

APA Citation Style

APA citation style refers to the rules and conventions established by the American Psychological Association for documenting sources used in a research paper.

There are two major components to the APA author-date style – the in-text author-date citation at the appropriate place within the text of the document, e.g. (Smith, 2010), and the detailed reference list at the end of the document. All in-text citations must have a corresponding reference list entry, and the converse applies for reference list entries.

In-text citing: General notes

In APA style, in-text citations are placed within sentences and paragraphs so that it is clear what information is being quoted or paraphrased and whose information is being cited.

1. Insert an in-text citation – when your work has been influenced by someone else's work, for example:

- when you directly quote someone else's work;
- when you paraphrase someone else's work.

2. The in-text citation consists of:

– author surname(s) (in the order that they appear on the actual publication), followed by the year of publication of the source that you are citing;

– include page or paragraph numbers for direct quotes, and for paraphrasing where appropriate

3. The in-text citation is placed immediately after the text which refers to the source being cited.

4. If quoting or citing a source which is cited within another, secondary reference, mention the source with the secondary reference details: e.g. Smith (as cited in Jones, 2010). Only the secondary reference should be included in the reference list.

In-text citations

Example	In-text citation
Single author	<p>...This was seen in an Australian study (Conger, 1979).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Conger (1979) has argued that...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">In 1979, Conger conducted a study which showed that...</p>
Two authors	<p>...(Davidson & Harrington, 2002).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Davidson and Harrington (2002)...</p>
Three to five authors	<p><i>Cite all names and publication year the first time, thereafter only the first name followed by et al.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">The first time cited:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">...(Brown, Smith, & Jones, 1990). Brown, Smith, and Jones (1990)...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">thereafter:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">...(Brown et al., 1990). Brown et al. (1990)...</p>
Six or more authors	<p><i>Cite only the surname of the first author followed by et al. and the year from the first citation.</i></p> <p><i>Provide all six author names (followed by et al. if more authors) in the reference list.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">.... (Jones et al., 2003). Jones et al. (2003)...</p>
Different authors: same surname	<p><i>Add initials to the authors names to distinguish them</i></p> <p>P.R. Smith (1923) to distinguish from S. Smith (1945) ... (Jones & S.A. Brown, 1961) to distinguish from (W.O. Brown & Smith, 1985).</p>
Multiple authors: ambiguous citations	<p><i>If a multiple (3+) author citation abbreviated with et al. looks the same as another in text citation similarly shortened, add enough surnames to make a distinction.</i></p> <p>...(Brown, Smith, et al., 1998) to distinguish from (Brown, Taylor, et al., 1998).</p>
Multiple works: by same author	<p><i>When cited together give the author's surname once followed by the years of each publication, which are separated by a comma.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">... (Stairs, 1992, 1993). Stairs (1992, 1993)...</p>
Multiple works by same author AND same year	<p><i>If there is more than one reference by an author in the same year, suffixes (a, b, c, etc.) are added to the year.</i></p> <p><i>Allocation of the suffixes is determined by the order of the references in the reference list.</i></p> <p><i>Suffixes are also included in the reference list, and these references are listed alphabetically by title.</i></p> <p><i>If cited together, list by suffix as shown below.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Stairs (1992b)... later in the text ... (Stairs, 1992a). ...(Stairs, 1992a, 1992b).</p>
If author name is given as “anonymous”	<p><i>Use Anonymous as the author's name.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">... (Anonymous, 1997).</p>
Unknown author	<p><i>Give the first few words of the title.</i></p> <p><i>If the title is from an article or a chapter use double quotation marks. If the title is from a periodical, book brochure or report then use italics.</i></p> <p>...the worst election loss in the party's history (“This is the end,” 1968).</p>

<p>Corporate or group of authors</p>	<p><i>If organization is recognized by abbreviation, cite the first time as follows:</i></p> <p>... (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare [AIHW], 2005)</p> <p>thereafter</p> <p>... (AIHW, 2005).</p> <p><i>If abbreviation not widely known, give the name in full every time:</i></p> <p>... (Australian Research Council, 1996).</p>
<p>Multiple references</p>	<p><i>List the citations in alphabetical order and separate with semicolons.</i></p> <p>... (Burst, 1995; Turner & Hooch, 1982; Zane, 1976).</p>
<p>Citing specific parts of a source</p>	<p><i>For a direct quote the page number(s) must be given. Indicate page, chapter, figure, table, etc. as specifically as possible. Use accepted abbreviations, i.e. p. for page, para. for paragraph.</i></p> <p>As one writer put it “the darkest days were still ahead” (Weston, 1988, p. 45).</p> <p>Weston (1988) argued that “the darkest days were still ahead” (p. 45).</p> <p>This theory was put forward by Smith (2005, chap. 7)</p>
<p>Quote from an electronic source</p>	<p><i>Where page numbers are not provided use paragraph numbers.</i></p> <p>...(Sturt, 2001, para. 2)</p>
<p>Personal communication: for email and other “unrecoverable” data”</p>	<p><i>Personal communications are not included in the reference list.</i></p> <p>... (R. Smith, personal communication, January 28, 2002). R. Smith (personal communication, January 28, 2002)...</p>
<p>Citation of a secondary source (i.e. a source referred to in another publication)</p>	<p><i>In the reference list you ONLY include the details of the source you actually read - not the original source.</i></p> <p><i>In the example below, the original source would be Farrow (1968), which you saw cited in a paper by Ward and Decan (1988).</i></p> <p>... (Farrow, 1968, as cited in Ward & Decan, 1988). Farrow (1968, as cited in Ward & Decan, 1988) ...</p> <p>Ward and Decan (1988) cited Farrow (1968) as finding...</p>

Reference List

References cited in the text of a research paper must appear in a Reference List or bibliography. This list provides the information necessary to identify and retrieve each source.

Books and Book Chapters

The most basic entry for a book consists of the author's name, year of publication, the title of the book, publisher city, and the publisher name.

Last Name, F. (Year Published). *Book Title*. Publisher City: Publisher Name.

Type of book	Reference list example
One author	
Author, A.A. (year of publication). <i>Title of book</i> . Location of publication: Publisher.	Mook, D. (2004). <i>Classic experiments in psychology</i> . Westport, CT: Greenwood.
Two or more authors	
Author, A.A., Author, B.B., & Author, C.C. (year of publication). <i>Title of book</i> . Location of publication: Publisher.	Beck, C.A. J., & Sales, B.D. (2001). <i>Family mediation: Facts, myths, and future prospects</i> . Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
If more than six authors are cited, abbreviate the seventh author and any others that follow with "et al."	
Corporate author	
Collective author. (year of publication). <i>Title of book</i> . Location of publication: Publisher.	American Psychological Association. (1972). <i>Ethical standards of psychologists</i> . Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
Chapters in edited books	
Author, A.A., & Author, B.B. (year of publication). Title of chapter. A. Editor & B. Editor (Eds.), <i>Title of book</i> (pp. xxx-xxx). Location of publication: Publisher.	Ramsey, J.K., & McGrew, W.C. (2005). Object play in great apes: studies in nature and captivity. A.D. Pellegrini & P.K. Smith (Eds.), <i>The nature of play: Great apes and humans</i> (pp. 89-112). New York, NY: Guilford Press.
Edited book	
Editor, A.A., & Editor, B.B. (Eds.). (year of publication). <i>Title of book</i> (edition). Location of publication: Publisher.	Lee-Chai, A.Y., & Bargh, J.A. (Eds.). (2001). <i>The use and abuse of power: Multiple perspectives on the causes of corruption</i> . New York: Psychology Press.
Electronic book	
Author, A.A., & Author, B.B. (year of publication). <i>Title of book</i> (edition). Retrieved from URL	Marlatt, G.A., & Witkiewitz, K. (Eds.). (2009). <i>Addictive behaviors: new readings on etiology, prevention, and treatment</i> . Retrieved from http://www.apa.org/pubs/databases/psycbooks/index.aspx
Author, A.A., & Author, B.B. (year of publication). <i>Title of book</i> (edition). doi:xxxx	Anderson, C.A., Gentile, D.A., & Buckley, K.E. (2007). <i>Violent video game effects on children and adolescents: Theory, research and public policy</i> . doi:10.1093/acprof:oso/9780195309836.001.0001.
Editor, A.A., & Editor, B.B. (Eds.). (year of publication). <i>Title of book</i> (edition). Retrieved from URL	Bennett, P. (2006). <i>Abnormal and clinical psychology: an introductory textbook</i> (2nd ed.). Retrieved from http://www.eplib.com/
Editor and author	
Author, A.A., & Author, B.B. (year of publication). <i>Title of book</i> (edition). A.A. Editor, & B.B. Editor (Eds.) Location of publication: Publisher.	Plath, S. (2000). <i>The unabridged journals</i> . K.V. Kukil (Ed.). New York, NY: Anchor.

Author and translator	
Author, A.A., & Author, B.B. (year of publication). <i>Title of book</i> (edition). (A.A. Translator, & B.B. Translator, Trans.). Location of publication: Publisher.	Laplace, P.S. (1951). <i>A philosophical essay on probabilities</i> . (F.W. Truscott & F.L. Emory, Trans.). New York, NY: Dover. (Original work published 1814).
Multivolume edition	
Editor, A.A., & Editor, B.B. (Eds.). (year of publication). <i>Title of book</i> (Vols.). Location of publication: Publisher.	Wiener, P. (Ed.). (1973). <i>Dictionary of the history of ideas</i> (Vols. 1-4). New York, NY: Scribner's.
No author	
<i>Title of book</i> (edition). (year of publication). Location of publication: Publisher.	<i>Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary</i> (10th ed.). (1993). Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster.
Specific edition of a book later than the first	
Helfer, M.E., Kempe, R.S., & Krugman, R.D. (1997). <i>The battered child</i> (5th ed.). Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.	
Encyclopedias or dictionaries and entries in an encyclopedia	
Author, A.A., & Author, B.B. or A. Editor & B. Editor (Eds.). (year of publication). <i>Title</i> . Location of publication: Publisher.	
Encyclopedia set or dictionary	
Sadie, S., & Tyrrell, J. (Eds.). (2002). <i>The new Grove dictionary of music and musicians</i> (2nd ed., Vols. 1-29). New York, NY: Grove.	
Encyclopedia article	
Kinni, T.B. (2004). Disney, Walt (1901-1966): Founder of the Walt Disney Company. In <i>Encyclopedia of Leadership</i> (Vol. 1, pp. 345-349). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.	
Works of the same year, same author	
McLuhan, M. (1970a). <i>Culture is our business</i> . New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.	
McLuhan, M. (1970b). <i>From cliché to archetype</i> . New York, NY: Viking Press.	

Scholarly Articles

The most basic entry for a journal consists of the author name(s), year published, article title, journal name, volume number, and page numbers.

Last Name, F. (Year Published). Article Title. Journal name, Volume number, Page Numbers.

Type of article	Reference list example
Single author	
	Mellers, B.A. (2000). Choice and the relative pleasure of consequences. <i>Psychological Bulletin</i> , 126, 910-924.
Two to six authors	
	Bechara, A., Damasio, H., & Damasio A.R. (2000). Emotion, decision making and the orbitofrontal cortex. <i>Cerebral Cortex</i> , 10(3), 295-307.
If more than six authors are cited, abbreviate the seventh author and any others that follow with "et al."	
Where a doi is available	
Author, A.A., & Author, B.B. (year of publication). Title of article. <i>Journal Title</i> , volume number(issue number), page-page. doi:xxxx	Hirtle, P.B. (2008, July-August). Copyright renewal, copyright restoration, and the difficulty of determining copyright status. <i>D-Lib Magazine</i> , 4(7/8). doi:10.1045/july2008-hirtle
Online article	
Author, A.A., & Author, B.B. (year of publication). Title of article. <i>Journal Title</i> , volume number(issue number), page-page. Retrieved from URL	Trankle, S.A., & Haw, J. (2009). Predicting Australian health behaviour from health beliefs. <i>Electronic Journal of Applied Psychology</i> , 5(2), 9-17. Retrieved from http://ojs.lib.swin.edu.au/index.php/ejap/
Conference Proceedings	
Presenter, A. A. (Year, Month). <i>Title of paper or poster</i> . Paper or poster session presented at the meeting of Organisation Name, Location.	Jodell, F., Russell, F., Tepper, K., Todd, P. & Zahora, T. (2009, September). <i>Joined at the hip: partnerships between librarians and learning skills advisers</i> . Poster session presented at the International Congress of Medical Librarianship, Brisbane.
Article in collection	
	Bjork, R.A. (1989). Retrieval inhibition as an adaptive mechanism in human memory. In H. L. Roediger III, & F. I. M. Craik (Eds.), <i>Varieties of memory & consciousness</i> (pp. 309-330). Hillsdale, NJ: Erlbaum.

Magazine Articles

The most basic entry for a magazine consists of the author name(s), publication date, article title, magazine name, volume number, and page numbers.

Last Name, F. (Publication Date). Article Title. Magazine Name, Volume Number, Page Numbers.

Type of article	Reference list example
Online article	
Online Author, A.A. (year, month of publication). Title of article. <i>Magazine Title</i> , volume number(issue number), page-page. Retrieved from URL	Novotney, A. (2010, January). Integrated care is nothing new for these psychologists. <i>Monitor on Psychology</i> , 41(1). Retrieved from www.apa.org/monitor
Print article	
Author, A. A. (year, month of publication). Title of article. <i>Magazine Title</i> , volume number(issue number), page-page.	Wilson, D. S., & Wilson, E. O. (2007, November 3). Survival of the selfless. <i>New Scientist</i> , 196(2628), 42-46.

Newspaper Articles

The most basic entry for a newspaper consists of the author name(s), publication date, article title, newspaper name, and page numbers.

Last Name, F. (Publication Date). Article Title. Newspaper name, Page Numbers.

Type of article	Reference list example
Online article	
Author, A.A. (year, month date of publication). Title of article. <i>Newspaper Title</i> . Retrieved from URL	Gadher, D. (2007, September 2). Leap in gambling addiction forecast. <i>The Sunday Times</i> . Retrieved from http://www.timesonline.co.uk
Print article	
Author, A.A. (year, month date of publication). Title of article. <i>Newspaper Title</i> , pp. page-page.	Packham, B. (2010, January 18). Bullies to show concern: schools to try Euro method that lets thugs off the hook. <i>Herald-Sun</i> . pp. 6.
Newspaper article, no author, in print	
Title of article. (year, month date of publication). <i>Newspaper Title</i> , pp. page-page.	As prices surge, Thailand pitches OPEC-style rice cartel. (2008, May 5). <i>The Wall Street Journal</i> , p. A9.

Generic webpage

Author, A.A., & Author, B.B. (Year of publication). Title of work. Retrieved from URL

Use n.d. (no date) where no publication date is available.

Where no author is available, transfer the organisation behind the website, or the title, to the author space.

Type of resource	Reference list example
Article in electronic journal	
Cooper, A., & Humphreys, K. (2008). The uncertainty is killing me: Self-triage decision making and information availability. <i>E-Journal of Applied Psychology</i> , 4(1). Retrieved from http://ojs.lib.swin.edu.au/index.php/ejap/	
Article from an electronic source	
Zhao, S., Grasmuck, S., & Martin, J. (2008). Identity construction on Facebook: Digital empowerment in anchored relationships. <i>Computers in Human Behavior</i> , 24(5), 1816-1836. doi:10.1016/j.chb.2008.02.012	
Electronic books	
Davis, J. (n.d.). <i>Familiar birdsongs of the Northwest</i> . Available from http://www.powells.com/cgi-bin/biblio?inkey=1-9780931686108-0	
Article from an online encyclopedia	
Containerization. (2008). In <i>Encyclopædia Britannica</i> . Retrieved May 6, 2008 from http://search.eb.com	
Webpage: association as author	
Australian Psychological Society. (2010). <i>Bushfire resources: Psychological preparedness and recovery</i> . Retrieved from http://www.psychology.org.au/bushfires/	
No publication date	
De Huff, E. W. (n.d.). <i>Taytay's tales: Traditional Pueblo Indian tales</i> . Retrieved from http://digital.library.upenn.edu/women/dehuff/taytay/taytay.html	

Thesis and Dissertations

Type of resource	Reference list example
Dissertation in print	
Author, A.A. (Year of publication). <i>Title of thesis or dissertation</i> (Doctoral dissertation or Master's thesis). Retrieved from Name of database. (Accession or Order no.)	Bozeman, A. Jr. (2007). <i>Age of onset as predictor of cognitive performance in children with seizure disorders</i> . (Doctoral dissertation). Retrieved from Proquest Dissertations and Theses. (UMI 3259752)
Dissertation, accessed online	
Author, A.A. (Year of publication). <i>Title of thesis or dissertation</i> (Unpublished Doctoral dissertation or Master's thesis). Name of Institution, Location.	Imber, A. (2003). <i>Applicant reactions to graduate recruitment and selection</i> . (Unpublished Doctoral dissertation.) Monash University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

Other resources

Type of resource	Reference list example
Blog entry and online discussion boards and lists	
Author, A. A. (Year, Month Day). Title of post [description of form]. Retrieved from http://www.xxxx	Peele, S. (2010, January 10). The most important psychology article of the 21st century: the U.S. isn't discovering how mental illness works, it's spreading it worldwide [Web log post]. Retrieved from http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/addiction-insociety/201001/the-most-important-psychology-article-the-21stcentury
Professional Web site	
National Renewable Energy Laboratory. (2008). <i>Biofuels</i> . Retrieved May 6, 2008, from http://www.nrel.gov/learning/re_biofuels.html	
Data set from a database	
Bloomberg L.P. (2008). <i>Return on capital for Hewitt Packard 12/31/90 to 09/30/08</i> . Retrieved Dec. 3, 2008, from Bloomberg database.	
Central Statistics Office of the Republic of Botswana. (2008). <i>Gross domestic product per capita 06/01/1994 to 06/01/2008</i> [statistics]. Available from CEIC Data database.	
Entire Web site	
Witchcraft In Europe and America is a site that presents the full text of many essential works in the literature of witchcraft and demonology (http://www.witchcraft.psmmedia.com/).	
Lecture notes	
Author, A.A. (Year of publication). <i>Title of notes</i> . Unpublished manuscript, unit code, University, City, Country.	McGrath, B. (2007). <i>Lecture 7: Arrays and matrices</i> [PowerPoint slides]. Unpublished manuscript, ENG1060, Monash University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. McGrath, B. (2007). <i>Lecture 7: Arrays and matrices</i> [PowerPoint slides]. Retrieved from ENG1060, Monash University Studies Online: http://muso.monash.edu.au

Research reports and papers

Author, A.A., & Author, B.B. (year of publication). *Title of book*. Location of publication: Publisher.

Government report

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2005). *Medicaid drug price comparisons: Average manufacturer price to published prices* (OIG publication No. OEI-05-05-00240). Washington, DC: Author.

Government reports, GPO publisher, accessed online

Congressional Budget Office. (2008). *Effects of gasoline prices on driving behavior and vehicle markets: A CBO study* (CBO Publication No. 2883). Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. Retrieved from <http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/88xx/doc8893/01-14-GasolinePrices.pdf>

Technical and/or research reports

Author, A. A. (Year of publication). <i>Title of work</i> (Report No. xxx). Location: Publisher	Tayama, T. (2006). <i>Velocity influence on detection and prediction of changes in color and motion direction</i> (Report No. 38, 1-20). Sapporo, Japan: Psychology Department, Hokkaido University.
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Technical and/or research reports, accessed online

Author, A. A. (Year of publication). <i>Title of work</i> (Report No. xxx). Location: Publisher. Retrieved from URL	Deming, D., & Dynarski, S. (2008). <i>The lengthening of childhood</i> (NBER Working Paper 14124). Cambridge, MA: National Bureau of Economic Research. Retrieved July 21, 2008, from http://www.nber.org/papers/w14124
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Document available on university program or department site

Victor, N. M. (2008). *Gazprom: Gas giant under strain*. Retrieved from Stanford University, Program on Energy and Sustainable Development Web site: http://pesd.stanford.edu/publications/gazprom_gas_giant_under_strain/

Television broadcast

Anderson, R., & Morgan, C. (Producers). (2008, June 20). *60 Minutes* [Television broadcast]. Washington, DC: CBS News.
