
Citing Sources: APA Style, MLA Style, & More

I. Why Should I Cite My Sources in My Paper or Presentation?

- ✓ Citing one's sources means referring to them; and academic integrity demands that we give credit where credit is due. If you use a source but don't cite it, you are making the impression that the information, opinion, or example you've taken from that source is your own when it is not.
- ✓ Citing sources provides readers with a trail to follow and a better understanding of the integrity of your research. A reader wants to know if the writer is using appropriate resources (up-to-date, authoritative, and objective, for example) and researching the topic thoroughly. Your selection and listing of sources can help validate your research.
- ✓ If you don't cite your sources in your paper or presentation, you are plagiarizing. Plagiarism is literary theft of a person's work, whether intentional or unintentional.

For more information on how to avoid plagiarism, see the library's guide on Plagiarism, <http://www.ohiodominican.edu/library/help/libguides/citing.pdf>.

II. Print Sources for Finding Citation Information

Style Manuals--All available in Reference Stacks, some also in Main Stacks:

- **Associated Press Stylebook and Briefing on Media Law**. 808.06607 A7816p 2007
- **Chicago Manual of Style**. 808.027 C4325m, 2003
- **MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 6th ed.** 808.02 M689 2003
- **Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 5th ed.** 808 P9609m 2001
- **SBL Handbook of Style**. 808.027 S41h, 1999

Additional Resource:

- **Trimmer, Joseph F. A Guide to MLA Documentation**. 808.027 T7361g 2004

III. Electronic Sources for Citation Information

Visit the ODU Library's **Quick Reference—Research & Writing** page for online resources in MLA, APA, and other styles, available at <http://www.ohiodominican.edu/library/quickref04/writing>.

IV. Personal Assistance

Personal assistance is available from the Academic Resource Center's **Write Place**. For more information, visit <http://www.ohiodominican.edu/arc>.

Or view a list of the Academic Resource Center's writing specialists and tutors at http://www.ohiodominican.edu/campus_life/student_services/arc/tutors.asp.

V. Citing Articles & Abstracts from Library Databases: APA & MLA

Are You Using a Library Subscription Service Database?

Articles from library research subscription databases are one of the most frequently cited sources. Listed below and on the following page are descriptions and examples of citing articles (and abstracts) from library subscription service databases. For open-access databases (i.e., freely available on the Internet), consult the latest edition of the *APA Manual* or the *MLA Handbook*.

Know Your Style:

No matter which style you use, pay attention not only to the content that you put in the citation but also to detail—to the punctuation and the style—indicated in the style manual. Note the use of:

- Capitalization or upper/lower case
- Underlining or italics
- Commas, periods, colons, and parentheses
- Date system (day-month-year or month-day-year?)
- Full name or initials

A. CITING FROM LIBRARY SUBSCRIPTION DATABASES—WORKS CITED, APA STYLE

You can find more about citing these types of sources in *The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association 5th ed.*, on pages 278-279.

NOTE: Only one type of article is used in the example. Be sure to consult the manual for the differences in citing various types of articles.

Typical Content of a Citation of an Article or Abstract from a Library Subscription Database:

There are two types of databases—subscription and open-access (free). For help in determining whether you are citing one of the Library's SUBSCRIPTION databases, ask a librarian to assist you.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Author of the article or abstract
(last name + initials) | 5. Journal volume & issue number |
| 2. Year article was published | 6. Page numbers where the article is found |
| 3. Title of the article or abstract | 7. Access (retrieval) date |
| 4. Name of journal in which article
appears (capitalized, italicized) | 8. Database title (capitalized) |

Typical Format:

Author. (Year). Article or abstract title. *Name of the Journal*, *Volume number*(Issue number),
page numbers. Retrieved Month Day, Year, from DatabaseName database.

Example:

Kavarik, M. (2004). Selecting children's books for a multiracial audience. *Florida Libraries*, 47(1),
10-11. Retrieved August 12, 2004, from Library Literature database.

Note: The above is an article. In citing an abstract, you begin the retrieval statement thus: "Abstract retrieved July..."

B. CITING FROM LIBRARY SUBSCRIPTION DATABASES—WORKS CITED, MLA STYLE

You can find examples of citing these types of sources in the Modern Language Association's *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers 6th ed.*, in sections 1.4.6, 5.9.4.a, and 5.9.7.

NOTE: Only one type of article is used in the example. Be sure to consult section 5.7 for more details on the differences of citing various types of articles.

Typical Content of a Citation of an Article or Abstract from a Library Subscription Database:
There are two types of databases—subscription and open-access (free). For help in determining whether you are citing one of the Library's SUBSCRIPTION databases, ask a librarian to assist you.

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|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Author(s) of the article or abstract 2. Title of the article or abstract (capitalized) 3. Name of the journal in which article appears (capitalized, underlined) 4. Date article was published 5. Page numbers where the article is found 6. Database title (capitalized, underlined) 7. Name of database service (capitalized)✱ | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Name of library where database was accessed (with location of library if necessary to identify library) (capitalized) 9. Access date 10. URL – URL of the specific document if not too long; otherwise, URL of database search page; if this, too, is impractically long or if it is unique to subscribing institution, then the homepage of the database service.✱ |
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Typical Format:

AuthorName. "Article or Abstract Title." Name of the Journal Date the Article was published:

Page numbers. Name of Database. Name of Subscription Service. Library Name, Location.

Access Date <URL of the service's homepage or database home search page>.

Examples:

Alfred, Gerald J. "Bridging Cultures." Journal of Business Communication 43 (2006): 79-88.



Business Source Premier. EBSCO. Ohio Dominican U Lib. 12 Feb. 2006

<<http://www.epnet.com>>.

Fitzsimmons, J. Paul. "Basement Rock." Access Science. McGraw Hill. Ohio Dominican U Lib.

17 July 2005 < <http://www.mcgraw-hill.com>>.

✱ How to Identify the Database Service (#7) and the service's URL (#10):

1. Go to ODU Library [Articles & Databases](#) web page
2. Find the name of the database from which you are citing
3. Click on the  icon next to the database name (Example: [AccessScience](#) )
4. From the database description, identify the database service—that is, the **Database Distributor**, or if none listed, then the **Database Producer**. If you cannot find this information, ask a librarian to assist you.
5. Roll your mouse over the hyperlinked database service name, and copy down the **URL** that appears in the lower corner of your browser.