

How to Prepare Bibliographic Citations: Modern Language Association (MLA)

Please check with your professor about preferred citation style.

SOURCES:

Gibaldi, Joseph. MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 6th ed. New York: MLA, 2003.

Ref/LB2369/G53/2003

Numbers in parentheses following topics, e.g. (5.6.1), refer to the paragraph in the MLA Handbook where more information on that topic can be found.

I. Preparing the List of "Works Cited"

The list of "Works Cited" is your bibliography---a list of sources used in writing your research paper. It appears at the end of the paper, is double-spaced within and between sources (unlike the examples in this brochure), and is usually arranged alphabetically by the author's last name. Sources without authors are arranged alphabetically by title within the same list (ignoring initial "A," "An," or "The" in titles). The first line of each entry is flush with the left margin; second and succeeding lines of entries are indented five spaces.

Works Cited

BOOK: SINGLE AUTHOR (5.6.1)

Barzun, Jacques. Education and Philosophical Thought. 2nd ed. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1967.

Do not specify the edition (abbreviated 'ed.') if it is a first edition. If it is a second edition or later, or if it is some special kind of edition, such as a revised edition (abbreviated 'Rev. ed.'), then specify it.

BOOK: TWO OR MORE AUTHORS (5.6.4)

Rosen, Corey, John Case, and Martin Staubus. Equity: Why Employee Ownership Is Good for Business. Boston: Harvard Business School Press, 2005.

For more than three authors, you may name only the first, followed by et al., or you may give the names of all of the authors in the order in which they are listed on the title page.

BOOK: NO AUTHOR GIVEN ON THE TITLE PAGE (5.6.11)

Physicians' Desk Reference. 60th ed. Montvale, NJ: Thomson PDR, 2006.

The New English Bible with the Apocrypha. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1970.

But in the text of the paper, cite passages from the Bible by book, chapter, and verse (6.4.8, 7.7.1), e.g., Rev. 1.3. Some other classic works are also typically cited by chapter and verse, or by act and scene, rather than by page number (6.4.8).

A WORK IN AN ANTHOLOGY OR COMPILATION (5.6.7)

McKay, John. "Form and Authority in Russian Serf Narratives." Captivating Subjects: Writing Confinement, Citizenship, and Nationhood in the Nineteenth Century. Ed. Jason Haslam and Julia M. Wright. Toronto: U of Toronto P, 2005. 57-85.

Otway, Thomas. "Friendship in Fashion." 1678. Four Restoration Libertine Plays. Ed. Deborah Payne Fisk. Oxford English Drama. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2005. 247-329.

Several other MLA citation guidelines are also illustrated by these two examples. You may want to include the date when a work was first published (e.g., 1678 in the Otway citation above), as well as the date of publication for the edition of a work that you used. MLA recommends that you include the series in your citation (e.g., 'Oxford English Drama' in the Otway citation above) if it appears on the title page or preceding page (5.6.16). MLA allows extensive abbreviation in the publisher's name (7.5); for instance, 'University' and 'Press' are always abbreviated.

A PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED ARTICLE REPRINTED IN A COLLECTION (5.6.7)

Niklas, Ursula. "The Poet in the Besieged City: Heidegger and the Poetry of Zbigniew Herbert." CLIO 32 (2003): 129-52. Rpt. in Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism. Ed. Thomas J. Schoenberg and Lawrence J. Trudeau. Vol. 168. Detroit: Gale, 2006. 76-85.

A MULTI-VOLUME WORK (5.6.15)

Bowen, James. A History of Western Education. 3 vols. New York: St. Martin's P, 1972-81.

WORK CITED IS FROM ONE VOLUME ONLY OF A MULTI-VOLUME WORK (5.6.15)

Bradford, William. "Of Plymouth Plantation." 1650. The Annals of America. Ed. Mortimer J. Adler et al. Vol. 1. Chicago: Britannica, 1968. 65-86. 22 vols.

AN ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLE (5.6.8)

Goodman, Benny. "Clarinet." The Encyclopedia Americana. 2005 ed.

When citing less familiar encyclopedias, give full publication information:

Debus, Allen G. "Alchemy." Dictionary of the History of Ideas. Ed. Philip P. Wiener. 5 vols. New York: Scribner, 1973-74.

ENTRY FROM A DICTIONARY, DIRECTORY, OR OTHER ALPHABETICALLY ARRANGED REFERENCE BOOK (5.6.8)

"Escrow." Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary. 10th ed. 1996.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS (5.6.21)

United States. Cong. Senate. Committee on Environment and Public Works. Hearing on the Clean Air Act: Proposed Regional Haze Regulations. 105th Cong., 2nd sess., S. Hrg. 105-667. Washington: GPO, 1998.

PERIODICAL ARTICLE IN A CONTINUOUSLY PAGED SCHOLARLY JOURNAL

(5.7.1)

Wegman, Rob C. "Musical Offerings in the Renaissance." Early Music 33 (2005): 425-37.

ARTICLE IN A SCHOLARLY JOURNAL THAT PAGES EACH ISSUE SEPARATELY

(5.7.2)

Pyrhönen, Heta. "Bluebeard's Accomplice: Rebecca as a Masochistic Fantasy." 38.3 (2005): 149-65.

NOTE: *the example above also illustrates how to treat a book title when it appears as part of an article title.*

If a journal uses only issue numbers, treat the issue number as a volume number.

ARTICLE FROM A WEEKLY MAGAZINE (5.7.6)

Grossman, Lev. "J. K. Rowling: Hogwarts and All." Time 25 July 2005: 60-65.

For magazines published daily, weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly, omit the volume and issue numbers, even if these are given in the magazine. For monthly magazines, give the month and year; give day, month, and year for magazines published more frequently. If the article you are citing is not printed on consecutive pages, give only the first page number and a plus sign, e.g., 45+.

ARTICLE FROM A DAILY NEWSPAPER (5.7.5)

Fitch, Katherine. "67/46: The Deadliest." Statesboro Herald 9 Dec. 2005: A1+.

Brantley, Ben. "There's No Place Like an Imaginary Home." Rev. of The Trip to Bountiful, by Horton Foote. Signature Theater Co. Peter Norton Space, New York. New York Times 5 Dec. 2005 national ed.: B1+.

If the edition of the newspaper is given on its masthead, that must be included in the citation.

NOTE: *The Brantley example above also illustrates how to cite a review of a performance.*

AN EDITORIAL (5.7.10)

"Ticking Tehran Bomb." Editorial. Wall Street Journal 7 Dec. 2005: A18.

NOTE: *This example also shows how to cite any article where no author is given: begin the citation with the title.*

A REVIEW (5.7.7)

Goulding, Robert." Rev. of Humanism, Machinery, and Renaissance Literature, by Jessica Lynn Wolfe. Renaissance Quarterly 58 (2005): 1051-3.

Crews, Frederick. "Melville the Great." Rev. of Melville: His World and Work, by Andrew Delbanco. New York Review of Books 1 Dec. 2005:6-12.

ORAL PRESENTATION (5.8.11)

Evers-Williams, Myrlie. "Tomorrow's Leaders: Their Voices, Our Journey." Georgia Southern University. 17 Jan. 2006.

INTERVIEW THAT YOU CONDUCTED (5.8.7)

Bleiken, Linda. Personal interview. 5 Dec. 2005.

Kingston, Jack. Telephone interview. 5 Nov. 2003.

Cornwell, Patricia. E-mail interview. 1-6 Dec. 2005.

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY SOMEONE ELSE (5.8.7)

Hatch, Orin and Henry Hyde. Interview with George Will, Linda Douglass, and Cokie Roberts. ABC This Week. ABC. WABC, New York. 13 Apr. 1997.

FULL-TEXT ARTICLE FROM A GALILEO DATABASE (5.9.7)

Stone, Elizabeth C. and Paul Zimansky. "The Tapestry of Power in a Mesopotamian City." Scientific American Feb. 2005: 60-67. Academic Search Premier. EBSCOHost. GALILEO. Georgia Southern University Library, Statesboro, GA. 1 Feb. 2005 <<http://www.galileo.usg.edu>>.

First, cite the article as it was originally published in print form. Then, provide the following information: the name of the database (underlined); the vendor; the consortium (in this case, GALILEO); the library through whose portal you accessed the article; the date you accessed the article; and the URL of the 'starting point' site, from which the user can see how to find the database and search for the article.

WORLD WIDE WEB PAGE

Include in the citation as much of this information as is given on the Web site, in this order: author of the specific item you are citing; its title (in quotation marks); if the item has been published in print or some other non-Web form, citation for it in the form originally published; title of the Web site (underlined); date of site, or latest update; institution or organization that sponsors the site; date you accessed it; URL (enclosed in pointed brackets). If the URL is long and complicated, you may give the URL of the home page, then the path to the specific item you are citing. If any of these items does not appear on the Web site, just leave it out of the citation. (5.9.1)

"Intellectual Freedom and Censorship Q & A." The Voice of America's Libraries. 2005. American Library Association. 16 Dec. 2005. <<http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/intellectual.htm>>.

Artista, Peintre. "How to Get Your Paint Medium to Adhere to Found Objects Used as Bases." Advanced Painting I. Course home page. Aug.-Dec. 2005. Dept. of Painting, Midland Arts and Design Institute. 5 Nov. 2005. <<http://www.maadi.edu/~apeintre/Index.htm>>.

Aquilla, Augusta. 11 Mar. 2004. 9 Dec. 2005. <<http://www.georgiasouthern.edu/~aaquilla/htm>>.

AN E-MAIL COMMUNICATION (5.9.9.j)

Jay, Elizabeth. "Sacred Spaces." E-mail to the author. 16 Dec. 2005.

A FILM

Romeo and Juliet. By William Shakespeare. Dir. Franco Zeffirelli. Prod. Anthony Havelock-Allen and John Brabourne. Perf. Olivia Hussey, Leonard Whiting, Milo O'Shea, Michael York, and Pat Heywood. Paramount Pictures, 1968.

In citing a film, give the title, the director, the distributor, and the year. You may also include in your citation any other credits (e.g., screenwriter, producer, performers) that are relevant to your discussion of the film. If your discussion focuses on a particular person's contribution to the film, begin the citation with that person's name rather than with the film title, e.g.,

Zeffirelli, Franco, dir. Romeo and Juliet. By William Shakespeare. Paramount Pictures, 1968.

A FILM ON VIDEOCASSETTE (5.8.3)

Romeo and Juliet. Dir. Franco Zeffirelli. 1968. Videocassette. Paramount Home Video, 1980.

A FILM ON DVD (5.8.3)

The Medici: Godfathers of the Renaissance. Prod./Dir. Justin Hardy. Narr. Massimo Marinoni. DVD. PBS, 2003.

II. Documenting Your Sources Using Parenthetical Documentation (see MLA Handbook, ch. 6)

The MLA now recommends that, instead of using footnotes or endnotes, you document your sources by putting short citations in parentheses in the body of the paper. These citations refer to the "Works Cited" list at the end of the paper. They provide just enough information to enable the reader to find the work cited in that list without any possibility of confusion. When your "Works Cited" contains only one work by the author you are citing, your citation in the body of the paper will give only the author's last name and the page number, e.g.,

Recent decades have seen a renewed surge of interest in the interrelation between the technical accomplishments of the Renaissance and its spiritual accomplishments (Goulding, 1051).

When the author's name is mentioned in the text of your paper, it is only necessary to cite the page number in parentheses, e.g.,

Debus points out that alchemy was not merely a scientific enterprise, but also a philosophical one (1973).

When the "Works Cited" list contains two or more works by the same author, you must give both the author's name and the title of the work you are citing (or a shortened version of it) in your parenthetical citation, e.g.,

Half the company died during the first winter from starvation or disease (Bradford, "Plymouth," 66).

When a work is listed in the "Works Cited" list under title, the citation in parentheses in the text should give the title, or a shortened form of it that begins with the word under which the title is alphabetized in the "Works Cited" list, e.g.,

In keeping with the mores of its time, the film is the first version of this play to show the young lovers nude in bed together (Romeo).

If you have questions about citation format that are not answered in this handout, please ask for the MLA Handbook at the Reference Desk. A reference librarian will be happy to help you.