APA Style: The Reference List

This guide provides examples of how to cite print and electronic sources for a research paper using the American Psychological Association (APA) citation style. Using this style, a source is briefly cited within the text of a research paper using the author’s family name and the year of publication. This is known as an in-text citation or a parenthetical citation. A detailed list of all in-text citations is provided at the end of the research paper on a separate page with the word References centered at the top of the page. This is the reference list. All entries in the reference list are double spaced. The second and subsequent lines of an entry are indented 5-7 spaces from the left margin. Entries are arranged in alphabetical order by the author’s family name, and by title for entries with no author.

For more detailed information, please consult the following resources:
- *APA Style Blog*

For help on how to format citations within the text of your paper, consult the Library’s guide, *APA Style: Citing References in Text*.

Please note: Your instructors’ requirements for citing may differ from the examples provided in this guide. Always check with your instructor if you have questions.

### Periodical Articles and Book Reviews

Refer to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6th ed., (pp. 198-202; 208-209) and the *APA Style Guide to Electronic References*, 6th ed., (pp. 11-15; 23-24) for more information and examples on how to cite periodicals, reviews and peer commentary.

#### Journal article with DOI:


- Include a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) for both print and electronic content if available. A DOI provides a stable and persistent link to an article, book, or other document on the internet. The format of DOIs has changed over the years. According to the *APA Style Blog*, effective March 2017, the recommended format is to begin the DOI with https://doi.org. Older formats are still correct, but APA suggests picking one format and using it consistently throughout your reference list. The examples in this guide use the recommended DOI format.

  recommended DOI format: https://doi.org/10.1037/ocp0000048

  older formats: http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/ocp0000048
doi:10.1037/ocp0000048

- If you need to break a DOI or URL at the end of a line, break after https:// and before a punctuation mark; do not underline or add a period at the end of the URL. See, for example, the Wilson citation under Magazine article withDOI on p. 2 of this guide.
Journal article without DOI (electronic):


- For online articles, when no DOI is available, include the URL of the periodical's homepage (not a library's or database's homepage).
- For articles with two to seven authors, include all authors (family name followed by initials). Insert an ampersand (&) before the last author. For articles with eight or more authors, list the first six authors, followed by an ellipsis ( . . . ), then the last author (see the examples on p. 4 of this guide, under Book with more than one author).

Journal article without DOI (print):


Magazine article with DOI:


Magazine article without DOI (electronic):


- For online articles, when no DOI is available, include the URL of the periodical's homepage (not a library's or database's homepage).
- When the source is paginated separately by issue (i.e., each issue starts on page one), include both volume and issue number as in the Graves citation above (e.g., 93(4) means volume 93 issue 4). If an article is from a source that uses continuous pagination (i.e., each issue starts on the page where the last issue stopped) do not include the issue number; include only the volume number.

Magazine article without DOI (print):


Newspaper article (electronic):

Newspaper article (print):


Book review untitled (electronic):


Book review with title (print):


Books, Book Chapters, Reference Works

Refer to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th ed., (pp. 202-205) and the APA Style Guide to Electronic References, 6th ed., (pp. 15-19) for more information and examples on how to cite books.

Print book:


- Include the name of the city followed by the state abbreviation when referring to publisher locations inside the United States (e.g., New York, NY). For locations outside the U.S., include the city and country names (e.g., Toronto, Canada).

Electronic book from an online library:


- For online books, the publication information is replaced with a retrieval statement and URL. If the book is retrieved from an online library (e.g., Google Books, NetLibrary, EBook Central, etc.), provide the homepage of the online library only, rather than the full URL. If the book has a DOI, use it instead of a URL (see the following example).

Electronic book with DOI:


- Refer to the Periodical Articles and Book Reviews section of this guide (p. 1) for an explanation of DOIs.
Book on an e-reader:


Book with more than one author:


Retrieved from http://search.ebscohost.com


- When there are eight or more authors, list the first six authors, followed by an ellipsis ( . . . ), then the last author as in the Able citation above. For two to seven authors, include all authors (family name followed by initials). Insert an ampersand (&) before the last author.

Organization as author (group author):

Washington, DC: Author.

- Use official names of organizations spelled out (e.g., American Psychiatric Association, not APA).
- When the author is also the publisher, use the word Author for the publisher.

Book with no author:


- If there is no author, move the title to the author position.

Edited book:


Article or chapter in an edited book:


Entry in a reference work (e.g., encyclopedia or dictionary):


- If there is no author, move the title of the entry to the author position as in the Enculturation example above.

Wikipedia entry:


- The retrieval date is included because the material is likely to change over time.
- If the date cannot be determined, use n.d. (no date).

**Reports, Brochures, Conference Presentations, Dissertations and Theses**

Refer to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6th ed., (pp. 205-208) and the *APA Style Guide to Electronic References*, 6th ed., (pp. 19-23) for more information and examples on how to cite technical and research reports, gray literature, meetings and symposia, and doctoral dissertations and master’s theses.

Corporate report from a database:


Corporate report from a company website:

Government report:


- APA does not provide examples of how to cite Canadian government or legal publications. It does, however, include some examples of how to cite American government and legal publications (see p. 205 and pp. 216-224 of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th ed.). Simon Fraser University has developed a guide to Citing Canadian Government Documents – APA Style. Always check with your instructor first if you have questions about how to cite government or legal publications.

Brochure:


Paper or poster presentation at a meeting or conference:


Thesis from an institutional database:


Audiovisual Media

Refer to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th ed., (pp. 209-210) and the APA Style Guide to Electronic References, 6th ed., (pp. 24-28) for more information and examples on how to cite audiovisual media.

Audio podcast:

Recorded interview:


- The name of the person being interviewed goes in the author position.

Streaming video (e.g., YouTube video):


- The person or organization who posts the video is credited as the author. Include the author’s real name and user name if both are known, placing the real name first followed by the user name in brackets. If the author’s real name is not available, include only the username, without brackets.

Streaming video from a library database:


Episode of a television series:


Photograph:


Map:


**Data, Statistics & Measurement Instruments (Tests)**

Refer to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th ed.*, (pp. 210-211) and the *APA Style Guide to Electronic References, 6th ed.*, (pp. 28-30) for more information and examples on how to cite data sets, software, measurement instruments and apparatus.
Data set:

Must, O., & Must, A. (2014). “Changes in test-taking patterns over time” concerning the Flynn Effect in Estonia (Harvard Dataverse, Version 2) [Data set]. https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/23791


- If the data set has a DOI, include it in the reference.

Statistics Canada products:

APA does not provide examples on how to cite Canadian statistical data. Please refer to Statistics Canada’s guide How to Cite Statistics Canada Products.

Public opinion poll:


Test database record (e.g., a record retrieved from a test database):


Test or inventory from the web:


- Test names are proper nouns so must be capitalized.

Websites and Social Media

Refer to the APA Style Guide to Electronic References (pp. 31-34 & p. 3, Table 1) for more information on how to cite websites, internet message boards, electronic mailing lists, and social media.
Webpage (no author):


Webpage (no date):


Entire website:

- When referring to an entire website and not specific facts, ideas, or information on that website, it is unnecessary to include a citation for the website in your reference list. Instead, provide the website’s address in the text of your paper, for example:

  Many organizations are using Facebook to connect with their members (http://www.facebook.com).

Blog post:


- If citing a blog comment use [Blog comment] to describe the format.

Tweet:

Hawking, S. [StephenHawking]. (2008, April 5). Intelligence is the ability to adapt to change [Tweet]. Retrieved from https://twitter.com/StephenHawking/status/783558251

- Include the user’s real name, if known, in the author position, followed by the screen name in brackets. If only the screen name is known, provide it without brackets.

Facebook status update:

American Psychological Association. (2017, April 18). Cyberbullying is becoming increasingly common among teens, and the consequences can be devastating. Psychologists are now working with teens, teachers, parents and the tech industry to raise awareness of and prevent cyberbullying [Facebook status update]. Retrieved from https://www.facebook.com/AmericanPsychologicalAssociation/posts/10155221166502579
Unpublished and Informally Published Works

Refer to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6th ed., (pp. 211-212) and the *APA Style Guide to Electronic References*, 6th ed., (pp. 30-31) for more information and examples on how to cite unpublished and informally published works.

Online lecture notes or PowerPoint slides:


- Lecture notes or PowerPoint slides that are retrievable by other researchers (e.g., posted to a public website) are included in the reference list. Notes, handouts, PowerPoint presentations, or other materials that are available only from the instructor or by someone who attended the class are not retrievable by other researchers and are cited as personal communications in the text of the paper only (see below).

Personal Communications

Refer to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6th ed., (p. 179) for more information and examples on how to cite personal communications.

Personal Communications (including personal interviews, email messages, and class handouts):

During a lecture, Professor D. Forrest discussed ... (personal communication, March 11, 2014).

In a telephone interview with the association’s president ... (H. Klein, personal communication, November 15, 2012).

- Personal communications include sources that are not retrievable by other researchers such as email messages, private letters, telephone conversations, and notes taken during a class lecture.
- Personal communications are not included in the reference list, but are cited in the text of the paper only. Include the initials and family name of the communicator and the date.

Patrick Power Library, August 2017