Vancouver Citation Style

Vancouver Citation Style was developed by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors and is maintained by the U.S. National Library of Medicine. It is also called “numerical style” or the “author-number system.” Citations to someone else’s work in the body of your paper (in-text citations) are indicated by sequential numbers. The list of references (sources) at the end of your paper will provide full details and have corresponding numbers to the in-text citations. This style is common in the fields of medicine, science and engineering.

In-text citations:

- Citations in the text are numbered consecutively beginning with the number 1.
- Use Arabic numerals in parentheses: (1), (2), etc.
- The original number used for a reference is reused each time the reference is cited.
- The number in parentheses is placed after periods and before any colons or semi-colons.
- Use quotation marks when directly quoting from a source.
- When citing multiple references, use hyphens to show consecutive numbers; use commas to show non-consecutive numbers.

Examples of in-text citations:

“...finding that the data confirmed our previous results.” (1)

according to Martin (3); further, it is also evident that...

...proving it to be an effective treatment method. (2) It has since been...

As shown in multiple clinical trials (3, 5, 7-9)...

Reference List:

- The Reference list starts on a new page at the end of the paper and is titled References.
- The references should be listed in numerical order; numbers should match the ones used in the in-text citations.
- If there are more than three authors, you may either: list all of the authors or list the first three authors followed by a comma and et al. Do not use the “&” symbol before the last listed author.
- Authors’ names are recorded with the last name followed by a comma and an initial for the first name; there is no period following the initial unless it is the last (or only) named author.
- There are no indentations, no italics, and no underlining.
- For journal titles, use the abbreviated journal titles from the U.S. National Library of Medicine. (ex- for Journal of Toxicology use J Toxicol) Find them at: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nlmcatalog/journals
- It will be necessary to record additional information for electronic resources. The resource type will be noted in square brackets. The date that the information was cited will also be noted in square brackets. In addition, at the end of the citation, you will have to note where the information may be found. If this is a website, record the URL. If the resource was found in an electronic database, note the name of the database.

Example Reference List:

1. The citation for this source will correspond to any in-text citations with (1).
2. The citation for this source will correspond to any in-text citations with (2).
3. The citation for this source will correspond to any in-text citations with (3).
4. ...

Examples of citations for different types of sources:

Print book with one author:


Print book with more than one author:


Print book with editors:


Journal article found in a print journal:

Print newspaper article with author:


Print newspaper article with no author:


Book on CD-ROM, DVD or disc:


eBook found in a database:


Journal article found in a database:


Newspaper article found in a database:


Website homepage:


Part of a website:

For additional help, please see Citing Medicine: The NLM Style Guide for Authors, Editors, and Publishers, 2nd edition. This is freely available online from the U.S. National Library of Medicine at https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK7256/

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