



Citing Sources in MLA Style

The **Modern Language Association** citation style is among the most widely used in academic institutions. For a research paper in literature, arts or any other discipline in humanities, MLA style will be the right choice for citing sources.

Information below is taken from the following MLA style manual:

Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7th ed. New York: The Modern Language Association, 2009. Print.

The manual is located in the reference section of the library; its call number is:
REF Z253.G53 2009.

For updates on citation formats, especially for documenting electronic sources, consult MLA website:
<http://www.mla.org>.

Works Cited List

The Works Cited list is located at the end of research paper and contains complete citations of all the works used by the researcher. To make works on the list easier to find, all entries are arranged in alphabetical order by the last name of the author, editor or translator. If creators' names are not available, the citation is started with the title of the work. Initial articles (A, An, or The) are ignored in alphabetizing. The list should be double-spaced, with a hanging indent, which means that the first line of each entry is made flush left with the margin. Subsequent lines in each entry should be indented one-half inch.

Examples of entries:

Internet Sources

Online book:

Dreiser, Theodore. *Ida Hauchawout*. Charlottesville, VA: U. of Virginia Lib., 1996. *Netlibrary*. Web. 21 Dec. 2006.

Note: Medium of the source is included (e.g.: Web or Print).

Part of an online book:

Post, Emily. "Conversation." *Etiquette*. 1922. *Bartleby.com: Great Books Online*. 1999. Web. 21 Dec. 2006. <<http://www.bartleby.com/95/7.html>>.

Note: URL should be included only if the source cannot be found without it.

Article in an online encyclopedia or dictionary:

"Maugham, Somerset W." *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*. Encyclopaedia Britannica. 2008. Web. 15 Dec. 2008.

Document from an Internet site:

Keppen, Dan. *The Klamath Project at 100: Conserving Our Resources, Preserving Our Heritage. 1905-2005: The First Century of Water for the Klamath Project. Klamath Bucket Brigade*. Klamath Water Users Association, Dec. 2004. Web. 21 Dec. 2006.

Note: The first date is the date of electronic publication or of the latest update of the web site. The second date is the date the researcher accessed the site.

Online government publication:

United States. Dept. of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau. *Consolidated Federal Funds Report for Fiscal Year 2004: State and County Areas*. Dec. 2005. Web. 21 Dec. 2006.

Articles from Print and Electronic Periodicals

Journal articles with one or more authors:

Ratliff, Ron. "A History of Literary Criticism: From Plato to the Present." *Library Journal* 131.1 (2006): 118-22. Print.

Note: Volume and issue numbers are included for scholarly articles.

Sohn, Steven H., and John B. Gamber. "Currents of Study: Charting the Course of Asian American Literary Criticism." *Studies in Literary Imagination* 37.2 (2004): 1-16. Print.

Note: Initial articles in all periodicals' titles are omitted. Only the first author's name is reversed.

Hawisher, Gail E., Cynthia L. Selfe, Yi-Huey Guo, and Lei Liu. "Globalization and Agency: Designing and Redesigning the Literacies of Cyberspace." *College English* 68.4 (2006): 619-36. Print.

Note: If there are more than three authors, either the first author's name is used followed by **et al.** ("and others"), or the names of all authors are used.

Newspaper article:

Tommasini, Anthony. "Music at the Service of American Poetry." *New York Times* 4 Dec. 1997, natl. ed.: E5+. Print.

Notes: Plus sign is used after the first page number when paging is not in sequence. The names of all months except May, June, and July are abbreviated.

Magazine article:

Ruvinsky, Jessica. "Brain scientists find single cells that can think." *Discover* 6 Jan. 2006: 46-49. Print.

Review:

Brantley, Ben. "High-Flying Epigrams Whiz by Like Arrows." Rev. of *Lady Windermere's Fan* (Theatrical production), by Oscar Wilde. *New York Times* 7 Nov. 2005: E1-E7. Print.

Journal article from a web site:

Moulthrop, Stuart. "Watchmen Meets *The Aristocrats*." *Postmodern Culture* 19.1 (2008): n.pag. *Project Muse*. Web. 16 Nov. 2009.

Note: If pagination in the article is not available, "n. pag." is used.

Full text journal article from a library database:

Stevens, Cynthia. "Of Cabbages and Kings." *British Heritage*. 27.5 (2006): 63-64. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 27 Sept. 2006.

Newspaper article from a library database:

Horsley, Paul. "Celebrating the work of Paul Creston: Top American Composer Born 100 Years Ago Has Ties to Kansas City." *Kansas City Star (MO)*. 1 Oct. 2006. *Newspaper Source*. Web. 22 Nov. 2006.

Books

Books with one or more authors:

Doyle, Peter. *Echo and Reverb: Fabricating Space in Popular Music Recording, 1900-1960*. Middletown: Wesleyan UP, 2005. Print.

Note: Publisher's name can be abbreviated, e.g.: "UP" instead of "University Press".

Fogg, Neeta, Paul Harrington, and Thomas F. Harrington. *The College Majors Handbook*. Indianapolis: JIST Works, 1999. Print.

Dijck, Jose van, et al. *The Image Society: Essays on Visual Culture*. Rotterdam: NAI Publishers, 2002. Print.

Anonymous book:

Modern American Literature. Detroit: St. James, 1999. Print.

Book with a corporate author:

American Society of Magazine Editors. *The Best American Magazine Writing 2007*. New York: Columbia UP, 2007. Print.

Note: Any initial article in the name of the corporate author is omitted.

Edited book:

Wagner-Martin, Linda, ed. *A Historical Guide to Ernest Hemingway*. New York: Oxford UP, 2000. Print.

Note: Most literary anthologies and compilations are cited this way.

Chapter in an edited book:

Beegel, Susan F. "Eye and Heart: Hemingway's Education as a Naturalist." *A Historical Guide to Ernest Hemingway*. Ed. Linda Wagner-Martin. New York: Oxford UP, 2000. 20-25. Print.

Note: This is the way to cite an essay, a short story, or a poem within an anthology.

Article in a printed encyclopedia or dictionary:

Anderson, Carolyn. "Apprentice." *Historical Encyclopedia of American Labor*. Ed. Robert E. Weir and James P. Hanlan. Westport: Greenwood, 2004. Print.

Note: Lesser-known reference books require full publication information.

Government publication:

United States. Cong. Senate. Committee on Environmental and Public Works. *Captive Primate Safety Act*. 109th Cong., 2nd sess.: 109-263. Washington: GPO, 2006. Print.

Other types of sources

Film or video recording:

Death of a Salesman. Dir. Valter Schlöndorff. Perf. Dustin Hoffman, Kate Reid, and Stephen Lang. 1985. Image Entertainment, 2002. DVD.

Note: For DVDs or VHS recordings, list the date of original film release--if relevant—in addition to the release date of the DVD or VHS.

Sound recording:

Cariou, Len, and Ossie Davis, narr. *The Esquire Readings*. Audio Partners, 1988. CD.

Work of visual art:

Constable, John. *Salisbury Cathedral from the Bishop's Grounds*. 1825. Oil on canvas. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Morisot, Berthe. *On the Lake*. 1889. Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris. *Impressionism*. Pierre Courthion. Trans. John Shepley. New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1972. 38. Print.

Note: For reproductions of visual art, complete publication information of the source is required.

Interview:

Jones, T.A. Personal interview. 12 June 2009.

Stevens, E.P. Telephone interview. 23 Aug. 2009.

Note: Information on the kind of interview (personal, telephone, e-mail) is included.

E-mail message:

Harper, James. "Re: Our Discussion." Message to the author. 24 Oct. 2009. E-mail.

Note: The title of the message is taken from the Subject line.

In-Text (Parenthetical) Citations

MLA style recommends using in-text (parenthetical) citations to refer readers to the Works Cited list. An in-text citation states what exactly has been derived from a source and indicates the exact place inside the source where the cited material was found. An in-text citation is usually placed inside parentheses immediately following the cited material, and consists of **author's** or **editor's last name** and **source page number**. The page number is not needed if the citation refers to the source as a whole, e.g.: Internet source, book, article, motion picture, performance, or television program.

Examples:

Internet source:

The Klamath Water Users Association represents private rural and suburban irrigation districts and ditch companies within the Klamath Project (Keppen).

Electronic publication:

Sohmer expressed a controversial opinion that Shakespeare's play *Julius Caesar* "was expressly intended to open the new Globe theatre in June 1599" (par. 3).

Note: In case of electronic publications and web sites where page numbers may not be available, paragraph numbers may be used instead.

Film or video recording:

Akira Kurosawa's *Ran* is based on Shakespeare's play King Lear.

Note: Nonprint sources, such as motion pictures, performances, or television programs are cited as an entire work. It is preferable to include the reference to the title or creator (e.g. movie director) in the text rather than in a parenthetical citation. In case the parenthetical citation is used, the complete or abbreviated title is provided.

Books with one or more authors:

"Popular music events are to be understood within an interactive ecology" (Doyle 17).

Note: There is no comma between the author's name and the page number, and no "p."

Or: According to Doyle, "popular music events should be understood within an interactive ecology" (17).

Note: If the author's name is mentioned in the text, there is no need to repeat it in the citation.

"The first requirement of almost all forms of writing is clarity" (Garvey and Rivers 135-36).

Or: Garvey and Rivers (135-36) state that "the first requirement of almost all forms of writing is clarity."

"The career potential of a job is closely associated with the amount of work-related training on the job" (Fogg, Harrington, and Harrington 142) **or** (Fogg et al. 142).

Book without an author:

Minors are allowed to travel on their parents' passports up until age 15 (Columbus World Travel Guide 110).

Note: A full or abbreviated title is used.

Entry from a printed encyclopedia:

The first books for children were lesson books ("Literature" 560).

Note: Title in parenthesis is abbreviated. The full title of the article is: "Literature for Children." If the source is an article, the title should be enclosed in quotation marks.