APA CITATIONS

Preparing Citations for the Behavioral and Social Sciences: American Psychological Association

Reference List (also known as Works Cited Page)

The reference list or works cited page appears at the end of the paper and must only include references that were cited in the text of the paper. The principal reason for the list is to provide the information needed so that the reader can identify and locate the sources used in your research. The reference list must be double spaced between entries as well as within each entry. Also, the first line of each entry starts at the left margin and all subsequent lines of the entry are indented; this is known as a hanging indent. The list is alphabetized by the last name of the first author and, in the absence of an author’s name; the entry is alphabetized by the title. Please also note that titles of books, periodicals and audiovisual materials are italicized. Periodical volume numbers are also italicized. Put one space after all punctuation.

Books

Note: In titles, capitalize only the first word, the first word after a colon or a dash, and proper nouns.

BOOK, ONE TO SIX AUTHORS


Note: If a book has seven or more authors, list the first six authors and abbreviate remaining authors as et al., not italicized and with a period after al.
BOOK WITH EDITOR AS AUTHOR

BOOK, GROUP AUTHOR AS PUBLISHER

Note: Alphabetize group authors by the first significant word of the name. When the author and publisher are identical, use the word Author as the name of the publisher.

ENCYCLOPEDIA OR DICTIONARY

Note: For major reference works with a large editorial board, you can list the name of the lead editor, followed by et al.

ARTICLE IN AN ENCYCLOPEDIA OR REFERENCE BOOK

Note: If the article is unsigned, place the title in the author position.

ARTICLE OR CHAPTER IN AN EDITED BOOK
Periodicals

JOURNAL/MAGAZINE ARTICLE


NEWSPAPER ARTICLE


Note: When referencing a newspaper article, use the abbreviation p. for page and pp. for pages. If an article appears on discontinuous pages, give all page numbers and separate them with a comma as in the example above.

Electronic Sources

JOURNAL ARTICLES RETRIEVED FROM A DATABASE


Note: It is not required to provide database information for articles that can be easily obtained. Retrieval dates are not needed unless the source can change, e.g. a wiki.

JOURNAL ARTICLES WITH DOI


Note: The recent APA changes state that the DOI (Digital Object Identifier) is to be included if it is available.
JOURNAL ARTICLES WITHOUT DOI (WHEN DOI IS NOT AVAILABLE)


Note: If a journal article has been retrieved from the journal’s website and there is no DOI, the URL of the journal home page should be included; the retrieval date is not needed.

NEWSPAPERS RETRIEVED FROM A DATABASE


E-BOOKS


Note: For books in an electronic format, the web address is used in place of the publisher location and name. If publication date is unavailable, use “n.d.” for no date.

BLOG POST


WEB PAGE

Audiovisual Media

MUSIC RECORDING


FILM/MOTION PICTURE


DVD


Available from http://www.nationalgeographic.com/channel

TELEVISION BROADCAST – SINGLE EPISODE IN A TELEVISION SERIES

Reference citations in text (parenthetical references)

Reference citations in text, also known as parenthetical references, are brief acknowledgements within your research paper given wherever you incorporate another individual’s words or ideas. The citation identifies the source of the information and enables the reader to locate the source in the reference list (works cited page) at the end of your paper. To cite a work with an author, put the author’s last name and the year of publication in parentheses at the end of the appropriate sentence or quotation. When a source has no author, cite the first few words of the reference list entry, usually the title, and then the year of publication.

WORK WITH SINGLE AUTHOR

If the author’s name is included in the text of your paper, cite only the year of publication in parentheses:

Williams (2008) addresses the issue of cognitive development among infants.

Otherwise, place both the name and the year, separated by a comma, in parentheses. Do not include suffixes, such as Jr.:

A recent study discusses the issue of cognitive development among infants (Williams, 2008).

In the event that you include the author’s name and the year of publication in the text of your paper, do not add parenthetical information:

In her study published in 2008, Williams focuses on the issue of cognitive development.

Within a paragraph, you do not need to include the year in subsequent references to the same study as long as the study cannot be confused with other studies cited:

In her study on cognitive development, Williams (2008) notes that … Williams also indicates that…

WORK WITH MULTIPLE AUTHORS

When a work has two authors, always cite both names every time the reference occurs in the text:

Girls develop self-confidence through team sport participation (Watson & Taylor, 2009).
When a work has three, four or five authors, cite all authors the first time the reference occurs; in subsequent citations, include only the surname of the first author followed by et al.

Wells, Jones, and Smith (2007) note that acrophobia is very common. [first citation]

Wells et al. (2007) also note that acrophobia… [subsequent citations]

WORK WITH NO AUTHOR

If a work does not have an author, cite the title of the work and the year. Place quotation marks around the title.

Teachers often identify language problems ("Teachers Often First," 2009)…. 

WORK WITH NO PUBLICATION DATE

If a work has no date of publication, cite in text the author’s name, followed by a comma and n.d. for no date:

(Jones, n.d.)

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WORKS CITED


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