

MLA Documentation - The Research Paper

Documentation and the List of Works Cited

When you use the words or original ideas of another person in your writing, you need to document, or give credit to, the sources of those words and ideas. If exact words are used, quotation marks are necessary. If you paraphrase or restate the idea in your own words, quotation marks are not needed, but documentation of the source is still required.

When using the Modern Language Association (MLA) format, sources are briefly identified (according to MLA rules) in the text of the research paper. Later, a more detailed citation is required in a "Works Cited" list located at the end of the paper. On this sheet are examples of how to document a source and how to do a works cited list. **Not all types of sources are covered in this handout.** For more information check the *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing 3rd ed.* ©2008, Call Number: R 808.027 G437M2

Parenthetical Documentation

Parenthetical documentation is used to briefly identify the sources and page numbers of information you have used in writing your paper. The documentation should be integrated smoothly into the text of your paper, rather than listed separately as in footnotes.

- If the author's name is mentioned in your writing, you only need to put the page number in parentheses at the end of the sentence. The reader can then consult the "works cited" list at the end of the paper to get the complete citation.

EXAMPLE: Elizabeth Gorman predicts "that married men set higher earnings goals for themselves than single men do" (120).

- If you decide not to list the author in the text of your paper, enclose in parentheses both the author's last name and the page referred to. The reader can then consult the "works cited" list at the end of the paper to get the complete citation.

EXAMPLE: Since the Economic Espionage Act was passed by Congress in 1996, only 13 criminal cases have gone to indictment (Eisenberg 60).

- For publications with no author given, include the first few words from the title if it is long. If the title is short, use the full title. If the publication is a book, *italicize* the title. If the information is from an article, place the title in quotation marks ("").

EXAMPLE: The Ohio State University study suggests that "children who grow-up in single-mother households have problems not so much because of the lack of a father, but because of the lack of a second parent and because single mothers are more likely to be disadvantaged in terms of income" ("Debate Over a Father's" 8).

- **NOTE:** Use author's name only (Johnson) for electronic full-text sources that do not have actual page numbers. In the "Works Cited" list it will be noted that the source does not have page numbers.

- Write down the URL (if required) and date you accessed a web site, as they may not appear in your document or copy.

Works Cited

A list of "works cited" has all the sources that contribute ideas and information to your paper. It is arranged in alphabetical order by the author's last name or if the source doesn't list an author, then by the first word of the title (ignore "A", "An", and "The"). If you have a source not covered in the following examples, the *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing 3rd ed.* ©2008, Call Number: R 808.027 G437M2 is available in Reference or on Reserve at the Circulation desk in the LRC.

Other Rules: If you have a second work by the same author: instead of repeating the author's name, put 3 hyphens and a period (---.) and alphabetize as if the name were spelled out. When required information is not available, use the following abbreviations: n.d. (for no date of publication), n.p. (for no place of publication), n.p. (for no publisher), and n. pag. (for no page numbers).

NOTE: On the "Works Cited" if an entry takes more than one line it is double spaced and the second line should be indented 1/2 inch.

PRINT BOOKS

Author last name, first name. *Title of the book*. City where published: Name of publisher, year published. Print.

- **Book, One Author**
Hay, Louise L. *Life! Reflections on Your Journey*. Carson: Hay House, 1995. Print.
- **Book Two Authors**
Jackson, Phil and Hugh Delehanty. *Sacred Hoops: Spiritual Lessons of a Hardwood Warrior*. New York: Hyperion, 1995. Print.
- **Book with Editor**
Kahle, Charles F., ed. *Plate Tectonics – Assessments and Reassessments*. Tulsa: American Association of Petroleum Geologists, 1974. Print.

Works Cited continued

- **A Work in an Anthology (Collection of works in one book)**

Klein, K. L. "Time Immemorial." *Frontiers of Historical Imagination: Narrating the European Conquest of Native America*.

Ed. Kerwin Klein. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997. 129-212. Print.

- **A Work in an Anthology (Reprinted and Given a New Title)**

Lieberman, Robert C. "A Lack of Opportunities Causes Poverty." *Opposing Viewpoints: Poverty*. Ed. Laura Egendorf. San Diego:

Greenhaven Press, 1999. 83-89. Rpt. of "Orwell's Poverty and Ours." *The American Prospect*. Winter 1995: 90-94. Print.

- **An Article in a Reference Book (General Encyclopedia Signed Article)**

Carey, George W. "Government." *Encyclopedia Americana*. 1997 ed. Print.

- **An Article in a Specialized Reference Book (Encyclopedia, Specialized, No Author Given)**

"Community." *Encyclopedia of Sociology*. Eds. E. F. Borgatta and M. L. Borgatta. 4 vols. New York: Macmillan

Publishing, 1992. Print.

PERIODICAL PRINT PUBLICATIONS (Journals, Magazines, and Newspapers)

Author last name, first name . "Title of article." *Title of the periodical*. Volume date: pages. Media Type.

Note: If no author is given, then start with the title of the article.

- **Scholarly Journal Article**

Gorman, Elizabeth H. "Bringing Home the Bacon: Marital Allocation of Income-Earning Responsibility, Job Shifts, and Men's

Wages." *Journal of Marriage and the Family*. 61.1 (1999): 110-122. Print.

- **Magazine Article**

"Eisenbert, Daniel. "Eyeing the Competition." *Time* 22 Mar. 1999: 58-60. Print.

(Weekly magazine: 20 Dec. 2000. Monthly: Dec. 2000. Semi-monthly: July-Aug. 2000)

- **Newspaper Article**

Zjawinski, Sonia. "Unnecessary Tech: Panasonic's Portable Blu-ray Player." *New York Times* 4 Jun. 2009, late ed.: B9. Print.

- **Journal Article on Microfilm**

Fowler, Doreen. "Beyond Oedipus: Lucas Beauchamp, Ned Barnett, and Faulkner's Intruder in the Dust." *Modern Fiction Studies*.

53.4 (2007): 788-820. Microform.

WEB PUBLICATIONS (Webpages, Articles in databases, and Articles from the web)

Name of author, compiler, director, editor, etc. "Title of the work." *Title of the overall Web site*. Version or edition used. Publisher or sponsor of site; if not available, use n.p. Date of publication. Medium of publication. Date of access. <URL>.

Note: A URL address is optional. MLA rules do not require a URL unless required by a publisher or *instructor*.

- **A Scholarly Journal from the Web (This example shows the location of the URL according to MLA)**

Covey, Martin. "Introduction: Work and Families." *Michigan Family Review* 12 (2007): n. pag. Web. 16 Jan. 2009. <[http://quod.lib.](http://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=mfr;cc=mfr;q1=2007;rgn=main;view=text;idno=4919087.0012.101)

[umich.edu/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=mfr;cc=mfr;q1=2007;rgn=main;view=text;idno=4919087.0012.101](http://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=mfr;cc=mfr;q1=2007;rgn=main;view=text;idno=4919087.0012.101)>.

- **A Work Cited Available Only on the Web (optional URL not shown)**

"A Cancer Diagnosis Can Effect Emotional Health." *American Cancer Society*. Leo and Gloria Rosen-American Cancer Society

Library, 26 Aug. 2008. Web. 15 June 2009.

- **A Work on the Web Cited with Print Publication Data (Electronic Books, etc.) (optional URL not shown)**

Hatfield, Ken. *Heartland Heroes: Remembering World War II*. Columbia University of Missouri Press, 2003. *NetLibrary*.

Web. 16 June 2009.

- **Periodical Publication in an Online Database (optional URL not shown)**

McKay, Michele, and William J. Scheick. "The Other Song in Phillis Wheatley's 'On Imagination'." *Studies in the Literary*

Imagination 27 (1994): 71-83. *Literary Reference Center*. Web. 1 Mar. 2009.