

Using MLA Style

(Modern Language Association)

This tip sheet is a guide—not the authoritative manual.

If you don't know how to cite a specific item or you are citing an item not found in this handout, consult the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers Seventh Edition* or the *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing*.

A copy of the handbook is available at the Research Help Desk on the main (second) floor of the library. **Call No. LB2369 .G52 2009.**

NOTE: Always ask your instructor which citation style to use and which edition of the relevant style guide to follow.

IN-TEXT CITATION

One author: cite the last name, followed by the page number of the information referenced.

With the author's name the sentence: Reta Terry believed that honour codes influenced the works of William Shakespeare (1071).

Citing in parenthesis:
Experts believe that honour codes, important during Renaissance times, had a significant influence on the works of William Shakespeare (Terry 1071).

Two or three authors: all authors must be cited each time.

The works of George Orwell have many underlying themes (Blake, Bedford and James 298).

Four or more authors: include only the first author's name followed by "et al." Use the same format for your works cited entry.

There are marked differences between British and American literature written in the 19th century (Munroe et al. 176).

Organization as author (including government documents): Use the organization's name instead of the author's.

No author: cite the title or main title followed by the page number. Write titles of entire works (e.g., books, anthologies, plays and entire websites) should in italics. Enclose titles of articles or stories within an anthology in quotation marks.

Books:
(*Oedipus* 38)

Stories within an anthology:
("Pyramus and Thisbe" 25)

Repeated use of the same source
Use the page number alone for immediately subsequent citations within the same paragraph.

Different works by the same author: include a short title of the work, with titles of entire works in italics and titles of parts of larger works in quotations.

(Shakespeare, *Hamlet* 3.1.56)
(Shakespeare, "Sonnet XVIII")

No page number: do not include page numbers in the citation if not given. If possible, include the paragraph number.

In her lifetime, Emily Dickinson was most likely known more for her gardening rather than for her poetry (Farr, par. 1).

Multivolume work: include in the parentheses the volume number followed by a colon and the page number. (Ovid 2: 279)

Anthology or edited book: cite the name of author of the work, not the editor of the anthology.

Plays: for verse plays and poems, use the act, scene and line numbers; or part, stanza and line numbers instead of a page number. Separate these numbers with periods.

"To be or not to be, that is the question" (Shakespeare 3.1.56).

Sacred texts: when citing a sacred text, such as the Bible or the Koran, give the title, chapter and verse (or the equivalent) separated by periods.

(*New Jerusalem Bible*, Ezek. 1.5-10)

Images: cite only the title. If there is a figure number, use that in the place of a page number.

Websites: Cite the author and page number. If the author's name is unavailable, cite the title of the page. If there is no page number, cite the paragraph number.

(Michaels, 4)

("Snooker for Beginners," par. 5)

WORKS CITED LIST

Cite all of your sources alphabetically, completely and consistently in a works cited list at the end of your essay or paper. **Note:** In the title of a publication, most of the words are capitalized.

BOOKS IN PRINT

One author

Format

Author (last name, first name). *Title*. Place of publication: Name of publisher, date of publication. Medium of publication.*

Shepherd, Valerie. *Literature About Language*. London: Routledge, 1994. Print.

Two or three authors

Format

First author (last name, first name), and Second author (first name last name). *Title*. Place of publication: Name of publisher, date of publication. Medium of publication.

Two authors

Nicholas, David, and Maureen Ritchie. *Literature and Bibliometrics*. London: C. Bingley, 1978. Print.

Three authors

Greela, Sarah, Rene Lebreton, and Meaghan Reddy. *A History of Queen's University*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1998.

*The MLA manual requires this element. However, many works cited lists do not include this information. Check with your instructor to confirm if needed.

Four or more authors

Format

Primary author (last name, first name), et al. *Title*. Place of publication: Name of publisher, date of publication. Medium of publication.

Harman, Eleanor, et al. *The Thesis and the Book: A Guide for First-Time Academic Authors*. 2nd ed. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2003. Print.

Note: the format of the author's names must agree with the format used in the in-text citation.

Edited book

Format

Editor (last name, first name), ed. *Title*. Place of publication: Name of publisher, Date of publication. Medium of publication.

Editor as author

Tooney, Deirdre, ed. *Yeats and Women*. New York: St. Martin's, 1997. Print

Revised book

Strunk, William. *Elements of Style*. Ed. E. B. White. 4th ed. Boston: Allyn, 2000. Print

A book in translation

Format

Author (last name, first name). *Title*. Trans. Translator (first name, last name). Place of publication: Name of publisher, date of publication. Medium of publication.

Gedin, Per. *Literature in the Marketplace*. Trans. George Bisset. London: Faber, 1977. Print.

ONLINE BOOKS (E-BOOKS)

Format

Author (last name, first name). *Title of Book*. Place of publication: Publisher, copyright date. *Source of eBook*. Web. Date of access (day, mo., year).

Strong-Boag, Veronica. *Painting the Maple: Essays on Race, Gender and the Construction of Canada*. Vancouver, BC: UBC Press, 1998. *Ebrary*. Web. 10 May 2011.

ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLES

Format (print)

Author of the article (last name, first name) [if known]. "Article Title." *Title of the Encyclopedia*. Edition. Place of publication: Name of publisher, Date of publication. Medium of publication.

Everett, Deborah. "David Hannan." *Encyclopedia of Native American Artists*. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 2008. Print.

(2003): 65-81. *Literature Online*. Web. Wed. 10 Oct. 2004.

PRINT ARTICLES

Cite articles with multiple authors as you would books with multiple authors.

Chapter, essay or article from book or anthology

Format

Author of chapter, essay or article (last name, first name). "Chapter, Essay or Article Title." *Book Title*. Ed. Editor (first name last name) [if known]. Place of publication: Name of publisher, date of publication. Pages. Medium of publication

Marcus, Sharon. "Anne Frank and Hannah Arendt, Universalism and Pathos." *Cosmopolitan Geographies: New Locations in Literature and Culture*. Ed. Vinay Dharwadker. New York: Routledge, 2001. 89-131. Print.

Article in a scholarly journal with volumes

Format

Author (last name, first name). "Article Title." *Journal Title* [abbreviated if applicable] Volume (Publication year): Pages. Medium of publication.

James, Heather. "Dido's Ear: Tragedy and the Politics of Response." *Shakespeare Quarterly* 52 (2001): 360-82. Print.

Article in a journal with volumes and issues

Format

Author (last name, first name). "Article Title." *Journal Title* [abbreviated if applicable] Volume.Issue (Publication year): Pages. Medium of publication.

Sugars, Cynthia. "Can the Canadian Speak? Lost in Postcolonial Space." *Ariel: A Review of International English Literature* 32.3 (2001): 115-52. Print.

ONLINE JOURNAL ARTICLES

Format

Author (last name, first name). "Article Title." *Journal Title* Volume.Issue (Publication year): Pages. *Name of database*. Database provider, if known. Web. Date of access including day, mo., year.

Fand, Roxanne J. "Margaret Atwood's The Robber Bride: The Dialogic Moral of a Nietzschean Fairy Tale." *Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction* 45.1

OTHER ONLINE SOURCES

Internet document (including those from university websites and government agencies)

Format

Author (last name, first name or organization). *Title of document* if independent or "Title" if part of larger work. *Title of site*. Medium of publication. Version or edition used. Publisher or sponsor of the site (if not available use *N.p.*), date of publication/resource creation. Medium of publication. Date of access including day, mo. and year.

"Using MLA style." *Citing your Sources*. Carleton University Library, 2015. Web. 20 April 2105.

Website

Format

Title of the site. Ed. Name of editor of site. Site version number (if relevant). Sponsoring institution or organization (if available). Date of publication or date last modified. Medium of publication. Date of access.

Internet Resources in English Literature. Ed. Ruth Hill-Lapensee. Department of English Language and Literature, Carleton University. 8 July 1998. Web. 10 Oct. 2004

Note: when an internet document is more than one web page, provide a URL that links to the home page or entry page for the document.

If there is no date available for the document, use (n.d.) for no date.

Blogs

Format

Author (last name, first name). Title of blog. Title of host website. date, from URL. Date of access.

Conde, Maria. NYT's Book Review to be sold separately on e-readers. Editorsweblog.org. Retrieved from http://www.editorsweblog.org/newspaper/2010/03/nyts_book_review_to_be_sold_separately_o.php. April 23 2011.

OTHER SOURCES

Newspaper article

Format (print)

Author (last name, first name). "Title of article." *Title of newspaper* [city if not included in title] Date, Edition: Pages. Medium of publication

Myers, Heather. "Canadian Children's Literature — Write On: St. John's Public Libraries." *Telegram* [St. John's] 23 Nov. 2003, final ed.: B5. Print.

Format (online)

Author (last name, first name). "Title of article." *Title of newspaper* Date, Edition: Pages. **[of original print version, if provided]** *Name of database searched*. Web. Date of access including day, month and year.

Sibley, Robert. "Up the Academy: Campus Novels Highlight the Hilarity of Higher Education." *Ottawa Citizen* 25 Jan. 2004, final ed.: C12. *Canadian Newsstand*. Web. 10 Oct. 2004.

Image

Format (print)

Author (last name, first name). *Title of work*. Year of work. Name of institution or individual that owns the work, location of individual or institution. Medium of publication.

Thomson, Tom. *The Jack Pine*. 1917. National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa. Print.

Format (online)

Author (last name, first name). *Title*. Year of work. Image source. Date of access.

Thomson, Tom. *The Jack Pine*. 1917. CyberMuseum: Artwork Page. Web. 7 Dec 2010.

UNPUBLISHED DOCUMENTS

Lecture notes, coursepacks

Format

Last name, first name. Lecture notes. Course code course title. Institution. Date of lecture. Medium of publication.

Marshall, Dominique. Lecture notes. HIST5002 Historical Practice. Carleton University. 18 Oct 2010. Print.

Coursepacks

Cite coursepacks as anthologies: your professor is the editor, the bookstore is the publisher and the coursepack issue date is the publication date.

Editor(s) (last name, initial[s]). (Ed[s]). (Date). Chapter or article title **[if applicable]**. *Title of coursepack*. Place of publication: Name of publisher. Retrieved from URL **[if applicable]**.

Jdanova, L. (Ed.) (2006). *Coursepack for PSYC 3101*. Ottawa: Carleton University Bookstore.

Note: add retrieval statement (URL or MyWeb or Moodle or EdLink etc.) if notes are online.

Thesis

Format (print)

Author (last name, first name). "Title." Thesis or Dissertation. University, date of publication. Medium of publication.

Kielland, Norah Lynn. "Governing environmental conduct in Canada: the case of subjectivity and environmental citizenship." MA Thesis. Carleton University, 2011. Print.

Format (online)

Author (last name, first name). "Title." Thesis or Dissertation. University, date of publication. *Name of database*. Web. Date of access including day, month and year.

Hanton, Katherine Anne. "The politics of place: violence against women in rural eastern Ontario." MSW Thesis. Carleton University, 2010. *Dissertations and Theses*. Web. 2 Mar. 2012.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Citing your sources (Carleton Library site)

<http://www.library.carleton.ca/help/citing-your-sources>

Research Help Desk

Location: Main (2nd) floor, MacOdrum Library
Telephone: 613-520-2735
www.library.carleton.ca

Writing Tutorial Service

Location: RM 404, MacOdrum Library
Telephone: 613-520-2600, ext. 1125
<http://carleton.ca/lss/>