

APA Style: ELECTRONIC DATABASES

This handout provides information on how to...

- document articles from Begley Library's electronic databases for an APA style reference list.
- cite sources within your paper (parenthetical citation) according to APA style
- cite sources on a separate references page according to APA style.

This information is not all-inclusive.

For a complete guide to using APA style, see the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6th edition, available in Begley Library.

To reference a work from an electronic database, include the following information:

- Author(s)
- Year of publication
- Article title
- Publication title
- Volume number
- Page number(s)
- Digital Object Identifier (DOI)

General Format

Rules to follow when constructing your APA reference list:

1. The order in which you put your reference together will vary depending on whether the information you've accessed over the database was originally published in a journal, magazine, newspaper, reference book, or other source. Ask a Librarian, Learning Center staff member, or your instructor if you need assistance deciding what kind of source your information is from.
2. When referencing material obtained from an electronic database, follow the format appropriate to the work retrieved (i.e., journal, newspaper, etc.).
3. When indicating the author(s) of the article, use the following format: last name, first initial, second initial if given. For example, John P. Smith would be Smith, J. P.
4. When creating a reference list, arrange citations in alphabetical order by author's last name. Works without an author should be in alphabetical order by the first significant word in the title. "The" and "a" are not significant words. For more information see Section 6.25 of the *Publication Manual*.
5. The formats for one author, two authors, three to six authors and more than six authors illustrated in the journal examples below should be followed when referencing articles from other sources as well.
6. Note that words are not capitalized in titles except for the first letter of the first word and the proper nouns.

7. Include the Digital Object Identifier (DOI) if one was assigned by the publisher. The DOI is typically added to the first page of the article, near the copyright notice. Add the DOI in this format: `doi:xx.xxxxxxx`.
8. If no DOI was assigned to the article and you retrieved it online, include the home page URL of the journal, newspaper, or magazine in this format: `http://xxx.xxxxxxx` If accessed from a database, do a quick web search for the periodical's homepage URL instead of using the database URL.

Examples:

Journal Article (1 author) with DOI

Author, A. A. (Year). Title of article. *Title of Journal, volume*, page number-page number. doi: `xx.xxxxxxx`.

Journal Article (1 author) without DOI

Author, A. A. (Year). Title of article. *Title of Journal, volume*, page number-page number.
Retrieved from `http://xxx.xxxxxxx`.

Journal Article (2 authors) with DOI

Author, A. A. & Author, B.B. (Year). Title of article. *Title of Journal, volume*, page number-page number. doi: `xx.xxxxxxx`.

Journal Article (2 authors) without DOI

Author, A. A. & Author, B.B. (Year). Title of article. *Title of Journal, volume*, page number-page
Retrieved from `http://xxx.xxxxxxx`.

Journal Article (3-6 authors) with DOI

Author, A. A., Author, B. B., Author, C.C., & Author, D. D. (Year). Title of article. *Title of Journal, volume*, page number-page number. doi: `xx.xxxxxxx`.

Journal Article (3-6 authors) without DOI

Author, A. A., Author, B. B., Author, C.C., & Author, D. D. (Year). Title of article. *Title of Journal, volume*, page number-page number. Retrieved from `http://xxx.xxxxxxx`.

Journal Article (more than 6 authors) with DOI

Author, A. A., Author, B. B., Author, C.C., Author D. D. Author, E.E., ... LastAuthor, Z.Z. (Year). Title of article. *Title of Journal, volume*, page number-page number. doi: `xx.xxxxxxx`.

Journal Article (more than 6 authors) without DOI

Author, A. A., Author, B. B., Author, C.C., Author D. D. Author, E.E., ... LastAuthor, Z.Z, (Year). Title of article. *Title of Journal, volume*, page number-page number. Retrieved from `http://xxx.xxxxxxx`.

Magazine Article with DOI

Author, A. A., & Author, B. (Year, Month, day). Title of article. *Title of Magazine, Volume*, page number-page number. doi: `xx.xxxxxxx`.

Magazine Article without DOI

Author, A. A., & Author, B. (Year, Month, day). Title of article. *Title of Magazine, Volume*, page number-page number. Retrieved from `http://xxx.xxxxxxx`.

Newsletter Article with DOI

Author, A. A. Title of article. *Title of Newsletter, volume*, page number-page number. doi: xx.xxxxxxxx.

Newsletter Article without DOI

Author, A. A. Title of article. *Title of Newsletter, volume*, page number-page number. Retrieved from <http://xxx.xxxxxxxx>.

Newspaper Article (no author) with DOI

Title of article. (Year, Month, day). *Title of Newspaper*, p. number. doi: xx.xxxxxxxx.

Newspaper Article (no author) without DOI

Title of article. (Year, Month, day). *Title of Newspaper*, p. number. Retrieved from <http://xxx.xxxxxxxx>.

Newspaper Article with DOI

Author, A.A. (Year, Month, day). Title of article. *Title of Newspaper*, p. number. doi: xx.xxxxxxxx.

Newspaper Article without DOI

Author, A.A. (Year, Month, day). Title of article. *Title of Newspaper*, p. number. Retrieved from <http://xxx.xxxxxxxx>

Newspaper Article (discontinuous pages) with DOI

Author, A.A. (Year, Month, day). Title of article. *Title of Newspaper*, pp. number, number. doi: xx.xxxxxxxx.

Newspaper Article (discontinuous pages) without DOI

Author, A.A. (Year, Month, day). Title of article. *Title of Newspaper*, pp. number, number. Retrieved from <http://xxx.xxxxxxxx>.

Reference Book Article with DOI

Author, A. (Year). Title of article or chapter. *Title of reference book* (Vol. #, pp. #-#). doi: xx.xxxxxxxx.

Reference Book Article without DOI

Author, A. (Year). Title of article or chapter. *Title of reference book* (Vol. #, pp. #-#). Retrieved from <http://xxx.xxxxxxxx>.

Specific Examples

- **Journal article with DOI**

Powers, M.V. & Workman, P.(2007). Inhibitors of the heat shock response: Biology and pharmacology. *FEBS Letters*, 581, 3758–3769. doi:10.1016/j.febslet.2007.05.040

- **Magazine without DOI**

Quagliata, R. (2010). Hail hits Montalcino. *Wine Spectator*, 5, 13-13, Retrieved from <http://www.winespectator.com/>

- **Newspaper article**

Ejikeme, A. (2010, June 5). The oil spills we don't hear about. *The International Herald Tribune*, p. 8. <http://global.nytimes.com/?iht>

- **Reference Book Article**

Cubism. In *Encyclopædia Britannica online*. Retrieved from <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/145744/Cubism>

Sample Parenthetical Citations (Citing WITHIN your Paper)

In general, parenthetical citations are used within the text of your paper. The primary purpose for citing information within the paper is to allow the reader to quickly go back to the references page and find the full citation. The second reason is to be sure that you are citing material and giving the proper credit.

The general format for a parenthetical citation is:

(Last name of author(s), date of publication)

For example, let's say the citation in your references looks like this:

Zepf, B. (2005). Drug Therapy for Patients with Alzheimer's Disease. *American Family Physician, 71*. Retrieved from <http://www.aafp.org/online/en/home/publications/journals/afp.html>.

Your parenthetical citation within the text of your paper would look like this:

► Families dealing with Alzheimers disease encounter difficulty accessing social services for which they are qualified (Zepf, 2005).

As you can see, if someone is reading your paper, they will easily see the (Zepf, 2005) citation, and can easily find it in the references page...Author and Date.

Other Formats:

The above example was for citing a journal article that has an author and publication date. This format is fine if you indeed have those parts. But what if it's a website, or something with no author?

A common situation is an encyclopedia article with no author or ANY article with no author.

The present peril. (1865, June 24). *Harper's Weekly*,9, 386. Retrieved from <http://www.harpers.org/subjects/WeeklyReview>

If there is no author, but there is a title, use the title in the parenthetical citation along with the year it was published:

- The Civil War was fought, with both sides believing that God was on their side ("The Present Peril", 1865).

To site a specific PART of a source, a bit more information is required. You must indicate the page, chapter, figure, table, or equation at the appropriate point within the text. See examples below:

Assuming the citations in the references page look like this:

Costa Rica (2006). *The World Almanac and Book of Facts*. Retrieved from <http://www.oclc.org/support/documentation/firstsearch/databases/dbdetails/details/WorldAlmanac.htm>

NOTE: Please note that there is no author for this references citation. This situation is frequently encountered for encyclopedias and websites. The title takes the place of the author when listing the citation in the references page as well as when cited within the text of the paper.

The Parenthetical Citation could look like this:

The country of Costa Rica, when translated into English, literally means rich coast ("Costa Rica", par. 3, 2006).

To the reader, this would indicate that the particular idea or quote was found in the third paragraph of the encyclopedia article found online.

Also note that there was NO author for this article. If you cannot find an author for the article and/or website, use the title, then the page/paragraph number, then the year if available.

NOTE: On internet sites, including electronic encyclopedias, web pages, and, at times, databases, the page numbers as they appear in the PRINTED version are not given. Therefore, the paragraphs need to be included as part of the citation information.

You can get inventive with how you cite sources by including the author as part of your text and citing the year in parenthesis as described below:

Source-reflective statements give you an opportunity to assert your authorial voice.

Writers use source-reflective statements to provide editorial comment, clarification, qualification, amplification, dissent, agreement, and so on. In the following example, the absence of a source-reflective statement creates uncertainty as to whether the writer has finished citing an Internet source or has merely moved from quoting directly to paraphrasing.

► Sosteric (1996, Introduction) has noted that "exponential growth of the primary literature coupled with an explosive growth in the cost of distributing scholarly information has put serious strain on the financial resources of libraries and universities." This demand for and cost of distributing primary literature suggests that we can expect more electronic journals to appear online in the next few years—surely a benefit to scholarly communication.

The above samples are provided as accurate examples as far as format is concerned. The most common situations are presented above. If your situation is not represented here, please the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association; 6th edition (Ready Reference Shelf).

Sample References Page

Here is a sample of how your page should be set-up.

Obesity in Children 12

References

List of references begins on a new page. Heading is centered.

List is alphabetized by authors' last names. All authors' names are inverted.

The first line of an entry is at the left margin; subsequent lines indent 1/2".

Double-spacing is used throughout.

Berkowitz, R. I., Wadden, T. A., Tershakovec, A. M., & Cronquist, J. L. (2003). Behavior therapy and sibutramine for the treatment of adolescent obesity. *Journal of the American Medical Association, 289*, 1805-1812.

Carmona, R. H. (2004, March 2). *The growing epidemic of childhood obesity*. Testimony before the Subcommittee on Competition, Foreign Commerce, and Infrastructure of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Retrieved from <http://www.hhs.gov/asl/testify/t040302.html>

Critser, G. (2003). *Fat land*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin.

Duenwald, M. (2004, January 6). Slim pickings: Looking beyond ephedra. *The New York Times*, p. F1. Retrieved from <http://nytimes.com/>

Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. (2004, February). *The role of media in childhood obesity*. Retrieved from <http://www.kff.org/entmedia/7030.cfm>

Hilts, P. J. (2002, March 20). Petition asks for removal of diet drug from market. *The New York Times*, p. A26. Retrieved from <http://nytimes.com/>

Hoppin, A. G., & Taveras, E. M. (2004, June 25). Assessment and management of childhood and adolescent obesity. *Clinical Update*. Retrieved from <http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/481633>

McDuffie, J. R., Calis, K. A., Uwaifo, G. I., Sebring, N. G., Fallon, E. M., Hubbard, V. S., & Yanovski, J. A. (2002). Three month tolerability of orlistat in adolescents with

Source: Diana Hacker (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2006).

obesity-related comorbid conditions. *Obesity Research*,
10, 642-650.

Roche Laboratories. (2003, December). *Xenical (orlistat)
capsules: Complete product information*. Retrieved from
<http://www.rocheusa.com/products/xenical/pi.pdf>

Yanovski, S. Z., & Yanovski, J. A. (2002). Drug therapy: Obesity.
The New England Journal of Medicine, 346, 591-602.

Source: Diana Hacker (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2006).