



# APA Citation Format

## *A Resnick Library Information Guide*

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The purpose of documentation is to refer readers to the sources you are citing, and to avoid misrepresenting others' work as your own. Consult your instructor for the preferred citation format for your paper or project. This guide outlines the style recommended by the American Psychological Association (APA) for the references in research papers. Only a few examples are given. See "Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association" for a complete list of sources that can be cited.

### **Books**

Author's last name, Initial(s). (year). *Book title*. City and state of publication: Publishing Co.

Examples:

#### **A book with a single author:**

Pinker, S. (1997). *How the mind works*. New York: Norton.

#### **A book by two or more authors:**

Graves, R. M., & Cornish, G. S. (1998). *Golf course design*. New York: Wiley.

#### **A book by a corporate author:**

American Kennel Club. (1997). *The complete dog book*. New York: Howell.

#### **A book with an editor:**

Parker, M. (Ed.). (1995). *She does math!: Real-life problems from women on the job*. Washington, DC: Mathematical Association of America.

#### **Entry in an encyclopedia:**

Bergmann, P.G. (1993). Relativity. In *The new encyclopedia Britannica* (Vol. 26, pp.501-508). Chicago: Encyclopedia Britannica.

### **Periodical articles**

Author's last name, Initial(s). (Date). Article title. *Periodical Title*, volume(issue), inclusive pages.

Examples:

#### **A journal article with continuous pagination:**

Elbow, P. (1993). Ranking, evaluating and linking: Sorting out three forms of judgement. *College English*, 55, 187-206.

#### **An article from a journal with each issue beginning on page 1:**

Henry, W. A., III. (1990, April 9). Beyond the melting pot. *Time*, 135, 28-31.

#### **A newspaper article:**

Fixmer, R. (1998, September 29). Tiny new chip could pit protection of property against right of privacy. *New York Times*, B14.

## Web Sites

All web-based references begin with the same information that would be provided for a printed source or as much of that information as is available. The Web information is then placed in a retrieval statement at the end of the reference. It is important to give the date of retrieval because documents on the Web may change in content, move, or be removed from a site altogether. As the APA writes on their web site (<http://www.apastyle.org/electmedia.html>), “all content on the Internet is prone to being moved, restructured, or deleted, resulting in broken hyperlinks and nonworking URLs in the reference list. In an attempt to resolve this problem, many scholarly publishers have begun assigning a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) to journal articles and other documents. A DOI is a unique alphanumeric string assigned by a registration agency to identify content and provide a persistent link to its location on the Internet. When a DOI is available, include the DOI instead of the URL in the reference” (para. 9-10).

As a general rule, if you cannot identify either the author(s) or the publishing organization responsible for a given work on the Web, it is *not recommended* that you use the source. If the site has no date, substitute (n.d.)

### Online periodical:

Author’s last name, Initial(s). (year). Article title. *Periodical Title*, volume(issue), inclusive pages.  
Retrieved month day, year, from URL

Example:

VandenBos, G., Knapp, S., & Doe, J. (2001). Role of reference elements in the selection of resources by psychology undergraduates. *Journal of Bibliographic Research*, 5, 117-123. Retrieved October 13, 2001, from <http://jbr.org/articles.html>

### Online document:

Author’s last name, Initial(s). (year). *Title of work*. Retrieved month day, year, from URL

Example:

Burditt, L., Buchanan, D., & Fitch, J. (2000). *Breeds of livestock*. Retrieved January 31, 2002, from <http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/>

## Electronic Databases

Author’s last name, Initial(s). (year). Article title. *Periodical Title*, volume(issue), inclusive pages.  
Retrieved month day, year, from source database.

Examples:

Borman, W. C., Hanson, M. A., Oppler, S. H., Pulakos, E. D., & White, L. A. (1993). Role of early supervisory experience in supervisor performance. *Journal of Applied Psychology*, 78, 443-449. Retrieved October 23, 2000, from PsycARTICLES database.

Hall, K.G. (1999, April 29). Circle expanding operations in Brazil. *Journal of Commerce*, 1A. Retrieved September 7, 1999, from InfoTrac OneFile database.

Example with DOI:

Choudhari, S.M., Ananthanarayan, L., & Singhal, R.S. (2007). Use of metabolic stimulators and inhibitors for enhanced production of  $\beta$ -carotene and lycopene by *Blakeslea trispora* NRRL 2895 and 2896. *Bioresource Technology*, 99(8), 3166-3173. doi:10.1016/j.biortech.2007.05.051

## **In Text Citations**

(Author's last name, year) or, if you have used the author's name in the paragraph, you only need to put the year after the author's name.

Examples:

“to treat depression in children” (Hazell, 2002).

Hall (1999) discussed the lack of domestic logistics providers in Brazil.

For more information:

American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.  
Available at Ref BF76.7.P83 2001 or on Reserve.

See also the Resnick Library homepage <http://www.delhi.edu/library> for online guides to APA documentation and the latest suggestions for documenting online sources.