Listing Your References: APA Rules

Reference listings, which appear at the end of your paper, allow a reader to find any source you cite in the body of the paper. Add every source cited to your reference list. Also, double-check to be sure that every reference has been cited in your text.

The Basics

1. Start your references on a new page after your text.
2. Label the page References (not underlined or in quotation marks) centered at the top of your page.
3. Double-space all of your listings.
4. Indent one-half inch all lines after the first line of each entry in your reference list.
5. List authors by last name, followed by initials. Use a comma to separate last name and initials.
6. Alphabetize your entire listing, usually by the last name of the author.
7. Capitalize all major words in journal titles.
8. Italicize titles of longer works such as books and journals.
9. Do not italicize, underline, or put quotes around the titles of shorter works such as journal articles or essays in edited collections.

Listing an Author or Authors

Single Author

Last name first, followed by author initials.


Two Authors

List by their last names and initials. Use the ampersand instead of "and."


Organization as Author


Unknown Author

Two or More Works by the Same Author

Use the author’s name for all entries and list the entries by the year (earliest comes first).


Listing Articles in Periodicals

**Basic Form**

List each author by last name, followed by initials, followed by the publication year in parentheses, followed by a period. Write the title of the article in sentence-case, meaning only the first word and proper nouns in the title are capitalized. Italicize the periodical title in title case, followed by the italicized volume number, then the page number(s).


**Article in Journal Paginated by Volume**

Journals paginated by volume begin with page one in issue one, and continue numbering issue two where issue one ended, etc.


**Article in Journal Paginated by Issue**

Journals paginated by issue begin with page one every issue; therefore, the issue number gets indicated in parentheses after the volume. The parentheses and issue number are not italicized or underlined.


**Article in a Magazine**

**Article in a Newspaper**


**Letter to the Editor**


**Review**


**Listing Books**

**Basic Format for Books**

Author, A. A. (Year of publication). Title of work: Capital letter also for subtitle. Location: Publisher. **Note:** For "Location," always list the city, but also include the state if the city is unfamiliar or if the city could be confused with one in another state.


**Edited Book, No Author**


**Edition Other Than the First**


**Multivolume Work**

Listing Other Print Sources

**An Entry in An Encyclopedia**

**Government Document**

**Report From a Private Organization**

Listing Electronic Sources

**Article from an Online Periodical**

*Note:* In 2007, the APA released several additions/modifications for documentation of electronic sources in the APA Style Guide to Electronic References. These changes are reflected in the entries below. **Please note** that there are no spaces used with brackets in APA.

Online articles follow the same guidelines for printed articles. Include all information the online host makes available, including an issue number in parentheses. Provide a retrieval date only if the information is likely to be updated or changed at a later date (as in the case of blogs and wikis). Since many online periodicals appear in their "final" form, a retrieval date is not necessary.


Online Scholarly Journal Article

Since online materials can potentially change URL's, APA recommends providing a Digital Object Identifier (DOI), when it is available, as opposed to the URL. DOI's are an attempt to provide stable, long-lasting links for online articles. They are unique to their documents and consist of a long alphanumeric code. Many—but not all—publishers will provide an article's DOI on the first page of the document.

Note: Some online bibliographies provide an article's DOI but may "hide" the code under a button which may read "Article" or may be an abbreviation of a vendor's name, such as "CrossRef" or "PubMed." This button will usually lead the user to the full article which will include the DOI. Find DOI's from print publications or ones that go to dead links with CrossRef.org's "DOI Resolver," which is displayed in a central location on their home page.

Article From an Online Periodical with DOI Assigned

Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (Date of publication). Title of article. Title of Journal, volume number. doi:0000000/000000000000


doi:10.1108/03090560710821161

Article From an Online Periodical with no DOI Assigned

Online scholarly journal articles without a DOI require a URL but do not require a retrieval date. Provide a retrieval date only if the information is likely to be updated or changed at a later date (as in the case of blogs and wikis). Since most journal articles appear in their "final" form, a retrieval date is not needed.


If the article appears as a printed version as well, the URL is not required. Use "Electronic version" in brackets after the article's title.

Newspaper Article
Author, A. A. (Year, Month Day). Title of article. Title of Newspaper. Retrieved
http://www.someaddress.com/full/url/

tree-cutter-carves-out.html

Online Book Reviews

Cite the information as you normally would for the work you are quoting. (The first example below is
from a newspaper article; the second is from a scholarly journal.) In brackets, write "Review of the
book" and give the title of the reviewed work. Provide the web address after the words "Retrieved
from," if the review is freely available to anyone. If the review comes from a subscription service or
database, write "Available from" and provide the information where the review can be purchased.

Harbus. Retrieved from
http://media.www.harbus.org/media/storage/paper343/news/2001/09/24/Ae/Book-

Online Encyclopedias and Dictionaries

Often encyclopedias and dictionaries do not provide bylines (authors' names). When no byline is
present, move the entry name to the front of the citation. Provide publication dates if present or
specify (n.d.) if no date is present in the entry. Because updates and modifications are not normally
specified, provide the retrieval date in the citation. When listing the URL, give only the home or index
root as opposed to the URL for the entry.


Listing Other Non-Print Sources

Interviews, Email, and Other Personal Communication

No personal communication is included in your reference list; instead, parenthetically cite the
communicators name, the fact that it was personal communication, and the date of the
communication in your main text only.


A. Pfeiffer is continuing to work on technical problems (personal
communication, September 25, 2008).
**Motion Picture**

Basic reference list format:

Producer, P. P. (Producer), & Director, D.D. (Director). (Date of publication). Title of motion picture [Motion picture]. Country of origin: Studio or distributor.


**Note:** If a movie or video tape is not available in wide distribution, add the following to your citation after the country of origin: (Available from Distributor name, full address and zip code).

**Television Series Episode**


**Television Broadcast**


**A Television Series**


**Music Recording**

Songwriter, W. W. (Date of copyright). Title of song [Recorded by artist if different from song writer]. On Title of album [Medium of recording]. Location: Label. (Recording date if different from copyright date).