Citation Styles

Citation styles differ mostly in the location, order, and syntax of information about references. The number and diversity of citation styles reflect different priorities with respect to concision, readability, dates, authors, publications, and, of course, style.

There are also two major divisions *within* most citation styles: **documentary-note style** and **parenthetical style**. *Documentary-note style* is the standard form of documenting sources. It involves using either footnotes or endnotes so that information about your sources is readily available to your readers but does not interfere with their reading of your work.

In the *parenthetical style*, sometimes called the "author-date" style or "in-text" style, references to sources are made in the body of the work itself, through parentheses. An example of this would be the following sentence, taken from page 23 of a book written by Professor Scott in 1999:

> Professor Scott asserts that "environmental reform in Alaska in the 1970s accelerated rapidly as the result of pipeline expansion."
> (Scott 1999, 23)

This is generally considered an abbreviated form of citation, and it does not require footnotes or endnotes, although it does require the equivalent of a "Works Cited" page at the end of the paper. It is easier to write, but might interfere with how smoothly your work reads. See your instructor for information on which form, documentary-note style or parenthetical style, is appropriate for your paper.

With so many different citation styles, how do you know which one is right for your paper? First, we strongly recommend asking your instructor. There are several factors which go into determining the appropriate citation style, including discipline (priorities in an English class might differ from those of a Psychology class, for example), academic expectations (papers intended for publication might be subject to different standards than mid-term papers), the research aims of an assignment, and the individual preference of your instructor.

If you want to learn more about using a particular citation style, we have provided links to more specific resources below. Just choose the appropriate discipline from the menu on the left, or scroll down until you find the style that interests you.

Humanities

Chicago

      Writer's Handbook: Chicago Style Documentation
http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocChicago.html
      Quick Reference Guide to the Chicago Style
http://www.library.wwu.edu/ref/Refhome/chicago.html
      Excellent FAQ on Usage in the Chicago Style
http://www.press.uchicago.edu/Misc/Chicago/cmosfaq/
      Online! Guide to Chicago Style
http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/online/cite7.html

MLA   (Modern Language Association)

      Writer's Handbook: MLA Style Documentation
http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocMLA.html
      The Documentation Style of the Modern Language Association
http://www.newark.ohio-state.edu/~osuwrite/mla.htm
      MLA Citation Style
http://campusgw.library.cornell.edu/newhelp/res_strategy/citing/mla.html
      Online! Guide to MLA Style
http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/online/cite5.html
      Useful Guide to Parenthetical Documentation
http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Acropolis/1623/document.html

Turabian   (an academic style that works in other disciplines as well)

      Turabian bibliography samples (Ithaca College Library). Based on the 6th edition
of Turabian's *Manual*.
      Turabian Style: Sample Footnotes and Bibliographic Entries (6th edition)
(Bridgewater State College)
      Turabian style guide: (University of Southern Mississippi Libraries)
      Turabian Citation Style Examples (Northwest Missouri State University

Sciences

ACS   (American Chemical Society)

ACS Style Sheet
http://www.lehigh.edu/~inhelp/footnote/acs.html
ACS Books Reference Style Guidelines
http://pubs.acs.org/books/references.shtml

AMA   (American Medical Society)

AMA Style Guide
http://healthlinks.washington.edu/hsl/styleguides/ama.html
AMA Documentation Style
http://rx.stlcop.edu/wcenter/AMA.htm
AMA Citation Style
http://www.liu.edu/cwis/cwp/library/workshop/citama.htm

CBE   (Council of Biology Editors)

Writer's Handbook: CBE Style Documentation
http://www.wisc.edu/writetest/Handbook/DocCBE6.html
Online! Guide to CBE Style
http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/online/cite8.html
CBE Style Form Guide
http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu/guides/cbegd.html

IEEE   (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers)

Handbook: Documentation IEEE Style
http://www.ecf.utoronto.ca/~writing/handbook-docum1b.html
Sample IEEE Documentation Style for References
http://www.carleton.ca/~nartemev/IEEE_style.html
Electrical Engineering Citation Style
http://www.lehigh.edu/~inhelp/footnote/footee.html

NLM   (National Library of Medicine)

NLM Style Guide
http://healthlinks.washington.edu/hsl/styleguides/nlm.html
Citing the Internet: A Brief Guide
http://nnlm.gov/pnr/news/200107/netcite.html

National Library of Medicine Recommended Formats for Bibliographic Citation (PDF format)
http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/formats/internet.pdf

Vancouver   (Biological Sciences)

    Introduction to the Vancouver Style
http://www.lib.monash.edu.au/vl/cite/citeprvr.htm
    Vancouver Style References
http://www.library.uq.edu.au/training/citation/vancouv.html
    Detailed Explanation of the Vancouver style
http://www.acponline.org/journals/annals/01jan97/unifreqr.htm

Social Sciences

AAA   (American Anthropological Association)

        Citations and Bibliographic Style for Anthropology Papers
http://www.usd.edu/anth/handbook/bib.htm
        AAA Style Handbook (PDF format)
http://www.aaanet.org/pubs/style_guide.pdf

APA   (American Psychological Association)

        Writer's Handbook: APA Style Documentation
http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocAPA.html
        APA Style Guide
http://www.lib.usm.edu/~instruct/guides/apa.html
        Bibliography Style Handbook (APA)
http://www.english.uiuc.edu/cws/wworkshop/bibliography_style_handbookapa.htm
        APA Style Electronic Format
http://www.westwords.com/guffey/apa.html
        Online! Guide to APA Style
http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/online/cite6.html
        APA Style.org
http://www.apastyle.org/elecref.html

APSA   (American Political Science Association)

Writer's Handbook: APSA Documentation
http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocAPSA.html

Legal Style

Cornell University's Introduction to Basic Legal Citation
http://www.law.cornell.edu/citation/citation.table.html
Legal Citation: Using and Understanding Legal Abbreviations
http://qsilver.queensu.ca/law/legalcit.htm
Legal Research and Citation Style in the USA
http://www.rbs0.com/lawcite.htm

Other: General info on citing web documents
http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Style.html

Recommended Multi-Style Links
http://www.aresearchguide.com/styleguides.html
http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/