APA Style 7th Edition: The Reference List

This guide provides examples of how to cite sources using the American Psychological Association (APA) citation style. In APA style, a source is briefly cited within the text of a research paper using the author’s surname (family name) and the date of publication. This is known as an in-text citation. A detailed list of all in-text citations is provided at the end of the research paper on a separate page with the word References (in bold) centered at the top of the page. Reference list entries are organized alphabetically by author, and by title for entries with no author. All entries are double-spaced and have a hanging indent, meaning the second and subsequent lines of an entry are indented 1.27 cm (0.5 in) from the left margin.

Reference list entries typically contain four elements:

- Author (individual(s) or group(s) responsible for the work being cited)
- Date of publication (or “n.d.” when the date is unknown)
- Title of the work
- Source where the work can be located

Formatting of references will vary depending on the type of work you are citing. Sometimes the work you are trying to cite will be missing information such as the author or date, and you will need to modify your citation. This guide contains examples of how to cite common types of works and information on how to adapt references when elements are missing or unknown.

Within this guide, reference examples are grouped into the following categories. Click on a category below to move to that section of the guide:

- **Periodicals and Blogs**
- **Books, Book Chapters, Reference Works, and Book Reviews**
- **Reports, Conference Presentations, Dissertations and Theses, Preprints**
- **Data Sets**
- **Tests, Scales, and Inventories**
- **Audiovisual Media**
- **Social Media**
- **Webpages and Websites**
- **Personal Communications**
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Periodicals and Blogs

General format for articles from periodicals (e.g., journals, magazines, newspapers, blogs):

Author name(s). (publication date). Title of article. Title of Periodical, volume number, (issue number), pages. DOI or URL

- The format of the various parts of the reference may vary depending on the type of periodical you are citing.
- When information in the source is missing or unknown (e.g., volume numbers, issue numbers, pages), omit them from the reference.

The following examples illustrate how to cite common types of periodicals. Please refer to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 7th ed., (pp. 316-321) for more information and examples.

Journal article with a DOI:


DOIs and URLs:

- A DOI (Digital Object Identifier) provides a stable and persistent link to an article, book, or other document on the internet. Include a DOI for all works that have a DOI.
- The preferred format for a DOI is to display it as a hyperlink beginning with https://doi.org/ followed by the DOI number as shown in the example above. All DOIs in your reference list should be formatted this way.
- If a DOI in a work you are citing follows a different format, edit the DOI so that it reflects the preferred format.
- Both DOIs and URLs can be displayed as plain text (no underlining) or with underlining (e.g., the default setting for hyperlinks in most word-processors). Both are acceptable, but choose one format and be consistent throughout your reference list.
- Do not add a period at the end of a DOI/URL or manually insert a line break. Line breaks that are automatically inserted by your word-processor are acceptable.

Journal article without a DOI, with a nondatabase URL:


- For online articles that do not have a DOI, but do have a URL, include the URL in the Reference.
- URLs should link directly to the article when possible.
- For articles retrieved from academic research databases that do not have a DOI, refer to the next example.
Journal article without a DOI, from most academic research databases or print version:


- Do not include the database name or URL for most academic research databases. If an article does not contain a DOI, format the citation as if you were citing the print version of the article.
- Some exceptions may apply, for example, the database name is included in the reference if the work you are citing can only be retrieved from that particular database. Please refer to Chapter 10, examples 13 & 14, p. 319 of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 7th ed. for more information.

Journal article with a DOI, multiple authors:


- For articles with two to 20 authors, include all authors (surname followed by initials). Insert an ampersand (&) before the final author. For articles with 21 or more authors, include the first 19 authors, followed by an ellipsis (...), and then the final author (see Chapter 10, example 4, p. 317 of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 7th ed.).

Journal article with an article number or eLocator:


- If an article has an article number or eLocator (e.g., e0206266), include it in the citation instead of page numbers. Precede the number with the word Article (capitalized).

Magazine article with a DOI:


Magazine or newspaper article without a DOI, with a nondatabase URL:


Magazine or newspaper article without a DOI, from most academic research databases or print version:


- Do not include the database name or URL for most academic research databases. If an article does not contain a DOI, format the citation as if you were citing the print version of the article.

Blog post:

https://www.psychologytoday.com/ca/blog/modern-minds/202003/facebook-friends-the-real-deal-or-social-mirage

Books, Book Chapters, Reference Works, and Book Reviews

General format for books, book chapters and entries in reference works:

Author(s) or Editor(s). (Year of publication). *Title of book* (additional information if applicable, e.g. edition, volume, etc.). Publisher Name. DOI or URL

Author(s) of chapter or entry. (Year of publication). Title of chapter or entry. Editor(s), *Title of book* (additional information if applicable, e.g. edition, volume, page numbers). Publisher Name. DOI or URL

The following examples illustrate how to cite common types of book sources. Please refer to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 7th ed., (pp. 321-329 & pp. 334-335) for more information and examples.

Authored book with a DOI:


Authored book without a DOI, from most academic research databases or print version:

Kryger, M. (2017). *The mystery of sleep: Why a good night’s rest is vital to a better, healthier life.* Yale University Press.
Authored ebook without a DOI, with a nondatabase URL:


Authored book, multiple authors:


- When there are two to 20 authors, include all authors (surname followed by initials). Insert an ampersand (&) before the final author. When there are 21 or more authors, include the first 19 authors, followed by an ellipsis ( . . . ), and then the final author.

Group authored book, organization as both author and publisher:


- In reference list entries, use official names of groups spelled out (e.g., American Psychiatric Association, not APA).
- When the author is also the publisher of the work, omit the publisher from the reference.

Book with no author:


- If there is no author, move the title to the author position.
- If the author of a source is identified as “Anonymous”, use “Anonymous” as the author.

Edited book with a DOI:


Edited book without a DOI, from most academic research databases or print version:

Edited ebook without a DOI, with a nondatabase URL (multiple publishers):


- If there are two or more publishers, include all of them in the same order as shown on the work, separated by semicolons.

Chapter in an edited book with a DOI:


Chapter in an edited book without a DOI, from most academic research databases or print version:


Chapter in an edited ebook without a DOI, with a nondatabase URL:


Work in an anthology:


Entry in an encyclopedia with an individual author:


• For an online source that is continuously updated, include the year of last update for the specific entry that you are citing if clearly indicated. Otherwise, use “n.d.” (no date) for year of publication and include a retrieval date because the content may change over time.

Entry in a dictionary with a group author:


• When the author is also the publisher of the work, omit the publisher from the reference.

Wikipedia entry:


• Cite the archived version of the page by clicking the “View history” link on the Wikipedia page and selecting the time and date of the version you used. This will provide you with a permanent link (URL) to the version of the page you used.

Book review with title:


Book review with no title:


• For more information about how to cite reviews of books, films, etc., please refer to Chapter 10, pp. 334-335 of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 7th ed.

Reports, Conference Presentations, Dissertations and Theses, Preprints

The following examples illustrate how to cite reports and other types of gray literature. Please refer to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 7th ed., (pp. 329-337) for more information and examples.
Annual report:


Report by a government agency or other organization:


Report by individual authors at a government agency or other organization:


Press release:

https://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca/English/news-article/13453/hiring-aspiring-workers-living-mental-illness-makes-cents

Conference session:


Poster presentation:

Thesis published online in a university archive/institutional repository:

http://library2.smu.ca/bitstream/handle/01/23718/macphee_matt_masters_2010.PDF?sequence=2&is Allowed=y

Informally published work from a preprint archive:


Data Sets

Please refer to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 7th ed., (pp.337-338) for more information and examples on how to cite data sets and raw data.

Data set:


Vonkeman, C. (2018). *The role of local presence in online impulse buying* (Version 1) [Data set]. DataverseNL. 
https://dataverse.nl/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=hdl:10411/UC5NK5

- Create a description in square brackets following the title that best describes the content you are citing e.g., Data set; Data set and code book; Unpublished raw data. etc.

Tests, Scales, and Inventories

Please refer to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 7th ed., (pp.340-341) for more information and examples on how to cite tests, scales, and inventories.

Manual for a test, scale, or inventory:

Test, scale or inventory itself:


Database record for a test:


- Test names are capitalized.
- Cite the manual or other supporting literature for a test, scale or inventory if available. Only cite the actual test, scale or inventory if the manual or supporting documentation is not available.

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**Audiovisual Media**

The following examples illustrate how to cite common types of audio works, visual works, and audiovisual works (works containing both audio and visual components). Please refer to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 7th ed.*, (pp. 341-347) for more information and examples.

**Film or video:**


**TV series:**


**TV series episode:**


**Webinar, recorded:**


- Cite unrecorded webinars as personal communications.
You Tube video or other streaming video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVjJxnHtc2I

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fB1OWwFTZ8U

- The person or group who posts the video is credited as the author.

Podcast:

https://www.cbc.ca/listen/cbc-podcasts/128-someone-knows-something

Podcast episode:


Radio interview recording:

https://www.cbc.ca/radio/thecurrent/feb-26-2013-1.2910295/growing-up-in-the-church-of-scientology-jenna-miscavige-hill-1.2910296

Infographic:

Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety. (n.d.). * Civility and respect in the workplace* [Infographic].  
https://www.ccohs.ca/images/products/infographics/download/Respect_Civility.png

Map:


- Dynamically created maps such as Google Maps do not have titles. Instead, include a description of the map in square brackets and a retrieval date.
Photograph:


- The photographer is credited as the author, and the source is the name of the site from which the photograph was retrieved. If the photograph is untitled, include a description in square brackets in the title position.

PowerPoint slides:


- Lecture notes or PowerPoint slides that are retrievable (e.g., posted to a public website) are included in the reference list.
- If notes or slides are posted on a learning management system such as Brightspace, and your reader is able to access that resource, include a citation in your reference list. Provide the name of the site and its URL in the citation (e.g., Brightspace. [https://smu.brightspace.com/d2l/login](https://smu.brightspace.com/d2l/login)).
- Lecture notes, PowerPoint slides, or other materials that are not retrievable by others (e.g., lecture notes taken by a student during a class) are cited as personal communications in the text of the paper only, not in the reference list.

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**Social Media**

When citing social media (e.g., Twitter, Facebook, Instagram):

- Include the text of a social media post up to the first 20 words; do not alter the spelling or capitalization as found in the post; include hashtags, links, and emojis. Reproduce emojis if possible or provide the emoji’s name in square brackets. Names of emojis can be found on the Unicode Consortium’s website: [https://unicode.org/emoji/charts/index.html](https://unicode.org/emoji/charts/index.html)
- Indicate audiovisuals if present in square brackets following the text of the post.

The following examples illustrate how to cite common types of social media. Please refer to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 7th ed., (pp. 348-350) for more information and examples.

**Tweet:**

David Suzuki Foundation [@DavidSuzukiFDN]. (2020, March 13). *Sometimes, amidst all the fear, we just need to be there for each other #fridayfeeling* [Image attached] [Tweet]. Twitter. [https://twitter.com/DavidSuzukiFDN/status/1238435040574537729](https://twitter.com/DavidSuzukiFDN/status/1238435040574537729)
Facebook post:

World Wildlife Fund for Nature. (2020, May 20). *It might sound unbelievable, but without bees, [bee emoji] we may have to say goodbye to food such as apples, almonds* [Video]. Facebook. 
https://www.facebook.com/WWF/videos/691645764932680/

Instagram photo:

Krakauer, J. [@krakauernotwriting]. (2019, July 23). *Sod was once an important building material in Iceland* [Photograph]. Instagram. https://www.instagram.com/p/B0RhVjQhJ7P/

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### Webpages and Websites

**Webpage on a news website:**


**Webpage on a website with a group author:**

https://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/psychosocial/violence.html

- When the author and the name of the website are the same, do not repeat the name of the website in the source information.

**Webpage on a website with an individual author:**


- Only cite a source as a webpage if it does not fit any other reference category (e.g., journal article, ebook, etc.). For example, a journal article located on a website should be cited as a journal article, not a website.
- If the content of a webpage is likely to change over time, include a retrieval date (e.g., Retrieved June 11, 2020, from https://xxxxx)
- When an entire website is mentioned within the text of a paper, but no specific information is used from the cite, there is no need to create a reference list entry or an in-text citation. Rather, provide the name of the website and its URL in the text of your paper. For example: The company advertised on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com).
Personal Communications

Personal communications include sources that are not recoverable by readers such as e-mail messages, private letters, telephone conversations, and notes taken during a class lecture. These types of sources are not included in the reference list, but are cited in the text of the paper only. Include the initials and surname of the communicator and the exact date.

During a lecture, Professor D. Forrest discussed ... (personal communication, May, 31, 2020).

In a telephone interview with the association’s vice president ... (H. Klein, personal communication, November 15, 2019).

Traditional Knowledge or Oral Traditions of Indigenous Peoples that is not recoverable by readers is also cited as a personal communication in the text of the paper only. Provide sufficient detail to describe the content and origin of the information, including the communicator’s full name, the nation or indigenous group to which they belong, their location and any other relevant details, followed by “personal communication”, and the date that the communication took place. Capitalize most terms relating to Indigenous Peoples or Indigenous culture (e.g., Indigenous, Elder, Traditional Knowledge, etc.).

Please refer to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 7th ed., (p. 260-261) for more information on how to cite personal communications.

Additional Resources

For more detailed information, please consult the following resources:

- APA Style 7th Edition Reference Quick Guide
- APA Style Blog
- Patrick Power Library guide: APA Style 7th Edition: In-Text Citations

For further assistance, please contact the Library’s Research Help Desk:
- Email: research@smu.ca or Text: 902-702-3057

Please note: Your instructors’ requirements for citing may differ from the examples provided in this guide. Always check with your instructor if you have questions.

Patrick Power Library, July 2020