors, use abbreviation* Eds.

Article or chapter in an edited book

Periodical Articles

- The title of the periodical is italicized, but the title of the article is not.
- The first letter of each word of the periodical title is capitalized (except for prepositions and articles).
- The volume number of the periodical is italicized.

Scholarly journal that numbers pages continuously throughout the annual volume

Scholarly journal that paginates each issue separately

Magazine article


Newspaper article

Encyclopedia Articles

Signed article

Unsigned article

Audiovisual materials

- Persons primarily responsible for the item are named; their roles are identified in parentheses after their names.
- The medium, placed in brackets, is supplied after the title. Media designations include [Audio recording], [CD], and [Motion picture] for film, videotape, and DVD.

Motion Picture

Compact disc

Electronic Publications

- No retrieval date is needed.
- To the extent possible, information is provided as for a printed source.
- Including database information in citations is not necessary because databases change over time.
- Periods are omitted at the end of an Internet address, if that is the last element in the citation.

Electronic book

Article from online periodical

Electronic version of a journal article with DOI

Electronic version of a journal article when DOI is not available
Electronic version of newspaper article

Non-periodical Web document or Web page

IN-TEXT PARENTHEtical CITATIONS

APA style requires the use of parenthetical citations within the text of a paper to document quotes, paraphrases, summaries, and other sources used. These references refer to entries on the References list at the end of the paper and take the place of footnotes or endnotes. All authors cited in the text must appear in the references list, and all authors listed must have been cited in the text.

Basic form: Include author’s surname (if not already mentioned in the text), and the date:
Rogers (1994) compared reaction times...
A recent study of reaction times (Rogers, 1994) found...

Quotation. Page number, preceded by p., appears in parentheses after the quotation:
Kaye concludes that Der Ring des Nibelungen is “the work of a tortured genius” (p. 98).

Two authors. Use both:
Research by Wellek and Warren (1992) supports...
...(Wellek & Warren, 1992)...

Three to five authors. Include all authors the first time mentioned; in subsequent entries include first author only, followed by et al. :
(Kernis, Cornell, Sun, Berry, & Harlow, 1993)
(Kernis et al., 1993)

Corporate author. Use full name the first time; abbreviate later:
...(National Institute of Mental Health [NIMH], 1991)...
...(NIMH, 1991)...

No author. Punctuate the first title words as in the reference list:
...on free care (“Study finds,” 1982, p. 115)...

Multiple works:
Several studies (Balda, 1980; Kamil, 1988; Pepperbert and Funk, 1990)...

Electronic sources:
If possible, cite an electronic document the same as any document by using the author-date style.
Kenneth (2000) explained...

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