MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers

MLA 7th Ed.
CITATIONS
After you locate sources for your assignment or project and determine that they are relevant for your research, make sure you record all the information that you’ll need to cite it in your paper. This section will cover how to cite various types of books, articles, websites, and other electronic resources in *MLA (Modern Language Association) 7th edition*, which is one of the most popular citation styles for undergraduate students.

When you are citing sources, it is important that you follow the rules closely; this includes things like using hanging indentation, italicizing certain parts of the citation, and putting periods and commas in the right place. There are many different sources that provide examples of citations, some of which will be mentioned here. However, the definitive source for citing in MLA is the official *MLA handbook for writers of research papers, 7th Edition*. If you do not see an example that closely matches the source you are trying to cite, consult the manual directly. There are a number of copies available in the Stewart Library. Some are located in the reference collection, and others are in the general collection and may be checked out.

**CITING BOOKS**

Books come in a variety of forms. Some are electronic and some are in print. Some have authors and some have editors. Some have multiple editions. All are cited differently, so it’s important to know what type of source you have before you can cite it. In general, book citations will include:

- the author(s) or editor(s),
- publication year,
- title (and subtitle) of the book,
- place of publication,
- publisher name
- medium (print or Web)

If you are citing a book chapter (rather than a whole book), you will also include the chapter title, authors, and page numbers of that chapter.
CITING ARTICLES

Like books, articles come in a variety of forms. Some are electronic and some are in print. Some electronic articles are found in article databases, while others are found on the free Web. Articles may be classified as magazine articles, journal articles, trade publication articles, or newspaper articles. All are cited differently, so it’s important to know what type of source you have before you can cite it. In general, article citations will include:

- the author(s),
- date (only the year for journals, full date for magazines and newspapers)
- title of the article,
- name of the magazine, journal, or newspaper,
- volume and issue (for journals),
- page numbers
- medium (print or Web)

CITING WEBSITES & WEB PAGES

Material you find on the Web is probably the most difficult to cite, because the information provided is not consistent and can be difficult to find. In addition, it is important to distinguish whether you will be citing a website or a Web page. On occasion, it may be appropriate to cite an entire website. However, you generally want to use the most specific information, so Web pages are the ones most often cited. An example of a website is the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke website: [http://www.ninds.nih.gov/](http://www.ninds.nih.gov/)

This site links to many different pages; one example is their Epilepsy page: [http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/epilepsy/epilepsy.htm](http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/epilepsy/epilepsy.htm)

In general, citations will include:

- the author and/or sponsor,
- title of the specific page or document you are citing,
- title of the website,
- date updated or posted,
- the word “Web” (instead of the URL),
- date you accessed the page
CITING OTHER INFORMATION FOUND ON THE WEB

There is a large amount of information found on the Web that does not fall into the category of Web page or website. These include blogs, chat rooms, discussion lists, and a variety of multimedia sources such as podcasts, YouTube videos, images, audio files, and others. Once again, it is important to know what it is you are citing, because all of these are cited differently.

IN TEXT CITATIONS

Besides listing references at the end of your paper it is also important to cite sources throughout the document. MLA in-text citation follows the author-page number format. This means that your citations should list the name of the author along with the page number. This is true in all cases even if you are not quoting something directly. This can be done multiple ways:

In text citations at the beginning of a statement:
Anderson, Ferro, and Hilton stated that computer science is an important subject to learn in school (256).

In text citations at the end of a statement:
Many individuals believe that computer science is an important subject to learn in school (Anderson, Ferro, and Hilton 256).

Direct quotations:
“It is essential that students study technological subjects such as computer science in college if they are to gain an appreciation for the current job market” (Anderson, Ferro, & Hilton 112).

Sources that do not contain page numbers such as a Web page (use paragraph number instead):
(Kessler para. 6).

Although the rules for in-text citation outlined above will work in most cases, you may encounter a source where you can’t cite it using any of the above methods. In that case, consult the MLA style manual, your instructor, or a reference librarian to get more specific information regarding how to cite that source.
ADDITIONAL EXAMPLES

This video will walk you through the process of citing materials in text in MLA format:
https://library.weber.edu/researchandteaching/lib1704/Videos/MLAInText

This video offers a brief overview for creating a bibliography using the MLA citation format:
https://library.weber.edu/researchandteaching/lib1704/Videos/MLACitation

This quick video walks you through the process of creating hanging indentation:
https://library.weber.edu/researchandteaching/lib1704/Videos/HangingIndent

Here are a few websites that have examples of MLA citations:

OWL Purdue:
https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/

Stewart Library Libguide: Citing Electronic Resources, MLA Examples (click on the MLA Examples tab to view):
http://libguides.weber.edu/citing

Cornell University:
https://www.library.cornell.edu/research/citation/mla

A printable PDF showing examples of how to cite books, articles, and materials found on the web may be found here:
http://libguides.weber.edu/loader.php?type=d&id=69947
Citation tools such as the one built into Microsoft Word, EBSCO citations, and citationmachine.net often contain errors and give a false sense of security. Due to these factors, these tools should either be avoided or one must check citations for accuracy after using one of these tools.