

APA STYLE FOR CITING ELECTRONIC SOURCES: A BRIEF GUIDE

The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA) is the standard writing guide for psychology and other disciplines in the social sciences. The following information and examples are taken from the 5th edition (2001) and from the *APA Style Guide to Electronic References* 2007 (REF PN171.F56 A63 2007). Because electronic media are changing rapidly, the APA's website [electmedia.html](http://www.apa.org/electmedia.html) is the most up-to-date source of information on how to correctly cite electronic sources. **ALSO: The Online Writing Lab at Purdue University has created a very good online guide (with many examples) to the APA style. You can access it at: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_apa.html.**

Research Tip: As you proceed with your research, **print the first page** of any electronic source you will be citing in your paper. This printed copy will usually include the URL (network address) and the date of access - information needed for the citation.

Electronic Reference Citation in Text

In the text of your paper, you must document the source from which you are paraphrasing or quoting. When paraphrasing, cite the author and date of the work. For quotations, cite the author, date and page number (use paragraph number—and the ¶ symbol or the abbreviation para. if paragraph numbers are visible in the electronic text). If page or paragraph numbers are not provided, omit them. If a work has no author, you must use the title for the in-text citation. There are two basic methods for in-text citations:

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Integrating the Authors' Names into the Sentence: as Parker and McKinney (1999) demonstrated in their study . . .

Including the Authors' Names in a Parenthetical Citation: “The current system of managed care and the current approach to defining empirically supported treatments are shortsighted” (Beutler, 2000, Conclusion section, ¶1)

For works with 2 authors: Always list both authors' surnames every time you refer to that work. *Note: When there are two authors and is used in the text; & is used in the parenthetical citation and in the References list.*

Examples: as Nightlinger and Littlewood (1993) demonstrated ... or as has been shown (Nightlinger & Littlewood, 1989)...

For works with more than 2 authors or with corporate authors, refer to the Publication Manual, section 3.95-3.96.

In-Text Citations Which Do Not Require an Entry in the References List

Citing a website (in general): If you are citing (mentioning, referring to, etc.) a website, but not a specific document on that website, you do not need a reference entry. Simply enclose the URL in parentheses in the text.

Examples: Take the online personality questionnaire invented by Keirsey on the *Personality: Character and Temperament* website (<http://keirsey.com>).

Citing an e-mail communication: Cite e-mail communications as you would a personal communication.

Example: (L. Lampert, personal communication, January 22, 1999).

The References List

The list of references appears at the end of the paper. Each citation begins with the same information provided for a print source and ends with information on where and when that information was retrieved. At times, only some of the traditional citation information will be available on a website. When an element is missing, omit it. For instance, if no author is given, begin your citation with the title. Always include the date after the first element listed. Center the title, References (Reference, if there is only one) at the top of the page. Double-space all reference entries and double-space between the title and the first reference entry. Begin each entry flush with the left margin; if an entry runs more than one line, indent the subsequent line(s).

Note: Not all title words are capitalized - only the first word of the title and subtitle and proper nouns; see examples below.

Citing (part of) an Online Book within an Electronic Subscription Service such as NetLibrary or Science Resource Center:

Format	Author/Editor's Last Name, Initials. (Publication Year). (Ed. or Eds.) [if edited book with no author] Title of article [if part of a book]. <i>Title of book [in italics]</i> . Place of publication: Publisher. Retrieved Month day, year, from Name of database or subscription service.
Example	Walker, S.M. (2008). <i>Volcanoes</i> . Minneapolis: Lerner Publications. Retrieved May 23, 2001, from NetLibrary.
Example	Yeh, J. (2002). Imprinting. In A. B. Cobb (Ed.) <i>Animal Sciences</i> . New York: Macmillan Reference USA. Retrieved September 29, 2008, from Science Resource Center.

Note: Only include the state in the place of publication if the city is unfamiliar.

Citing (part of) an Online Book from a Non-subscription Website:

Format	Author's Last Name, Initials. (Publication Year). (Ed. or Eds.) [if edited book with no author] Title of article [if part of a book]. <i>Title of book [in italics]</i> . Place of Publication: Publisher. Retrieved Month day, year, from Internet address
Example	Bloomfield, H.H., Nordfors, M., & McWilliams, P. (1996). <i>Hypericum & depression: Can depression be successfully treated with a safe, inexpensive, medically proven herb available without a prescription?</i> Retrieved October 5, 2006 from http://hypericum.com/toc.htm

Citing an Article in a Daily Newspaper from a Subscription Database such as ProQuest Banking Information Source:

Format	Author's Last Name, Initials. (Publication Year, Month day). Title of Article. <i>Title of Newspaper [in italics]</i> . Retrieved Month day, year, from Name of Database.
Example	Hilts, P. J. (1999, February 16). In forecasting their emotions, most people flunk out. <i>New York Times</i> . Retrieved November 21, 2000, from Banking Information Source database.

Citing an Article in a Journal or Magazine Paginated by Volume, Retrieved from a Subscription Database such as PsycARTICLES:

Format	Author's Last Name, Initials. (Publication year). Title of article. <i>Title of Journal [in italics]</i> , volume number [in italics], page numbers. Retrieved Month day, year, from Name of Database.
Example	Borman, W. C., Hanson, M. A., Oppler, S. H., Pulakos, E. D., & White, L. A. (1993). Role of early supervisory experience in supervisor performance. <i>Journal of Applied Psychology</i> , 78, 443-449. Retrieved October 23, 2000, from PsycARTICLES database.

Citing an Article in a Journal or Magazine Paginated by Issue, Retrieved from a Subscription Database such as ProQuest ABI/INFORM Global:

Format	Author's Last Name, Initials. (Publication Year, Month). Title of Article. <i>Title of Magazine or Journal [in italics]</i> , volume number [in italics](issue number), page number(s). Retrieved Month day, year, from Name of Database.
Example	Thompson, M. (2008, June). America's Medicated Army. <i>Time</i> , 171(24), 38. Retrieved September 29, 2008, from ABI/INFORM Global database.

Note: To identify the specific ProQuest Database, it is necessary to use the ProQuest 'cite this' link – please ask a Reference Librarian for help in doing this.

Citing an Article in an Online Periodical directly from the Web (not accessed through the GCC Library website):

Format	Author's Last Name, Initials. (Publication Year, Month day [if given]). Title of article. <i>Title of Online Journal [in italics]</i> , volume number, issue number [or any other identifying number], doi: (if doi number not available, then Retrieved Month day, year, from Internet address) *** I couldn't find this article using DOI ***
Example	Fredrickson, B. L. (2000, March 7). Cultivating positive emotions to optimize health and well-being. <i>Prevention & Treatment</i> , 3, Article 0001a. doi:10.1037/1522-3736.3.1.31a
Example	Cullen, D. (2004, April 20). The Depressive and the psychopath: At last we know why the Columbine killers did it. <i>Slate</i> . Retrieved September 29, 2008, from http://www.slate.com/id/2099203

Note: The Digital Object Identifier (DOI) is an attempt to provide stable links for online articles. The DOI is unique to each document and consists of a long alphanumeric code. The DOI is typically on the first page of the document (often in smaller print next to the journal logo or author's e-mail address). When a DOI is available, include the DOI instead of the URL in the reference.

Citing a U.S. Government Report Available on a Government Agency Website:

Format	Government Agency. (date) (n.d. [if no date available]). <i>Title of report [in italics]</i> . Retrieved Month day, year, from Internet address
Example	California Board of Psychology, California Psychology Law and Ethics Examination. (2008). <i>Candidate Information Bulletin</i> . Retrieved September 29, 2008 from http://www.psychboard.ca.gov/exams/cplee.pdf
Example	United States Sentencing Commission. (n.d.). <i>1997 sourcebook of federal sentencing statistics</i> . Retrieved December 8, 1999, from http://www.ussc.gov/annrpt/1997/sbtoc97.htm

Citing a Web Document, Web Page, or Report that is not from an Online Journal:

Format	Author's Last Name, Initials [or organization name]. (Publication Year, Month day [if given]). <i>Title of online publication [in italics]</i> . Retrieved Month day, year, from Internet address
Example	Fox, S. (2007, October 8). <i>E-patients with a disability or chronic disease</i> . Retrieved September 29, 2008, from http://www.pewinternet.org/pdfs/EPatients_Chronic_Conditions_2007.pdf
Example	Mental Health America. (2007, December 12). <i>Factsheet: Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)</i> . Retrieved September 29, 2008 from http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/go/ptsd