APA Style Guide to Electronic References
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Since the release of the sixth edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (American Psychological Association [APA], 2010), online research continues to be the norm and continues to present questions on how to format a variety of web-based materials. Reference formats have evolved, and students and researchers are constantly challenged to create references for content that does not fall into an easily defined area. Because not all online resources have title and copyright pages, the elements for a reference can be difficult to find. As a result, users need guidance on how to format references for online sources.

We have attempted to help readers apply style rules to new formats in posts on the APA Style Blog (http://blog.apastyle.org/). We have also responded to reader queries on our Facebook (http://www.facebook.com/APAStyle) and Twitter (http://twitter.com/APA_Style) pages.

In this guide, we show how to format references for a broad range of electronic sources. We begin by reviewing the four basic components of a reference: author, date, title, and source. Next, we review some general guidelines to remember as you construct your reference list. We then discuss some potentially confusing elements that are unique to electronic referencing, like digital object identifiers (DOIs), uniform resource locators (URLs), and version control. The final section of the guide includes templates and specific reference examples for various types of online sources for you to use as models when creating your reference list. These examples make up the bulk of this document.

The APA Style Guide to Electronic References, Sixth Edition, has been adapted from the sixth edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (American Psychological Association [APA], 2010), Chapters 6 and 7. It also includes some examples derived from the APA Style Blog (http://blog.apastyle.org/) that further illustrate existing templates and examples in the Publication Manual.
How References Are Constructed

In general, a reference should contain four elements: the author’s name (“who”), date of publication (“when”), title of the work (“what”), and source data (“where”). The four elements always appear in the same order:

Author, A. A. (year). Title. Source.

This is the basic principle behind all APA Style references.

For traditional materials, these components are straightforward. However, for some web-based material, it can be difficult to identify one or more of these elements. Table 1 will help you identify the best way to format challenging web-based material.

If you cannot find the reference example you need in the Publication Manual, choose the example that is most like your source and follow that format. Sometimes you may need to combine elements of more than one reference format.

Notation

If additional information is necessary for identification and retrieval of a reference, it may be included in brackets immediately after the title and any parenthetical information. The use of brackets in references is reserved for nonroutine information. Brackets can also be used to indicate that the title element refers to more than one thing, as in Example 64, where “EyeLink 1000” refers to both “[Apparatus and software].” Following is a sample of information that can be included in brackets (see section 6.29 of the Publication Manual for other common examples). Other phrases than these are possible; choose wording that is brief, accurate, and descriptive of the source.

- [Apparatus and data file] [mp3 file]
- [Audio file] [Painting], [Photograph], etc.
- [Blog post] or [Blog comment] [Podcast transcript]
- [Brochure] [PowerPoint presentation]
- [Database record] [Press release]
- [Demographic map] [Real Media file]
- [Facebook note] or [Facebook page] [Supplemental material]
- [Lecture notes] [Television series episode]
- [Letter to the editor] [Television series webisode]
- [Measurement instrument] [Tweet] or [Twitter update]
- [Mobile application software] [Video file]
### Table 1

How to Cite Something You Found on a Website in APA Style: What to Do When Information Is Missing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What’s missing?</th>
<th>Solution</th>
<th>Reference template</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author is missing</td>
<td>Substitute title for the author</td>
<td>Position B: Title of document [Description of form]. (date). Retrieved from <a href="http://URL">http://URL</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date is missing, can be reasonably approximated</td>
<td>Use ca. followed by a year, in brackets</td>
<td>Position D: Author, A. A. [ca. date]. Title of document [Description of form]. Retrieved from <a href="http://URL">http://URL</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title is missing</td>
<td>Describe the document inside brackets</td>
<td>(date). [Description of document]. Retrieved from <a href="http://URL">http://URL</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author and date are both missing</td>
<td>Combine author and date methods</td>
<td>Title of document [Description of format]. (n.d.). Retrieved from <a href="http://URL">http://URL</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author and title are both missing</td>
<td>Combine author and title methods</td>
<td>(date). Retrieved from <a href="http://URL">http://URL</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Retrieved from <a href="http://URL">http://URL</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
General Guidelines

Consistency

Consistency in reference style is important, especially in light of evolving technologies in database indexing, such as automatic indexing by database crawlers. These computer programs use algorithms to capture data from primary sources as well as from reference lists. If reference elements are out of order or incomplete, the algorithm may not recognize them, which lowers the likelihood that the reference will be captured for indexing. With this in mind, follow the general formats for placement of reference elements and use the electronic reference guidelines detailed in this publication to decide which elements are necessary to allow readers to access the sources you used. Remember, the basic pattern behind all APA Style references is to include author, date, title, and source.

Use of the Archival Copy or Version of Record

When using journal articles and other “online first” publications retrieved online, be sure that you are citing the most recent version. In-progress and final versions of the same work may coexist on the Internet, which can present challenges in determining which version is most current and most authoritative. It is usually best to cite the final archival version or version of record, which has been peer reviewed and may provide additional links to supplemental material. If the most current version available was an advance version or draft at the time that you originally cited it, recheck the source and update its publication status as close as possible to the publication of your work (see the Providing Publication Data for Electronic Sources section, p. 6).

Electronic Sources and Locator Information

To understand more about how information is organized on the Internet, we next give some background on URLs and DOIs.

Understanding a URL. The URL is used to map digital information on the Internet. The components of a URL are as follows:

- **Protocol**: indicates which method a web browser (or other type of Internet software) should use to exchange data with the file server on which the desired document resides. The protocols recognized by most browsers are hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP), hypertext transfer protocol secure (HTTPS), and file transfer protocol (FTP). In a URL, the protocol is followed by a colon and two forward slashes (e.g., http://).
- **Host name** identifies the server on which the files reside. On the web, it is often the address for an organization’s home page (e.g., http://www.apa.org is the address for APA’s home page). Although many domain names start with “www,” not all do (e.g.,
http://apastyle.apa.org/ is the home page for APA Style, and http://twitter.com/apa_style is the home page for APA Style on Twitter. A mistyped URL will make it difficult for readers to retrieve your source. One way to avoid transcription errors is to copy the source’s URL from your browser window and paste it directly into your reference list.

The domain name extension (in the preceding example, “.org”) can help you determine the origin of your source. Different extensions are used depending on which entity hosts the site. For example, the extension “.edu” refers to educational institutions; “.gov” and “.mil” are used for government and military sites, respectively; and “.com,” “.biz,” and “.net” are used for commercial sites. Domain name extensions may also include a country code (e.g., “.ca” for Canada or “.nz” for New Zealand). The rest of the address indicates the directory path leading to the desired document.

All content on the Internet is prone to being moved, restructured, or deleted, resulting in broken hyperlinks and nonworking URLs in the reference list. In an attempt to resolve this problem, scholarly publishers have begun assigning a DOI to journal articles and other documents. A DOI is a unique alphanumeric string that identifies content and provides a persistent link to its location on the Internet.

The DOI System. Developed by a group of international publishers, the DOI System provides a means of persistent identification for managing information on digital networks (see http://www.doi.org/). The DOI System is implemented through registration agencies such as CrossRef (http://www.crossref.org), which provides citation-linking services for the scientific publishing sector.

CrossRef’s participants have developed a system that provides two critical functions. First, they assign each source a “unique identifier and underlying routing system” that functions as a clearinghouse to direct readers to content, regardless of where the content resides (Kasdorf, 2003, p. 646). Second, participants collaborate to use the DOI as an underlying linking mechanism embedded in the reference lists of electronic sources that allows click-through access to each reference. CrossRef currently has more than 3,500 participating publishers and scholarly societies. According to recommendations from CrossRef introduced on August 2, 2011, DOIs are now displayed as permanent URLs. This change is meant to make the DOI format more user-friendly; DOIs formatted as actionable links are more recognizable to users than the original alphanumeric string, especially for those not familiar with DOIs (CrossRef, 2011).1 The following example illustrates the updated DOI format recommended by CrossRef:

http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/a0024996

You will find the original and updated DOI formats in your research; include the format that appears on the source you are citing.

The DOI as article identifier. Within a DOI, you will see 10. followed by a prefix and a suffix separated by a slash. The prefix is a unique number of four or more digits assigned to organizations; the suffix is assigned by the publisher and was designed

1In the sixth edition of the Publication Manual, DOIs are formatted according to the initial recommendations from CrossRef: doi:10.xxxxxxxxxxx

When the DOI System was first established, doi: was expected to become native to browsers and to resolve DOIs automatically. The current format has replaced this and ensures that the DOIs are working links (CrossRef, 2011). Because this change is recent and many publishers are still implementing the new CrossRef guidelines, either DOI format is acceptable.
Three experiments with short-term recognition tasks are reported. In Experiments 1 and 2, participants decided whether a probe matched a list item specified by its spatial location. Items presented at study to be flexible with publisher identification standards. When a DOI is available, we recommend that you include it in a reference list entry for both print and electronic sources.

The DOI is typically located on the first page of the journal article, near the copyright notice (see Figure 1). The DOI can also usually be found on the database landing page for the source (see Figure 2).

The linking function of DOIs. The DOIs in the reference list function as links to the content you are referencing. If you are viewing a digital publication, the DOI may be hidden under a button labeled Article, CrossRef, PubMed, or another full-text vendor name (see Figure 3). Readers can then click on the button to view the version of record of the actual article or other type of source or to view an abstract and be presented with an opportunity to purchase a copy of the item. If the link is not live or if the DOI is referenced in a print publication, the reader can simply enter the DOI into the DOI Resolver search field provided by the registration agency (http://www.crossref.org) and be directed to the source or a link to purchase it (see Figure 4). Locating the content online with the DOI gives you electronic access to any online supplemental archives associated with the source.

Providing publication data for electronic sources. The DOI is now the preferred electronic retrieval format because it provides a persistent link to a document’s location on the Internet, regardless of how or where that document may be indexed in various databases or repositories. If no DOI is available, a URL can be included. For reasons described more fully below, it is not necessary to include database information for most references. Sometimes it is difficult to determine which retrieval information is most helpful to the reader. The DOI and URL flowchart (see Figure 5) clarifies how and when to use DOIs, URLs, and database information in your reference list.

General guidance on including DOIs and URLs. Provide the DOI, if one has been assigned to the content, exactly as published. Because the DOI string can be long, it is safest to copy and paste whenever possible. Do not add any punctuation after the DOI; this is not a style issue but a retrieval issue.
Figure 2. Location of Digital Object Identifier for Article on Database Landing Page

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full Record Display</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unique Identifier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-09834-010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A taxonomy of behavior change techniques used in interventions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abraham, Charles ; Michie, Susan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abraham, Charles: <a href="mailto:s.c.s.abraham@sussex.ac.uk">s.c.s.abraham@sussex.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Abraham, Department of Psychology, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, England, BN1 9OG, <a href="mailto:s.c.s.abraham@sussex.ac.uk">s.c.s.abraham@sussex.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affiliation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abraham, Charles Department of Psychology, University of Sussex, Brighton, England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michie, Susan       Department of Psychology, University College London, London, England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISSN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0278-6133 (Print); 1930-7810 (Electronic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publisher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Psychological Association: US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Publishers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, US</td>
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<td>Format Availability</td>
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<td>Electronic; Print</td>
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<td>Journal; Peer Reviewed Journal</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.1037/0278-6133.27.3.379</td>
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<td>Keywords</td>
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<tr>
<td>behavior change; intervention; content; techniques; taxonomy; CONSORT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index Terms</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Behavior Change; *Health Promotion; *Intervention; *Taxonomies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classification Codes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3300 Health &amp; Mental Health Treatment &amp; Prevention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methodology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0400 Empirical Study; 1800 Quantitative Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auxiliary Materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Internet Available)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Release Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20080714</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
When available, use this format for the DOI in references: http://dx.doi.org/10.xxxx/xxxxx

When a DOI is used, no further retrieval information is needed to identify or locate the content.

If no DOI has been assigned to the content, provide the home page URL of the journal or of the book or report publisher. If you are accessing a document from a private database, you may need to do a quick web search to locate this URL.
Copy each URL directly from the address window in your browser and paste it into your working document to avoid transcription errors (but make sure the automatic hyphenation feature of your word processor is turned off).

Do not insert a hyphen if you need to break a URL across lines; instead, break the URL before punctuation marks (but never break the string http://). Do not add a period after the URL (The period may interfere with the working of the URL.)

Test URLs in your references at each stage prior to the submission and/or publication of your work. If the document you are citing has moved, update the URL so that it points to the correct location. If the content is no longer available, substitute another source (e.g., the final version if you originally cited a draft) or consider dropping it from the paper altogether.

In general, it is not necessary to include database information. Journal coverage in a particular database may change over time; also, if you are using an aggregator such as EBSCO, OVID, or ProQuest (each of which contains many discipline-specific databases, such as PsycINFO), it may be unclear exactly which database provided the full text of an article.
Some archival documents (e.g., discontinued journals, monographs, dissertations, or papers not formally published) can be found only in electronic databases such as ERIC or JSTOR. When the document is not easily located elsewhere, give the home or entry page URL for the online archive.

Do not include retrieval dates unless the source material is likely to change over time (e.g., nonarchived wiki pages).

As with references to material in print or other fixed media, it is preferable to cite the final version (i.e., archival copy or version of record; see previous section, Use of the Archival Copy or Version of Record, p. 4).
The following sections illustrate the most common kinds of electronic references. Additional reference examples may be found on the APA Style website (http://www.apastyle.org) and on the APA Style Blog (http://blog.apastyle.org/). New reference examples will be added in response to technological innovations. When in doubt, provide more information rather than less.

**Periodicals**

Periodicals include items published on a regular basis such as journals, magazines, newspapers, and newsletters.

**General Reference Formats**


- Include the DOI in the reference if one is assigned (see previous section, Electronic Sources and Locator Information, pp. 4–10).
- If no DOI is assigned to the online content, include the home page URL for the journal, newsletter, or magazine in the reference. Do not include the name of the database. Use this format: Retrieved from http://xxxxx
- If each issue of a journal starts over with page 1, give the issue number in parentheses immediately after the volume number. The issue number and the parentheses around it should be roman, not italic, and it follows the volume number with no space between them. Otherwise, for journals with continuous pagination, do not include the issue number.
If you are citing an advance release version of an article, insert Advance online publication before the retrieval statement.

Some journals offer online-only supplemental material. To reference this supplemental material or any other nonroutine information that is important for identification and retrieval, include a description of the content in brackets following the title, such as [Supplemental material]. (See the Notation section, p. 2, for additional examples.)

1. Journal article with DOI


2. Journal article with DOI, eight or more authors


When a reference has one to seven authors, spell out all authors’ names in the reference list. When a reference has eight or more authors, list the first six, insert an ellipsis, and then provide the name of the final author. Authors are generally listed in order of contribution to the research, but the last author can also be a contributor of distinction, often the principal investigator (see section 6.27 of the *Publication Manual*).

In text, for studies with one to five authors, spell out all author names on first use; subsequent citations can abbreviate to first author name plus *et al.* For studies with six or more authors, abbreviate to the first author name plus *et al.* for all citations: (Schwartz et al., 2010).

3. Journal article with DOI, reprinted from another source, translated


If you read a translated version of an article, provide translator information in the format “A. Translator, Trans.” in parentheses after the title.

In text, cite the original publication date and the date of the translation (Piaget, 1970/1972).

4. Journal article without DOI (when DOI is not available)


- Include the issue number when the journal is paginated by issue (i.e., each issue begins with page 1). Otherwise, include only the volume number.
- If there is no DOI assigned, give the URL of the journal’s home page.
- No retrieval date is needed because the journal article content will not change over time.

5. **Journal article with DOI, advance online publication**


- Definitions of *advance online publication* vary among journal publishers. Sometimes the term refers to work that has been peer reviewed but may not have been copyedited or formatted for final production. It may also refer to work that has been reviewed, copyedited, and typeset but has not yet been given volume, issue, or page numbers (which would be assigned at the time of print publication).
- If no DOI is assigned and you retrieved the article electronically, give the URL of the journal home page.
- Update your references close to the publication date of your work and refer to final versions of your sources, if possible.

6. **In-press article**


- The exact URL is used because the article is informally published and not yet indexed on a journal website. Some journal publishers allow authors to post a preliminary version of an article online before it is formally published.
- Update your references close to the publication date of your work and refer to the final version of a work, if possible.

7. **Magazine article**


REFERENCE EXAMPLES

- Provide a more specific date for magazine articles (the month, for monthly magazines; the month and day, for weekly magazines).
- Provide issue numbers if each issue of the magazine begins with page 1; otherwise, provide only the volume number.

8. Newsletter article, no author


The exact URL is helpful here because specific newsletter articles are difficult to locate from the government agency’s home page.

Alphabetize works with no author by the first significant word in the title (in this case, Six).

In text, use the following citation: (“Six Sites Meet,” 2006). Use a shortened title (as in this example) or the full title (if it is short) enclosed in quotation marks in lieu of an author’s name.

9. Newspaper article


Provide the exact date for a reference from a daily newspaper or weekly periodical.

Give the home page URL when the online version of the article is available by searching an index, to avoid nonworking URLs.

If the newspaper’s name starts with “The,” include it in italics.

10. Monograph as part of journal issue


The example monograph is part of a journal issue; for a monograph with its own issue (or whole) number, include the issue number in parentheses followed by the serial number, for example, 58(1, Serial No. 231).

For a monograph bound separately as a supplement to a journal, give the issue number and supplement or part number in parentheses after the volume number, for example, 80(3, Pt. 2).

11. Online-only supplemental material in a periodical

The description of supplemental material is included in brackets to help the reader identify and retrieve the material, which is not available in the print version.

12. Abstract as original source


Although it is preferable to cite the full text of an article, abstracts can be used as sources and included in the reference list if the full text is not available.

13. Abstract as secondary source


Although it is preferable to cite the full text of an article, abstracts can be used as sources and included in the reference list. The term *secondary source* refers to abstracts, article summaries, book reviews, and so forth, that are derived from *primary sources* (e.g., journal articles and books), often by someone other than the original author(s). In scholarly research, it is preferable to read and cite primary sources.

Database names and abstract identifiers (if applicable) may be given for material of limited circulation.

Books, Book Chapters, and Reference Books

This category includes books and reference books such as encyclopedias, dictionaries, and discipline-specific reference books. It also includes books that are published in electronic form only, reference works and public domain books that are available online, and out-of-print books that may be available only in online repositories. When DOIs are assigned, use them as noted in the examples that follow.

General Reference Formats

*Entire book*


Editor, A. A., Editor, B. B., & Editor, C. C. (Eds.). (year). *Title of book.* http://dx.doi.org/xxxxx

Reference Examples

Chapter in a book or entry in a reference book


If there are no page numbers, the chapter or entry title is sufficient.

Entry in an online reference work with no byline

Title of entry. (year). In Title of reference work (xx ed., Vol. xx). http://dx.doi.org/xxxx


Alphabetize books with no author or editor by the first significant word in the title. In text, include a few words of the title, or the whole title if it is short, in place of an author name in the citation (“Title of entry,” year).

Place information about editions, volume numbers, and page numbers (such as revised edition, volume number, or chapter page range) in parentheses following the title, with the period after the parentheses: (Rev. ed.) or (Vol. xx, pp. xxx–xxx). As with periodicals, place any nonroutine information that is important for identification and retrieval in brackets following the title: [Brochure]. (For more examples of nonroutine information to place in brackets, see the Notation section, p. 2, of this guide.)

For references to e-book readers (e.g., the Kindle, Nook, or Sony Reader), include the type of e-book version you read (two examples are the Kindle DX version and the Adobe Digital Editions version). In lieu of publisher information, include the book’s DOI or (if there is no DOI) the URL from which you downloaded the e-book.

For major reference works with a large editorial board, list the name of the lead editor followed by et al.

14. Electronic version of print book


Some electronic books lack page numbers (although PDF versions may include them), which creates a problem for citing direct quotations. Although some Kindle books have “location numbers,” which are static, they are useful only to other Kindle users and may even vary from one model to another. When citing a direct quotation in text from an electronic book without page numbers, include as much information as needed for the reader to locate the material. For example, the Silvia reference on p. 16 has numbered chapters and numbered sections within the chapters. A direct quotation might provide chapter number, section heading, and paragraph number within the section:

“It’s reassuring to believe that circumstances are against you and that you would write a lot if only your schedule had a few more big chunks of time to devote to writing” (Silvia, 2007, Chapter 2, Specious Barrier 1 section, para. 2).

Another option is to paraphrase the concept or passage in text, which does not require specific location information (although including it may be helpful for the reader).

15. Electronic-only book


For dates that cannot be determined, use n.d. (for no date).

16. Entire book from an online library


Provide the home page of the online library (Google Books, NetLibrary, ebrary, etc.) rather than the full URL. Books are easily available by search, and some sites require log-in credentials.

17. Republished book


In text, use the following citation: (Freud, 1900/1953).

18. Limited-circulation book or monograph, from electronic database


Database information may be given for items of limited circulation.
19. Chapter in an edited book

Godfrey, K. (2006). The ‘developmental origins’ hypothesis: Epidemiology. In P. Gluckman & M. Hanson (Eds.), *Developmental origins of health and disease* (pp. 6–32). http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511544699.003

20. Book chapter in a volume in a series


- If the content has been assigned a DOI, give the DOI in the reference. No URL or database name is needed.
- In regularly published series with subtitles that change regularly, the series title is uppercase and the subtitle is lowercase.
- Distinguish series editors and volume editors by including their role in parentheses—for example, (Vol. Ed.) and (Series Ed.).

21. Reference work


- This reference work has a common abbreviation (*DSM–IV–TR*). To introduce this abbreviation in text, use the following citation format at first mention:


22. Entry in a reference work


23. Entry in a reference work, no author or editor


- Because there is no author, the title of the entry (*major depressive disorder*) moves to the author position.
- For dates that cannot be determined, use n.d. (for no date).
If the online version refers to a print edition, include the edition number after the title inside parentheses. Otherwise, omit this part of the reference.

In text, use the following citation: (“Major Depressive Disorder,” n.d.).


In general, academic papers and articles should rely on peer-reviewed and other scholarly work vetted by experts in the field; authors should evaluate crowd-sourced articles such as those in Wikipedia carefully.

For dates that cannot be determined, use n.d. (for no date).

Wikipedia is italicized because it is the name of a reference work.

The retrieval date is needed because, as with any wiki, the source material changes over time.

In text, use the following citation: (“Psychology,” n.d.).


Many wikis, including Wikipedia, archive a version of a page every time a change is made. These archived versions have unique, permanent URLs that you can provide in the reference list. To access the URL of an archived version of a Wikipedia page, click “View history” and then click the date and time of the version you used. By providing the archived version of the page, you allow the reader to retrieve the exact source that you used.

In text, use the following citation: (“Psychology,” 2011).

Technical and Research Reports and Other Gray Literature

Technical and research reports, like journal articles, usually cover original research but may or may not be peer reviewed. They are part of a body of literature sometimes referred to as gray literature, which “can serve a valuable supplementary role to Formal Publication, including additional resources, details, research methods and experimental techniques” (“Grey Literature,” 2006). Gray literature is scientific information that falls outside the peer review process but is written by scholars or summarizes a body of scholarly work. Government departments, corporations and trade groups, independent research institutes (i.e., “think tanks”), advocacy groups, and other for-profit and nonprofit organizations produce gray literature. Target audiences for gray literature are broad and include policymakers and the general public. The examples that follow reflect a range of literature types; they do not represent an exhaustive list.

Format references to technical and research reports and other gray literature as you would a book retrieved online.
General Reference Format


- If the issuing organization assigned a number (e.g., report number, contract number, monograph number) to the report, give that number in parentheses immediately after the title.
- Provide a description of the form inside brackets when it would assist the reader in identifying less typical types of sources (e.g., brochures, press releases, white papers, fact sheets). Otherwise, omit this.
- If the publisher has been identified as the author, use the format Retrieved from http://xxxxx
- Identify the publisher as part of the retrieval statement unless the publisher has been identified as the author: Retrieved from Agency Name website: http://www.xxxxxxx

26. Corporate author, government report


27. Corporate author, task force report filed online


- The name of the task force is considered a proper noun and is capitalized in the title of the report.

28. Authored report, from nongovernmental organization


- Include the name of the publishing organization in the retrieval information when the publisher is not identified as the author.

29. Report from institutional archive

30. Press release


- Include the full date of publication for press releases.
- When the author includes an office or department within a larger agency or organization, list the largest entity first.

31. White paper


- A white paper is a short document that presents an organization’s philosophy, position, or policy on a particular issue.

32. Fact sheet


33. Brochure


34. Policy brief


Meetings and Symposia

Proceedings of meetings and symposia can be formally published in book or periodical form. To cite published proceedings from a book, use the same format as for a book or book chapter (see the Books, Book Chapters, and Reference Books section, pp. 14–18). To cite proceedings that are published regularly, use the same format as for a periodical
(see Example 1). For contributions to symposia or for paper or poster presentations that have not been formally published, use the following templates.

**General Reference Formats**

*Symposium*


*Paper presentation or poster session*

Presenter, A. A. (year, month). Title of paper or poster. Paper or poster presented at the meeting of Organization Name, Location. Retrieved from [or “Abstract retrieved from”] http://xxxxx

For symposium contributions and paper or poster presentations that have not been formally published (i.e., not published in journal, book, or regularly published proceedings), give the month and year of the symposium or meeting in the reference.

35. **Conference paper abstract**


36. **Proceedings published regularly**


37. **Proceedings published in book form**


Note that *Advanced Concepts for Intelligent Vision Systems* is capitalized because it is the name of an annual conference and is a proper noun.

**Doctoral Dissertations and Master’s Theses**

Doctoral dissertations and master’s theses can be retrieved from subscription databases, institutional archives, and personal websites. If the work is retrieved from the ProQuest Dissertations and Theses database (whose index and abstracting sources
include *Dissertation Abstracts International* and *Master’s Theses International*, both published by University Microforms International, and *American Doctoral Dissertations*, published by the Association of Research Libraries) or another published source, include this information in the reference.

**General Reference Formats**

**Doctoral dissertation or master’s thesis retrieved from a database service**

Author, A. A. (year). *Title of doctoral dissertation or master’s thesis* (Doctoral dissertation or master’s thesis). Retrieved from Name of Database. (Accession or Order No.)


**Unpublished dissertation or master’s thesis**


- Italicize the title of a doctoral dissertation or master’s thesis.
- Identify the work as a doctoral dissertation or master’s thesis in parentheses after the title.
- Either the name of the database and the accession number or the URL of the dissertation or thesis is acceptable in the retrieval statement.

38. **Master’s thesis, from a commercial database**


39. **Doctoral dissertation, from an institutional database**


40. **Doctoral dissertation, from the web**


- If a dissertation was completed at one school but is now hosted on the server of another school, add the name of the originating university in parentheses to clarify its origin.

**Reviews and Peer Commentary**

Reviews of books, motion pictures, and other information or entertainment products are published in a variety of venues, including periodicals, websites, and blogs. Some
publications print author responses to a reviewer’s criticism or multiple reviews of the same product.

General Reference Formats


- If the review is untitled, use the material in brackets as the title; retain the brackets to indicate that the material is a description of form and content, not a formal title.
- Identify the type of medium being reviewed in brackets (book, article, motion picture, television program, etc.).
- If the reviewed item is a book or article, include the author names after the title of the book or article, separated by a comma.
- If the reviewed item is a film, DVD, or other audiovisual medium, include the name of the producer and the year of release after the title of the work, separated by a comma.
- If there is no DOI, then include the URL of the website where the review was retrieved.

41. Review of a video


42. Review of a video game, no author


43. Peer commentary on an article


Audiovisual Media

Audiovisual media include motion pictures; audio or television broadcasts (including podcasts and recorded interviews); static objects such as maps, artwork, or photos; and streaming video (e.g., YouTube videos).
General Reference Formats

**Motion picture**

Producer, A. A. (Producer), & Director, B. B. (Director). (year). *Title of motion picture* [Medium: DVD, video file, etc.]. Retrieved from http://xxxxxx

**Entire television series**


- List the primary contributors in the author position, and use parentheses to identify their contribution.
- Provide the URL for the site from which you acquired the content. If the content is behind a log-in screen or a paywall (e.g., Netflix), or if the content is easily available by search, provide the home page URL of the site to avoid nonworking URLs.

**Episode or webisode in a television or radio series**

Writer, A. A. (Writer), & Director, B. B. (Director). (year). *Title of episode or webisode* [Television series episode or webisode]. In C. C. Producer (Executive Producer), *Television series name*. Retrieved from http://xxxxxx

- For an episode or webisode in a television or radio series, use the same format as for a chapter in a book, but list the scriptwriter and director in the author position and the executive producer in the editor position.

**Music recording, full album**

Writer, A. A. (copyright year). *Title of album* [Recorded by B. B. Artist if different from writer; Medium of recording: CD, mp3, record, cassette, etc.]. Retrieved from http://xxxxxx (Date of recording if different from album copyright date)

**Music recording, single track on an album**

Writer, A. A. (copyright year). *Title of song* [Recorded by B. B. Artist if different from writer]. On *Title of album* [Medium of recording: CD, mp3, record, cassette, etc.]. Retrieved from http://xxxxxx (Date of recording if different from song’s copyright date)

**Work of art (painting, drawing, sculpture, photograph, or other medium)**

Artist, A. A. (copyright year). *Title of work* [Medium: Painting, drawing, sculpture, photograph, etc.]. Retrieved from http://xxxxx

- Note that images from clip art packages from common software programs like Microsoft Word or PowerPoint do not need reference list entries or citations. Describe in text where the images came from because these programs are so well-known that citations are not necessary.

**Recorded interview**

Note that the name of the person being interviewed goes in the author position. The name of the interviewer may be provided in parentheses at the author’s discretion.

**Streaming video (e.g., YouTube video)**


User name. (year, month day). *Title of video* [Video file]. Retrieved from http://xxxxx

For retrievability purposes, the person who posted the video is credited as the author. If the person’s real name and user name are both available, provide the real name in the format: Author, A. A., followed by the user name inside brackets. Otherwise, when the real name is not available, include only the user name, without brackets.

44. **Video**


For sources in which Retrieved from may seem misleading, Available from represents a useful alternative (here, the video can be ordered from the URL, but the content cannot be viewed online).

45. **Television series (entire)**


46. **Episode or webisode in a television series**


47. **Music recording, single track, republished**


Because the song was recorded at a different time than the album was released, the original date of recording is provided in parentheses after the retrieval statement.

In text, use the following citation: (Lennon & McCartney, 1963/2000).
48. Audio podcast

49. Video podcast

Provide the home page URL rather than the full URL, because the video is easily available by search.

50. Map

51. Painting

52. Photograph

53. Speech recording

54. Interview recording

When an interview can be retrieved (e.g., in audio, video, or transcript form), it can be cited in a reference list.

Interviews that are not recoverable are cited as personal communications in text only.

In text, use the following citation: (Barnes, 1969).

55. Transcription of an audio or a video file (podcast, interview, speech, etc.)
If it is not evident from the title of the transcript, a description of form ([Podcast transcript], [Speech transcript], [Interview transcript], etc.) is helpful for the reader.

Provide the exact date (month, day, year) because podcasts may be recorded frequently.

In the first example Science is italicized (or reverse italicized, within the title) because it is the title of a magazine.

In text, use the following citations: (Science Magazine, 2010) and (National Public Radio, 2011).

56. Streaming video (e.g., YouTube, Vimeo)


In text, use the following citations: (PsycINFO, 2009) and (McDonnell, 2011).

Data Sets, Software, Measurement Instruments, and Apparatus

This category includes raw data and tools that aid persons in performing a task such as data analysis or measurement. Reference entries are not necessary for standard software and programming languages, such as Microsoft Word, Excel, or PowerPoint (including the clip art packages that come with them); Java; Adobe products like Photoshop, Acrobat, or Reader; and even SAS and SPSS. In text, give the proper name of the software, along with the version number. Do provide reference entries for specialized software or computer programs with limited distribution. This category includes application software, or apps. Apps are programs that run on handheld devices such as smartphones and personal digital assistants (e.g., iPhone, Android, Blackberry) and tablet computers (e.g., iPad) as well as on web browsers (e.g., Google Chrome, Internet Explorer, or Firefox).

General Reference Formats

Software (including apps) or program with individual or corporate authors

Rightsholder, A. A. (year). Title of Software or Program (Version number) [Description of form]. Retrieved from http://xxxxx

Test or inventory from the web

Author, A. A. (year). Title of Test or Inventory [Measurement instrument]. Retrieved from http://xxxxx
Test database record (e.g., retrieved from PsycTESTS database)

Author, A. A. (year). Name of Test or Inventory [Database record]. Retrieved from Database Name. http://dx.doi.org/xxxxx

- If a DOI is listed on the database record, include it.
- The database record may or may not include a link to the actual measurement instrument.
- Do not italicize the names of software, apps, programs, or languages.
- Do italicize the title of a data set or a published measurement instrument.
- If an individual has proprietary rights to the software, name him or her as the author; otherwise, treat such references as unauthored works.
- In parentheses immediately after the title, identify the version number, if any.
- In brackets immediately after the title or version number, identify the source as a computer program, language, software, measurement instrument, and so forth. Do not include a period between the title and the bracketed material.
- If the program can be downloaded or ordered from the web, give this information in the publisher position.

57. Data set


58. Measurement instrument


59. Software


60. Mobile application software (app), group or corporate author


61. Mobile application software (app), individual authors

62. Facebook application

63. Entry in mobile application (app) reference work, no byline

■ In text, use the following citations: ("Diabetes," 2011) and ("Naproxen," 2010).

64. Apparatus

65. Test or inventory from the web

66. Test or inventory record retrieved from PsycTESTS database

■ The DOI listed after the database name identifies only the database record, not the measurement instrument.
■ The database name is provided because the content is proprietary (i.e., this record is available only in PsycTESTS).

Unpublished and Informally Published Works
Unpublished work includes work that is in progress, has been submitted for publication, or has been completed but not submitted for publication. This category also includes work that has not been formally published (such as lecture notes or PowerPoint slides) but is available on a personal or an institutional website, in an electronic archive such as ERIC, or in a preprint archive.

General Reference Formats

Unpublished or informally published manuscript
Update your references frequently prior to publication of your work; refer to the final published version of sources when possible.

**Online lecture notes or PowerPoint slides**

Author, A. A. (year). *Title of presentation* [Lecture notes or PowerPoint slides]. Retrieved from http://xxxxx

Author, A. A. (year). *Title of presentation* [Lecture notes or PowerPoint slides]. Retrieved from Name of Database. (Accession No. xxxx)

When lecture notes are available only from the teacher, via course management software (such as Blackboard), or from someone who took notes during a lecture, cite this as a personal communication (see section 6.20 of the *Publication Manual*). Personal communications are not recoverable by other researchers. Cite personal communications in text only; include initials as well as the surname of the person involved, and give as precise a date as possible: (J. A. Howard, personal communication, September 19, 2011). The same approach would apply to notes taken during a lecture or material that was handed out in class but is not posted elsewhere (e.g., on the instructor’s public website).

67. Informally published or self-archived work


This work was later published in a journal and would now be referenced as follows:


68. Informally published or self-archived work, from ERIC


69. Lecture notes or PowerPoint slides


Identify the name of the website to which the information was posted when that information is not evident from the URL or author name.

**Websites, Internet Message Boards, Electronic Mailing Lists, and Social Media**

The Internet offers many options for people around the world to locate information as well as sponsor and join discussions devoted to particular subjects. These options include
websites, blogs, newsgroups, online forums and discussion groups, and electronic mailing lists. (The last are often referred to as listservs. However, LISTSERV is a trademarked name for a particular software program; electronic mailing list is the appropriate generic term.) Social networks such as Facebook and Twitter offer people and groups another avenue for connecting both socially and professionally. Because these technologies are rapidly changing, crafting appropriate references is an ongoing process.

**General Reference Format**


- The basic reference template for any information you get off a website is made up of four pieces: author, date, title (with a description of format in brackets), and source (the URL).
- Online documents often are missing some of the information needed for a reference list entry. Table 1 (p. 3) illustrates how to format your reference from a website even if one or more of these basic elements are missing.
- In text, use the information from Position A and Position B in Table 1 for the citation (usually the author and date, but if there is no author, use the title and date): (Author, year) or (“Title,” year).
- Provide the specific date for content that is published more frequently (e.g., blog posts, online forum messages, social media updates); otherwise, provide the year only.
- Do not italicize the titles of blog posts, online forum messages, comments, status updates, and so forth. Do italicize titles of reports and other documents that stand alone. If the distinction is unclear for a particular document (as may sometimes be the case when the organization of a site is itself unclear), authors should use their own judgment to decide whether to italicize. Err on the side of not italicizing.
- Include the name of the website to which the message was posted in the retrieval statement, if this information is not part of the URL: Retrieved from Site Name website: http://xxxxx
- Provide a retrieval date for references when the content changes over time, such as for nonarchived social media pages.
- Provide the address (“permalink”) for the archived version of the message or page if possible. On sites like Facebook and Twitter, the archived message URL can be accessed by clicking the date and time stamp at the bottom of the message. When the archived URL is used, no retrieval date is necessary.
- Take note of privacy settings: Content visible to everyone can go in the reference list; restricted (e.g., friends-only) content should be cited as a personal communication (see section 6.20 of the *Publication Manual*).

**Citing entire websites, feeds, and pages.** When citing an entire website or page, and not any document in particular on that website, it is sufficient to give the address of the site in the text (no reference list entry is needed), as follows:

KidsPsych is a wonderful interactive website for children (http://www.kidspsych.org).
President Obama often used Twitter (http://www.twitter.com/barackobama) and Facebook (http://www.facebook.com/barackobama) to keep citizens up to speed on his initiatives.
70. Message posted to a newsgroup, online forum, or discussion group

Rampersad, T. (2005, June 8). Re: Traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions [Online forum comment]. Retrieved from World International Property Organization website: http://www.wipo.int/roller/comments/ipisforum/weblog/theme_eight_how_can_cultural#comments

71. Message posted to an electronic mailing list


72. Blog post


In text, use the following citation: (Laden, 2011).

73. Blog comment


Because the author has adopted a screen name to use when posting messages to this blog instead of using his or her real name, the screen name is used for the author name in the reference.

In text, use the following citation: (MiddleKid, 2007).

74. Twitter update or tweet


The user’s real name, if known, is provided first in the format Author, A. A., followed by the screen name in brackets. If only the screen name is known, provide it without brackets.

In text, use the following citation: (Obama, 2009).

75. Facebook page or note


- For individual authors on Facebook, provide the name in the format Author, A. A., and then include the author’s first name in brackets, to aid in retrievability. For organizations or groups, spell out the full name.
- For dates that cannot be determined, use n.d. (for no date). If the date can reasonably be approximated, put ca. (for circa) followed by the year, inside brackets. Include a retrieval date only when the date is unknown or has been approximated.
- For multiple entries with the same author and date, alphabetize the entries by title and add a letter after the year (2011a, 2011b; n.d.-a, n.d.-b; or [ca. 2011a], [ca. 2011b]).
- In text, use the following citations: (Pinker, n.d.), (Federal Emergency Management Agency, [ca. 2011]), and (American Red Cross, 2009).

76. Facebook status update


- In text, use the following citation: (APA Style, 2011).
References


