SCIENTIFIC CITATION

It is important to provide proper citation to all sources used when writing academic papers. When citing, you are acknowledging another person’s idea whether you have quoted them directly or not. References provide readers with enough information to easily identify and locate the sources that you consulted.

A citation provides brief details of the author and date of publication within your paper. It leads the reader to your Bibliography or Reference List.

A reference is the specially formatted bibliographic description of a journal article, book or other cited material.

The Bibliography or Reference List is a list at the end of your paper of all the references used within your paper.

Using the CSE Council of Science Editors scientific citation style

Students studying in the natural and applied sciences format their references according to the name-year style or the citation-name system of the Council of Science Editors, unless otherwise directed by their instructor. The Council of Science Editors (formerly the Council of Biology Editors) has published the style guide Scientific Style and Format: The CSE Manual for Authors, Editors, and Publishers, 8th edition (2014).

This guide highlights only the most commonly used information from the CSE Manual in the name-year style. If you are in doubt about how to cite a particular item, or if you wish to cite an item not addressed in this hand-out, please consult the Scientific Style and Format manual directly. The manual is available on the Main floor of the Library in the Reference collection. Call number is REF T11.S386 2014 Still in doubt? Consult with your instructor.

CITING IN TEXT SOURCES

The following are examples of how to cite paraphrased sources within the body of your paper using the name-year style.

Zircon separates were analyzed by chemical abrasion isotope dilution thermal ionization mass spectrometry (Mattinson 2005).

Le Fevre et al. (1976) proposed four provisional conodont assemblage zone and one formal conodont zone for the Silurian succession of the Hudson Bay Basin.

The base of the overlying Pterospathodus celloni-eopennatus Assemblage Zone of Zhang and Barnes (2007) was defined by the first appearance of any of the key species within the assemblage: Pterospathodus eopennatus, Pterospathodus celloni, Pterospathodus amorphognatheodes angulatus, and Aulacognathus bullatus.

When citing three or more authors, list the first author followed by ‘et al.’ and then the year.

When no authors are given, use the first word or first few words, followed by an ellipsis. Example: (Gene…1990)

When no date is given, place the words ‘date unknown’ in square brackets. Example: (Graham [date unknown])

If the author(s) name(s) appear within the text, the year should follow in parenthesis.

When you cite two or more sources at once, your citation should be arranged chronologically, from the earliest publication to the latest. Each citation is separated by a semicolon. Example: (Radhost 1969; Barker and others 1972; WHO 2001)

If your sources are published in the same year, arrange these citations alphabetically.

Direct Quotations are rarely used in the sciences and are reserved for highly memorable words, or when confirmation of a certain conclusion in is doubt. In these cases, the quotation should be very brief.
It is recommended that you include the page number(s) even though CSE does not identify the page. Example: “These terminologies have been used, at least in part, by many researchers” (Spicer 1986 p. 2589).

PREPARING YOUR BIBLIOGRAPHY OR REFERENCE LIST

General Guidelines

Title your page “Bibliography” if you want to include other references that might be of interest but that you did not cite. Otherwise the title should be “References” or “Reference List” and center this title at the top of the page.

Double-space between citations and single-space within citations.

For papers using the name-year system, list references in alphabetical order.

Begin each citation flush left and indent 5 spaces for subsequent lines.

Authors are listed by last name, followed by initials.

Capitalize only first words and proper nouns in cited titles. Titles are not underlined, and articles are not placed in quotations.

Do not abbreviate single name journal titles. Other names of journals should be abbreviated when possible using the National Information Standards Organization (NISO) list of serials.

Cite publication year, and volume or page number if applicable.

REFERENCING JOURNAL ARTICLES

Format:
Author(s) of article. Date. Title of article. Title of journal, volume: pages.

Single Author:

Multiple Authors:

REFERENCING BOOKS (or PARTS thereof)

Format:
Author(s) [or editor(s)]. Year of publication. Book title. Edition (if available). Place of Publication. Publisher. (Pagination and/or notes are optional.)

Single author:

Multiple authors:

Organization as author:

Author, editor, translator and note:

Chapter in book by different author and book editor:
**Volume of series with a separate title:**

**Papers in a book with different authors, with note:**

**Encyclopedia article:**

**Government report:**

**Technical report:**
The general format for a reference to a technical report that is written and published by the performing organization, including punctuation:

**Note:** For more examples of proper citation for dissertations and theses, bibliographies, patents, conference proceedings, newspaper articles, audiovisuals, websites and other online formats, please refer to the *CSE Manual*, 8th edition, Chapter 29, References, p. 547-676.

**ONLINE MATERIALS**
Although electronic documents differ radically in physical form from the usual book or journal, the basic rules of citing them are the same.

The general format for a reference to an electronic document, including pagination, is as follows:

**Books in electronic format:**

**Journal articles in electronic format:**
Author(s) of article. Title of article. Title of journal (edition) [medium designator]. Date; volume(issue): location. Notes.

**Databases in electronic format:**

Please refer to the *CSE Manual*, 8th edition, Chapter 29, References, p. 547-676 for examples.

**NEED MORE HELP?**

**Research Help Desk**
Location: Main floor, Library
Telephone: 613-520-2735
Web site: [www.library.carleton.ca](http://www.library.carleton.ca)

**Writing Tutorial Service**
Location: 4th floor, Library
Telephone: 613-520-2600 x1125

**References used to compile this guide include:**
