

How to Write a Bibliography (MLA format)

Tips

- The book or magazine title is always underlined in a bibliography!
- If a citation is more than one line long, indent the second line five spaces.
- Put the bibliography in alphabetical order, by the author's last name. If there is no author listed, use the first word of the title (not "a," "an," or "the").
- When there is more than one author, list the authors in the order they are listed on the title page.
- If you use information from an article in a book or magazine, the article is listed before the title.

Book Citations:

Bibliographic citations for books vary. These examples can help you write your bibliography for many types of book citations.

Book with one author:

Higham, Cindy. Snowflakes for All Seasons. Salt Lake City: Gibbs Smith, 2004.
The author is listed, last name first. The title is underlined. The city where the book is published is listed followed by a colon and the name of the publisher. The year the book is published is then listed followed by a period.

Book with two authors:

Rhatigan, Joe and Newcomb, Rain. Prize Winning Science Fair Projects for Curious Kids.
New York: Lark Books, 2004.

A book that has an editor:

Dickins, Rosie, ed. The Usborne Introduction to Art. Tulsa: EDC Publications, 2004.

A book without an author:

Fodor's '05 Costa Rica. New York: Fodor's Travel Publication, 2005.

An article in a book without an author:

"Afghanistan." Time Almanac. Needham, MA: Pearson Education Inc., 2005.
The title of the article is listed before the title of the book.
If the city of publication is unfamiliar, the name of the state or country is listed as well.

Encyclopedia and Other Reference Books:

An encyclopedia article may or may not have an author. The author's name can be found at the end of the article. An article that has an author is called a "signed article."

Signed articles:

Dundes, Alan. "Magic." World Book Encyclopedia. Volume 13. Chicago: World Book Inc., 2005.

The name of the encyclopedia article is placed after the author's name and put in quotation marks.

Unsigned articles:

"Human Spaceflight." Compton's Encyclopedia. Volume 22. Chicago, Encyclopedia, Britannica, 2004.

Magazines and Newspapers:

Magazines and newspapers are good sources for locating current information. When citing a magazine or newspaper [sometimes called periodicals], use the following formats. Periodical articles may or may not have an author.

Magazines:

Signed articles:

Keith, Ted. "From Cursed to First." Sports Illustrated Kids. January 2005: 31-33.

Urbanas, Jason. "Bodies of Pompeii." Dig. March 2005. Vol. 7: 16-17.

The author's name is given first, the name of the article, then the name of the magazine, the date of the magazine, a colon and then the page number(s).

Unsigned articles:

"Charged." Kids Discover. February 2005. Vol.6, Issue 2. p.4.

Newspapers:

"FBI Agent 'Risky Life' by Posing as Wise Guy." Chicago Tribune. 10 March 2005. Section 1, Page 1.

If the article has an author, it is placed before the name of the article.

World Wide Web/Internet:

Australian Scientists Prove Less Trees, Less Rain. Online. 10 March 2005.

<<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/syd269633.htm>>

If there is an author, list it first. Title of item is underlined. [online]. Date of access and put the <website address> in brackets.

Internet Citation for an Articles from an Online Database like Infotrac or Biography Resource:

"Bowling for Bounty." Consumer Reports. January 2004: 7. Infotrac. Gale Group Databases. Downers Grove Public Library. 15 March 2005.

<<http://webz.infotrac.galegroup.com>>

Author's name first. Then the title of the article, followed by the title of the magazine or newspaper, the date of publication, and then the page number(s). Name of the database, name of the service (the company that provided the site), the name of the library that provided the service, date of access, and the network address.

Waldfoegel, J. "Piracy on the High C's: Music Downloading." Working Paper Series. 29 November 2004: 48. World Cat. First Search. Downers Grove Public Library. 11 March 2005.<<http://newfirstsearch.oclc.org>>

"Republic of Poland Background History." Culture Grams. Online. Internet Downers. Grove Public Library. 11 March 2005. <<http://online.culturegrams.com>>

Where to find the information:

Information for bibliographies is taken right from the source. Look at the title page for the publisher, city, and author. Copyright information is found on the verso page. Another good place to look is the computer catalog at the library.

YouTube Video:

Based on MLA standards for other media formats, we feel that the following format is the most acceptable for citing YouTube videos:

Author's Name or Poster's Username. "Title of Image or Video." Media Type
Text. *Name of Website*. Name of Website's Publisher, date of posting. Medium. date retrieved.

Here is an example of what that looks like:

Shimabukuro, Jake. "Ukulele Weeps by Jake Shimabukuro." Online video clip.
YouTube. YouTube, 22 Apr. 2006. Web. 9 Sept. 2010.

(cited from Purdue Online Writing Lab:
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/18/>)

Blog Posting

Cite Web postings as you would a standard Web entry. Provide the author of the work, the title of the posting in quotation marks, the Web site name in italics, the publisher, and the posting date. Follow with the medium of publication and the date of access. Include screen names as author names when author name is not known. If both names are known, place the author's name in brackets. Remember if the publisher of the site is unknown, use the abbreviation *n.p.*

Editor, screen name, author, or compiler name (if available). "Posting Title." *Name of Site*. Version number (if available). Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (sponsor or publisher). Medium of publication. Date of access.

Salmar1515 [Sal Hernandez]. "Re: Best Strategy: Fenced Pastures vs. Max Number of Rooms?"
BoardGameGeek. BoardGameGeek, 29 Sept. 2008. Web. 5 Apr. 2009.

A Tweet

MLA posted guidelines on their [website](#) for how to cite a tweet on a Works Cited page. Begin with the user's name (Last Name, First Name) followed by his/her Twitter user name in parentheses. Insert a period outside the parentheses. Next, place the tweet in its entirety in quotations, inserting a period after the tweet within the quotations. Include the date and time of posting, using the reader's time zone; separate the date and time with a comma and end with a period. Include the word "Tweet" afterwards and end with a period.

Brokaw, Tom (tombrokaw). "SC demonstrated why all the debates are the engines of this campaign." 22 Jan. 2012, 3:06 a.m. Tweet.

Purdue Writing Lab (PurdueWLab). "Spring break is around the corner, and all our locations will be open next week." 5 Mar. 2012, 12:58 p.m. Tweet.

Online Forum or Discussion Board Posting

Include the title of the message, and the URL of the newsgroup or discussion board. Please note that titles for items in online communities (e.g. blogs, newsgroups, forums) are not italicized. If the author's name is not available, provide the screen name. Place identifiers like post or message numbers, if available, in brackets. If available, provide the URL where the message is archived (e.g. "Message posted to..., archived at...").

Frook, B. D. (1999, July 23). New inventions in the cyberworld of toylandia [Msg 25]. Message posted to <http://groups.earthlink.com/forum/messages/00025.html>

Blog (Weblog) and Video Blog Post

Include the title of the message and the URL. Please note that titles for items in online communities (e.g. blogs, newsgroups, forums) are not italicized. If the author's name is not available, provide the screen name.

J Dean. (2008, May 7). When the self emerges: Is that me in the mirror? [Web log comment]. Retrieved from <http://www.spring.org.uk/the1sttransport>

Psychology Video Blog #3 [Video file]. Retrieved from <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqM90eQi5-M>

Wikis

Please note that the *APA Style Guide to Electronic References* warns writers that wikis (like Wikipedia, for example) are collaborative projects that cannot guarantee the verifiability or expertise of their entries.

OLPC Peru/Arahuay. (n.d.). Retrieved April 29, 2011 from the OLPC Wiki: http://wiki.laptop.org/go/OLPC_Peru/Arahuay

Audio Podcast

For all podcasts, provide as much information as possible; not all of the following information will be available. Possible addition identifiers may include Producer, Director, etc.

Bell, T., & Phillips, T. (2008, May 6). A solar flare. *Science @ NASA Podcast*. Podcast retrieved from <http://science.nasa.gov/podcast.htm>

Video Podcasts

For all podcasts, provide as much information as possible; not all of the following information will be available. Possible addition identifiers may include Producer, Director, etc.

Scott, D. (Producer). (2007, January 5). The community college classroom [Episode 7]. *Adventures in Education*. Podcast retrieved from <http://www.adveeducation.com>