



Documenting Electronic Sources: MLA Style

You must document your sources anytime that you use information that is not your own. (See the Library brochure on plagiarism for more information.)

We have created this separate handout for electronic sources because they change frequently. Use the Library brochure, *Documenting Sources: MLA Style: For Print and Other Non-Electronic Sources*, for all your sources not retrieved online. We have tried to provide the most common examples, but you may need to adapt them to fit your sources, or refer to the *MLA Handbook* for more complicated sources.

IN-TEXT DOCUMENTATION FORMAT

In general, follow the same rules as for print sources. The basic in-text citation normally includes the author(s) and page(s). The author(s) either appears in the sentence itself (a signal phrase) or at the end of the sentence in parentheses (called parenthetical citation). Most electronic sources do not include page numbers from the original print version. If the source does provide them, page numbers should be at the end of the sentence in parentheses, otherwise use nothing at all.

Basic in-text citation with author signal phrase

Using population statistics as an example, Smith and Ernst argue that homelessness is a condition vastly underestimated, particularly in large metropolitan areas (31).

Basic in-text citation with author's name in parentheses

"The use of foreshadowing throughout the novel keeps the reader intrigued" (Bender, Anderson, and Black 63).

Source with no author and no page numbers

(Note: Use a short form of the title. Titles will be in quotation marks or italicized, depending on how they appear in the works cited list. Ignore initial articles.)

Colonial house plans often included traditional designs and methods ("Architectural").

Indirect source (source within a source) (secondary source with more than three authors)

Taylor has noted "several discrepancies in twin studies of the past" (qtd. in Thomas et al.).

Multiple sources by the same author (short form of title included)

(Note: Titles will be in quotation marks or italicized, depending on how they appear in the works cited list. Ignore initial articles.)

According to Miller, "Genealogical research is both an art and a science" (*Ancestor*).

A dedicated researcher can literally spend days trying to decipher archived passenger manifests (Miller, "Past" 3).

Online quotation sources

(Note: Use the originator's name in the signal phrase. Include the Web site title in parentheses.)

As the English author, Joseph Addison, said, "Three grand essentials to happiness in this life are something to do, something to love, and something to hope for" (*Creative Quotations*).

WORKS CITED FORMAT

General Formatting Tips

A works cited list should begin on a new page and be double-spaced. Each entry/citation in the list should be alphabetized by author or editor. If no author, alphabetize by the first word of the title other than *A*, *An*, or *The*. When citing a complete date, all months but May, June, and July are abbreviated. If no date can be found in the source, use n.d. in the citation. If a date range, like 2003-2007, is given, use the most recent date. (Does not apply to edition statements.)

URLs are not required. Include a URL after the access date only if the source cannot be located without it or when your instructor requires it. Example: <<http://ari.org/manuscript/egypt/>>

General Web Sites

MLA style includes the specific title of the section/document on a larger Web site first, then the title of the whole Web site. Magazine and newspaper articles accessed directly (not through a database) are treated as general Web sites. Journals accessed directly are treated as periodicals. (See below.)

Web site with author

Author/editor/creator. "Document Title." *Web Site Title*. Name of organization associated with the site, Date.

Medium. Access date.

Stambaugh, Larry, and Angeline Davies. "Scribe Statues." *Ancient Egyptian Art*. Art Research Institute, n.d. Web. 1 July 2011.

(Note: This is an example of a Web site with no publication date.)

Organizational Web site with no personal author

"Document Title." *Web Site Title*. Name of organization associated with the site, Date. Medium. Access date.

"Analyzing the Short Story." *Practical Writing*. American Association of Literary Academics, 2008. Web. 17 Feb. 2011.

Government Web site with no personal author

United States. Dept. of Health and Human Services. Natl. Inst. of Health. Natl. Inst. of Mental Health. "Bipolar Disorder." *National Institute of Mental Health*. Natl. Inst. of Mental Health, 2010. Web. 3 Mar. 2011.

Journal and Magazine Articles

PDF versions of articles usually do not show the database name which is required. Electronic versions of journals and magazines (except PDF versions) rarely show page numbers. Use the starting page number listed in the citation if that is the case. If no page number can be found, use n. pag.

Journal article with author from a database

Author. "Article Title." *Journal Title* Volume number.Issue number (Year): Beginning page or page range (if given).

Name of Database. Web. Access date.

Fair, Eleanor Jane, et al. "Native American Art: Historical Perspectives." *Art in America* 90.6 (2006): 35. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 12 Jan. 2011.

(Note: This is an example of a journal article with more than three authors.)

Magazine article from a database

(Note: Volume and issue numbers are not used for magazines.)

Author. "Article Title." *Magazine Title* Complete date of publication: Beginning page or page range (if given).

Name of Database. Web. Access date.

Blair-Jones, Kathy. "Information Literacy." *CQ Researcher* 22 July 2009: 495-527. *CQ Researcher Online*. Web. 2 Aug. 2010.

"Weather Mysteries." *Discover* Dec. 2008: 61. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 1 Sept. 2010.

(Note: This is an example of a magazine article with unknown author.)

Online journal article accessed directly—not through a database

(Note: For magazine articles accessed directly, treat as a General Web Site. See example below for journals.)

Walley, Kenneth, Jr., Janice Mamrosh, and Florence Russo. "Therapeutic Meditation: the Art of Zen." *Journal of Buddhist Practice* 4.2 (2009): n. pag. Web. 14 Oct. 2010.

Newspaper Articles

(Note: For newspaper articles accessed directly (not from a database), treat as a General Web Site.)

Newspaper article with author from a database

Author. "Article Title." *Newspaper Title* Date, Edition (if given): Beginning page. *Name of Database*. Web. Access date.

Anderson, David R. "A Valuable History Lesson." *New York Times* 25 May 2010, late ed.: B6. *ProQuest Newspapers*. Web. 7 July 2011.

eBooks

Johnson, Emily K., and Betty J. Friedman. *A History of Women Artists*. New York: Thompson, 2009. *ebrary*. Web. 6 Aug. 2011.

Online Reference Sources Accessed Directly

Reference resource with articles

Author/editor (if known). "Article Title." *Online Reference Title*. Edition (if available). Company/Publisher, Copyright date or last update. Web. Access date.

United States. Dept. of Labor. Bureau of Labor Statistics. "Engineers." *Occupational Outlook Handbook*. 2010-11 ed. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2009. Web. 5 May 2011.

(Note: This is an example of an online reference source created by a government agency.)

Typical online quotation source

Creative Quotations. Baertracks, 2008. Web. 24 Apr. 2011.

(Note: This is an example of a reference to an entire Web site, because the quotations found on this site by keyword search aren't categorized by article/subject or speaker.)

Online Reference Sources from a Database

(Note: See below for examples from CCC databases.)

Gale Virtual Reference Library

Huang, Jeannie S. "Body Image." *Encyclopedia of Obesity*. 2008. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*. Web. 28 Mar. 2011.

Literature Resource Center

"Quinton Fallow." *Contemporary Authors*. 2007. *Literature Resource Center*. Web. 13 Feb. 2011.

(Note: This is an example of a reference source in the Literature Resource Center database.)

Griffith, Wendy Morgan. "Jealousy Personified: a Critical Look at Three of Fallow's Major Works." *The Explicator* 63.2 (2009): 57. *Literature Resource Center*. Web. 11 Oct. 2010.

(Note: This is an example of a periodical source in the Literature Resource Center database.)

Health & Wellness Resource Center

"Treating Parkinson's Disease." *The Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine*. 3rd ed. 2006. *Health & Wellness Resource Center*. Web. 23 July 2011.

(Note: This is an example of an encyclopedia article with no author from a database.)

Opposing Viewpoints in Context

Stewart, Jerry, Jr., and Ian Murray, III. "File Sharing Enhances Music Appreciation." *Censorship*. 2009. *Opposing Viewpoints in Context*. Web. 26 Apr. 2011.

Blackboard

Material created by instructor

Instructor's name. "Title of Material." Semester, year. Carroll Community College Blackboard course page. File type. Access date.

Smithfield-Adams, Laura. "The War of 1812." Summer I, 2011. Carroll Community College Blackboard course page. *Microsoft PowerPoint* file. 14 June 2011.

Material from authors other than instructor

Jackson, Shirley. "The Lottery." *American Women Authors*. Ed. Martha Grayson. 2nd ed. Reading: Progressive, 2006. 243-50. Spring, 2011. Carroll Community College Blackboard course page. PDF file. 10 Apr. 2011.

(Note: Use this format for articles, book chapters, selections from anthologies, PDF documents, and other reprints not created by the instructor. Cite the correct format for the original version using as much information as available, and adding current online access information. Style will depend on the type of source. This sample is a selection from an anthology which should include page numbers of selection if available.)

More Sources

Streaming video

"How to Paint a Landscape." *YouTube*. YouTube, 8 Aug. 2010. Web. 12 Aug. 2010.

Images

Creator (if known). *Title*. [In brackets if made up]. Date. *Web Site Title*. Web. Access date.

Calley, Marjorie. [*Springer Spaniel*]. 2009. *Dog Breeds*. Web. 25 July 2011.

Matisse, Henri. *Purple Robe and Anemones*. 1937. *The Baltimore Museum of Art*. Web. 17 July 2011.

E-mail message

Writer's name. "Subject line" (if any). Message to (the name of the recipient). Date of message. E-mail.

Bloom, Cari. "Poetry Notes." Message to the author. 20 June 2010. E-mail.

Podcast

Addison, Samuel. "How to Do Research in the Library." *Nutley College Library Cast*. Nutley College, Apr. 2010.

MP3 file. 27 Apr. 2010.

This handout adapted from:

MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 7th ed. New York: Modern Language Association, 2009. Print.

Hacker, Diana. *Rules for Writers*. 6th ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2009. Print.