Documenting Sources in MLA Style (8th Ed.)

Guidelines for properly citing sources using the Modern Language Association's (MLA) style have changed with the new 8th edition. Please refer to the examples provided in this handout when writing your paper and creating your Works Cited list. For a detailed explanation of specific references, please refer to the MLA Handbook (LB2369 .G53 2016) or the MLA Style Center online - https://style.mla.org.

PREPARING YOUR WORKS CITED LIST

When citing sources, the new style organizes elements 1 – 9 in the order indicated to the right.

Notice the punctuation marks indicated for each element. Basic commas and periods should follow each element accordingly.

The use of the term "container" refers to the larger whole where the source is found, such as an article located in a magazine. Certain sources will require elements 3 – 9 to repeat; think of it as one container nesting in another container—an article retrieved from a library database is an example of this.

Below are the citation components for a magazine article retrieved from a library database:

Container 1  (Elements 1-9 = the article)

Container 2  (Elements 3-9 repeated, irrelevant elements are omitted = where it was found)

Complete citation
Works Cited items are listed at the end of your paper, arranged alphabetically by the author’s last name, or when there is no author, by the first word of the title (except A, An or The). Format each entry so that the second and subsequent lines have a hanging indent (of half an inch) from the left margin.

Online sources should include the full URL from your Web browser, but omit http:// or https://. Articles from scholarly journals may include an assigned Digital Object Identifier (DOI). If given a choice, use a DOI when available instead of the URL. Please refer to the most frequently cited sources below.

**Books in Print**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author Last name, First name. <em>Title of Book</em>. Publisher, Publication date.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>


**Books Online – Library eBook**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author Last name, First name. <em>Title of Book</em>. Publisher, Publication date. <em>Database name</em>, URL. Date of access.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>


**Newspaper Articles in Print**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author Last name, First name. &quot;Title of Article.&quot; <em>Title of Newspaper</em>, Date, Page(s).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>


**Newspaper Articles Online**

**Web Page**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author Last name, First name. &quot;Title of Article.&quot; <em>Title of Website</em>, Date, URL. Date of access.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>


Scholarly Journal Articles in Print

Author Last name, First name. "Article Title." *Title of Journal*, vol., no., Year, Page(s).


Scholarly Journal Articles Online – Library Database

Author Last name, First name. "Article Title." *Title of Journal*, vol., no., Year, Page(s). *Database Name*, URL (or DOI if available). Date of access.


Websites

Author Last name, First name. "Web Page Title." *Title of Website*, Date, URL. Date of access.


**DVD Films & Streaming Videos**

*Film Title.* Directed by [First name Last name], performance by [main actor if available], Name of film Studio or Distributor, Release Year.


*This online example includes the database name, URL, and date of access:*


**Image / Photograph**

Artist Last name, First name (if known). *Title of Artwork.* Date of composition (if known), Medium.

[For an online source include – *Title of Website,* URL. Date of Access.]

IN-TEXT CITATIONS [MLA Handbook pp. 54-58, 116-128]

In-text citations allow the reader to quickly and easily locate your sources from the works-cited list. The in-text citation is created with the first element in the citation, usually the author's name and the page number(s) of the information referenced. If the author's name appears in the sentence, then include only the page number in parentheses.

Two examples of in-text citations:

> There is a significant amount of dating violence among teens in Hawaii (Gordon D1).

> Nelson and Kjos recommend being mindful of the numerous warning signs of dating violence (43).

Example of Works Cited List:


- If the source has **two authors**, combine their names with an *and*. (Boyer and Graham 217)

- If the source has **three or more authors**, write the first author’s last name and then *et al.* (Samuels et al. 60)

- If the source is from a **corporate author**, abbreviate the name where appropriate. For example, the “Centers for Disease Control and Prevention” becomes CDC. Since this source is a website, there is no page number included with the in-text citation. (CDC)
ADDITIONAL REMINDERS – DOIs and URLs [MLA Handbook p. 48 and 110]

- A Digital Object Identifier (DOI) is a series of numbers (and sometimes letters) that lead to a location of an online source.
- Articles in journals are often assigned DOIs. The *MLA Handbook* 8th edition prefers that you use a DOI **when available** instead of a URL.
- Online sources should include the full URL or Web address from your browser, but omit *http://* or *https://*.
- Some resources may provide a stable permanent hyperlink (sometimes called a permalink). Permalink URLs are intended to remain unchanged versus regular links that may change over time. Use a permalink for your web source if given a choice.

OPTIONAL ELEMENTS [MLA Handbook pp. 50-53]

- It is recommended that students include the *Date of Access* for online materials, since online content changes frequently or can be removed at any time.
- It is no longer a requirement that the *date of original publication* or the *city of publication* be included in citations, however pertinent facts about locating the original source should be considered for inclusion if it helps the reader find the source.
- When in doubt about citing certain sources, always refer to the *MLA Handbook* for guidance.

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