

Examples of Citing Works using MLA Style

This guide is intended as a summary of the most frequently consulted kinds of citations as they appear in the MLA Handbook. MLA style is widely used in the humanities. The MLA Handbook provides a consistent manner of citing references in a research paper. The guide is by no means a replacement for the handbook itself, copies of which can be found in the Reference, Reserve, and Circulating collections of the Library. Its official title is the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, Sixth Edition*. Its call number is **LB 2369.G53 2003**.

A. List of Works Cited

The “Works Cited” should be started on a new page at the end of the research paper (see page 145 in the handbook)

1. PRINT MEDIA

Book by one author:

Fukuyama, Francis. Our Posthuman Future: Consequences of the Biotechnology Revolution. New York: Farrar, 2002.

Book by two authors:

Cone, John D., and Sharon L. Foster. Dissertations and Theses from Start to Finish: Psychology and Related Fields. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 1993.

Book by three or more authors:

(If there are three or more authors, you may name only the first author and add et al. [“and others”], or you may give all the names in full in the order in which they appear on the title page.)

Gilman, Sander, et al. Hysteria beyond Freud. Berkeley: U of California P, 1993.

or

Gilman, Sander, Helen King, Roy Porter, George Rousseau, and Elaine Showalter. Hysteria beyond Freud. Berkeley: U of California P, 1993.

Edited book:

Weiser, Susan Ostrov, ed. Women and Romance: A Reader. New York: New York UP, 2001.

Book, no author or editor:

Encyclopedia of Virginia. New York: Somerset, 1993.

Book by a corporate author:

Association of College & Research Libraries. Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education. Chicago, IL: American Library Association, 2000.

A Work in an Anthology:

Allende, Isabel. "Toad's Mouth." Trans. Margaret Sayers Peden. A Hammock beneath the Mangoes: Stories from Latin America. Ed. Thomas Colchie. New York: Plume, 1992. 83-88.

(If the work was originally published before, you may follow its title with the year of the original publication, see page 159. Example:)

Douglass, Frederick. Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, Written by Himself. 1845. Slave Narratives. Ed. William L. Andrews and Henry Louis Gates, Jr. New York: Lib. of Amer., 2000. 267-368.

Article in a reference book:

"Mandarin." The Encyclopedia Americana. 1994 ed.

Journal article by one author:

Mann, Susan. "Myths of Asian Womanhood." Journal of Asian Studies 59 (2000): 835-62.

Journal article by two authors:

White, Sabina, and Andrew Winzelberg. "Laughter and Stress." Humor 5 (1992): 343-55.

Journal article by three or more authors:

(Use the same format as for a book with three or more authors.)

Magazine article by one author:

Mehta, Pratap Bhanu. "Exploding Myths." New Republic 6 June 1998: 17-19.

Signed Newspaper article:

Jeromack, Paul. "Thus Once, a David of the Art World does Goliath a Favor." New York Times 13 July 2002, late ed.: B7+.

(If no author is given, begin entry with the title.)

Review of a book:

Updike, John. "No Brakes." Rev. of Sinclair Lewis: Rebel from Main Street, by Richard Lingeman. New Yorker 4 Feb. 2002: 77-80.

Review of a play (or any performance):

Tommasini, Anthony. "A Feminist Look at Sophocles." Rev. of Jocasta, by Ruth Schontal and Hélène Cixous. Voice and Vision Theater Co. Cornelia Connelly Center for Educ., New York. New York Times 11 June 1998, late ed.: E5.

2. NONPRINT MEDIA

A Performance (play, opera, ballet, concert):

Medea. By Euripedes. Trans. Alistair Eliot. Dir. Jonathan Kent. Perf. Diana Rigg. Longacre Theatre, New York. 7 Apr. 1994.

Film or Video Recording:

It's a Wonderful Life. Dir. Frank Capra. Perf. James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore, and Thomas Mitchell. RKO, 1946.

A Television or Radio Program:

"Frankenstein: The Making of the Monster." Great Books. Narr. Donald Sutherland. Writ. Eugenie Vink. Dir. Jonathan Ward. Learning Channel. 8 Sept. 1993.

An Interview:

Breslin, Jimmy. Interview with Neal Conan. Talk of the Nation. Natl. Public Radio. WBUR, Boston. 26 Mar. 2002.

3. ELECTRONIC MEDIA

a) Citations of electronic sources should identify a source and give sufficient information to allow a reader to locate it. Internet sites, such as information databases, scholarly projects, professional web sites, and online periodicals vary significantly in the publication information they provide.

b) A citation for an electronic publication usually includes the author's name, the title of the document, information about print publication, information about electronic publication, as well as the date of access (the date on which you viewed the document).

c) Ideally, the URL of the exact document you consulted should be given. If this URL is too long or complicated, you can give the URL of the site's search page. The reader can readily access the document by keying in other publication facts recorded in the citation.

Basic entry for documents from Internet sites:

"City Profile: San Francisco." CNN.com. 2002. Cable News Network. 14 May 2002 <<http://www.cnn.com/Travel/atevo/city/SanFrancisco/intro.html>>.

"Fresco Painting." Encyclopedia Britannica Online. 2002. Encyclopedia Britannica. 8 May 2002 <<http://search.eb.com/>>.

An Entire Online Book:

Austen, Jane. Pride and Prejudice. Ed. Henry Churchyard. 1996. Jane Austen Information Page. 6 Sept. 2002 <<http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/pridprej.html>>.

Article in an Online Periodical:

Scholarly journal:

Dane, Gabrielle. "Reading Ophelia's Madness." Exemplaria 10.2 (1998). 22 June 2002
<<http://wb.english.ufl.edu/english/exemplaria/danefram.htm>>.

Tolson, Nancy. Making Books Available: The Role of Early Libraries, Librarians and Booksellers in the Promotion of African American Children's Literature." African American Review 32 (1998): 9-16. JSTOR 1 Oct. 2002
<<http://www.jstor.org/search>>.

Newspaper:

Biersdorfer, J.D. "Religion Finds Technology." New York Times on the Web 16 May 2002. 20 May 2002
<<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/05/16/technology/circuits/16CHUR.html>>.

Magazine:

Levy, Steven. "Great Minds, Great Ideas." Newsweek 27 May 2002. 20 May 2002
<<http://www.msnbc.com/news/754336.asp>>.

A Work from a Library Subscription Service (i.e. CSI databases):

"Cooling Trend in Antarctica." Futurist May-June 2002: 15. Academic Search Premier. EBSCO. City U of New York, Graduate Center Lib. 22 May 2002
<<http://www.epnet.com/>>.

B. Citing Sources in the Text

The works cited at the end of the research paper acknowledge your sources, but they do not provide detailed documentation. You must indicate to your readers exactly where in the specific work you found the material. This is accomplished by inserting a brief parenthetical acknowledgement in the paper wherever you use another's words, facts or ideas. Usually, the author's last name and a page reference are enough to identify the source and the specific location from which you borrowed the material. The information in the parenthetical references in the text must match the corresponding information in the list of works cited.

One work by one author:

Tannen has argued this point (178-85).

or

This point has already been argued (Tanner 178-85).

(If you include the author's name in the text, you need not repeat the name in the parenthetical page citation.)

Two or three authors:

Others, like Jacobson and Waugh (210-15), hold the opposite point of view.

or

Others hold the opposite point of view (e.g., Jacobson and Waugh 210-15).

(When a work has three authors and they are named in the parentheses, separate the names with commas.)

... (Alton, Davies, and Rice 56).

Four or more authors

(Name all of the authors or include only the first author's name followed by "et al.")

The study was extended for two years and only after results were reviewed by an independent panel did the researchers publish their findings (Blaine et al. 35).

(For variations and other examples of citing sources in the text see pages 239-58 of the manual.)

Direct Quotations

It may be true, as Robertson maintains, that "in the appreciation of medieval art the attitude of the observer is of primary importance ..." (136).

or

It may be true that "in the appreciation of medieval art the attitude of the observer is of primary importance ..." (Robertson 136).

(For variations and other examples including quotations of poetry and prose see pages 109-21 of the manual.)