

CITING ELECTRONIC SOURCES APA FORMAT

Because electronic sources (especially those on the Internet) change rapidly, citations for these sources are not completely standardized. Below are examples of the most commonly used types of Internet sources. Also, because websites are often altered or even disappear altogether, it is a good idea to print the material you intend to use in your papers. Also, note that when you type the web address on your references page, you must be sure not to include extra hyphens for line breaks. If the web address will not fit in a line of your text, make sure your line break occurs only after a slash (/); introducing a hyphen actually changes the web address and will make it difficult for readers to locate your site.

APA Formatting for References of Online Sources

Citations generally follow APA format for other types of sources; include information about the author (last name first, followed by author's first initial), publication date, title (capitalize first letter of first word and first letter of first word following colon only), name of the journal/database/electronic source (italicized), medium, network or service, volume number, page or paragraph numbers, date of access, and availability information. Because electronic sources vary, you may also have to adapt the citation structure to what you need in order to accurately represent the material.

For all **online material** provide author, date, title of article, title of periodical/journal and volume number (italicized), issue number (if applicable), date of issue or search, statement about availability and retrieval location (in place of publisher and location), method for finding material, path of retrieval (for network material). **However, note that if the journal article online is identical to the print version, you do not give the retrieval date and web address, but you do need to place the words “Electronic version” in brackets.**

Articles from journals found on the Internet when the article also appeared in a print journal:

For **Internet articles that duplicate a print source**, use the same basic format as you would for referencing the print version but include in brackets [Electronic version].

Fine, M.A. & Kurdek, L.A. (1993). Reflections on determining authorship credit and authorship order on faculty-student collaborations [Electronic version].

American Psychologist 48(11), 1141-1147.

For **Internet articles that differ from the original print version**, you need to include the date of retrieval and the URL (Internet address).

VandenBos, G., Kanpp, S. & Doe, J. (2001). Role of reference elements in the selection of resources

by psychology undergraduates. *Journal of Bibliographical Research*, 5, 117-123.

Retrieved October 13, 2001, from <http://jbr.org/articles.html>

Article in an Internet-only journal:

Fredrickson, B. L. (2000, March 7). Cultivating positive emotions to optimize health and well-being.

Prevention & Treatment, 3, Article 0001a. Retrieved November 20, 2000, from

<http://journals.apa.org/prevention/volume3/pre0030001a.html>

It is important to know that when writing down source information on note cards, some articles have an accession number found at the very end of the article (e.g., Article A80865194). This number and the name of the database you are using are important to have in case you should lose track of your computer information.

Non-periodical document on the Internet

If you use the Web site of an organization and no date for the publication of the original material is provided, use this format:

Greater New Milford Area Healthy Community. (n.d.). *Who has the time for a family meal? You do!*

Retrieved October 5, 2000, from <http://www.familymealtime.org>

Note that n.d. is used in parentheses to indicate that no date of publication is available.

When an Internet document has multiple pages (with different URLs), provide the URL that links to the homepage or entry page for the document.

Please refer to the Fifth Edition of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, pages 268-280 for definitive information on how to cite both Internet and other electronic sources. The manual gives information on how to cite information from aggregated databases such as PsycARTICLES. A simple illustration from the manual follows:

Borman, W. C., Hanson, M. A., Oppler, S. H., Pulakos, E. D., & White, L. A. (1993). Role

of early supervisory experience in supervisor performance. *Journal of Applied*

Psychology, 78, 443-449. Retrieved October 23, 2000, from PsycARTICLES database.

Online newspaper article:

Longman, J. (1999, July 8). Pride in their play, and in their strong bodies. *New York Times on the Web*.

Retrieved July 9, 1999, from <http://www.nytimes.com/library/sports/soccer/070899soc-wc->

[usa.html](http://www.nytimes.com/library/sports/soccer/070899soc-wc-usa.html)

Online database:

Provide authorship and title (in quotes), name of database for electronic text (underlined or italicized), date of electronic issue (if known), date of access, and web address.

Clark, S. H. Technology and leisure in Britain after 1850. *The Victorian Web*. Retrieved July 11, 1999, from <http://www.stg.brown.edu/projects/hypertext/landow/victorian/history/leisure3.html>

Article in a professional or personal site:

Many articles appear in larger websites run by organizations, such as the website of the National Endowment for the Arts, below:

Snyder, J. (n.d.). Sharing the story within: An interview with Julie Taymor. *National Endowment for the Arts*. Retrieved July 11, 1999, from <http://www.arts.endow.gov/explore/Taymor.html>

The article by Joel Snyder was published as one small part of the larger website, which is then treated like a book or journal containing articles. Hence, the format follows that for articles in books or journals. The "n.d." after the author's name indicates that no date of publication was included in the article.

Anonymous article:

For websites **without authors** given, begin with the title of the website:

1999 MacArthur Fellows announced. (1999). Retrieved July 11, 1999, from <http://www.macfdn.org/programs/fel/99announce.htm>

Article with a corporate author:

American Civil Liberties Union. (1997, Jan./Feb.). Proposition 209 cannot be enforced. *ACLU News-The Newspaper of the ACLU of Northern California*. Retrieved July 11, 1999, from <http://www.aclunc.org/aclunews/news197/preli197.html>

Review:

Mahmut M. (1999, May). Writing the body: Problematizing cultural studies, postmodernism and feminism's relevance. [Review of the book *Telling flesh: The substance of the corporeal*]. *Postmodern Culture* 9 (3). Retrieved July 11, 1999, from http://www.iath.virginia.edu/pmc/current.issue/9.3.r_mutman.html

For a **memo, e-mail, bulletin board, or user network posting online** letters, memos, and temporary postings online are treated as similar print sources in APA style. All unpublished letters, notes, bulletin

postings, or unrecorded private conversations in print or electronics are not easily retrieved, and therefore should NOT appear on your reference page. They are acknowledged in a parenthetical in-text citation ONLY.

The novelist has repeated this idea recently (Salman Rushdie, e-mail to the author, 1 May 1995).

Citing electronic sources in your text

As with print sources, information you access electronically is attributed in your text to its author. Follow the format of providing the author's name and the date. See the ARC handout called "APA Style of Referencing" for specifics. **If you are citing a source and using a direct quotation, note that you will not be able to give a page number.** Refer to the *Publication Manual of the APA* 5th edition for specifics. Also, if no publication date is given, follow the example provided below about how to address this situation. (Your reference list will also indicate that no date was provided.)

Examples:

Clark (n.d.) points out that researchers comparing computer writing versus handwritten papers found that fifth graders wrote longer papers using word processing than pen and paper.

On the other hand, Smith and Jones (1999) researched sixth graders and found the reverse effect.

One study found that seventh graders wrote more complex texts using word processing compared to hand writing papers (Mills & Ronalter, 2000).

Note that the website URL is not used in your in-text citation. The reader is being referenced to the author's name on your Reference page, where a URL is provided.