



MLA Format

OVERVIEW — The MLA style, as presented in this handout, is widely accepted in most disciplines in the Humanities. The Modern Language Association (MLA) citation format requires citation **within** the text rather than endnotes or footnotes. Citation in the text provides information, usually the name of the author and the page number(s), to lead the reader to the accompanying full bibliographical entry in the “**Works Cited**” list which is placed at the end of the research paper.

SPECIAL NOTE: To conserve space, this handout is issued in single space; however, MLA Style requires double space throughout.

Parenthetical Citations — *In the text of a research paper*

EXAMPLE At least one other educator has recently quarreled with the traditional division of the curriculum into discrete subjects (Moffett 5-10).

Works Cited — *A section in alphabetical order at the end of the same research paper*

EXAMPLE Moffett, James. Teaching the Universe of Discourse. Boston: Houghton, 1968.

PARENTHETICAL CITATIONS — Parenthetical citation in the text provides information, usually the name of the author and the page number(s), to lead the reader to the accompanying complete bibliographical entry in the “Works Cited” section at the end. When constructing parenthetical documentation, the rule is: the briefer the better! Try to incorporate most information into the text. Section 5.3 of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* states:

“Keep parenthetical references as brief—and as few—as clarity and accuracy permit. Give only the information needed to identify a source and do not add a parenthetical reference unnecessarily.”

At the end of the sentence, use the PAGE NUMBER ONLY when the work cited is evident from the context. For example: ...end of sentence (12).

At the end of the sentence, use the AUTHOR + PAGE NUMBER when the work needs to be identified. For example: ...end of sentence (Smitz 23).

At the end of the sentence, use the AUTHOR + TITLE + PAGE NUMBER when the work is not identified in the text. Try to avoid this by identifying it in the text if at all possible.. For example: ...end of sentence (Gilbert and Sullivan, Iolanthe, 45).

WORKS CITED — Only a small number of MLA citation rules are demonstrated in this handout. For more detailed information, consult the **5th edition of *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, call number LB2369G53 1999**, or the MLA section of ***Form and Style* (call number LB2369G53 1999)**. Ask for either at the Reference

Center. Arrange "Works Cited" in alphabetical order. The rules are presented in these five categories:

Books, Journal Articles, Newspapers, Internet Resources, Other Sources.

BOOKS: In citing books, normally arrange the information in the following order:

- 1) author's name;
- 2) title of a part of the book;
- 3) title of the book;
- 4) name of the editor, translator, or compiler;
- 5) edition used;
- 6) volume number used;
- 7) name of the series;
- 8) place of publication, name of publisher, and date of publication;
- 9) page numbers;
- 10) supplementary bibliographic information and annotation.

By a Single Author

Berlage, Gai Ingham. Women in Baseball: The Forgotten History. Westport: Greenwood, 1994.

By Two or Three Authors

Eggin, Suzanne, and Diane Slade. Analysing Casual Conversation. London: Cassell, 1997.

By More Than Three Authors

Edens, Walter, et al., eds. Teaching Shakespeare. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1977.

By a Corporate Author

National Research Council. China and Global Change: Opportunities for Collaboration. Washington: Natl. Acad., 1992.

By Anonymous Author

Encyclopedia of Virginia. New York: Somerset, 1993.

An Article in a Reference Book

"Mandarin." The Encyclopedia Americana. 1994 ed.

Parts of Books

Rubinstein, Arye. "Children with AIDS and the Public Risk." AIDS: Facts and Issues. Ed. Victor Gong and Norman Rudnick. New Brunswick: Rutgers UP, 1986. 99-103.

A Translation

Espiquel, Laura. Like Water for Chocolate: A Novel in Monthly Installments, with Recipes, Romances, and Home Remedies. Tras. Carol Christensen and Thomas Christensen. New York: Doubleday, 1992.

A Book in a Series

Shilstone, Frederick W. Approaches to Teaching Byron's Poetry. Approaches to Teaching World Literature 36. New York: MLA, 1991.

A Multivolume Work

Banco, Richard L., ed. The American Revolution, 1775-1783: An Encyclopedia. 2 vols. Hamden: Garland, 1993.

Conference Proceedings

Freed, Barbara F., ed. Foreign Language Acquisition Research and the Classroom.
Proc. of Consortium for Lang. Teaching and Learning Conf., Oct. 1989.
U of Pennsylvania. Lexington: Heath, 1991.

JOURNAL AND MAGAZINE ARTICLES: In citing journal and magazine articles, normally arrange the information in this order:

- 1) author's name;
- 2) title of the article;
- 3) name of the journal;
- 4) series number or name;
- 5) volume number;
- 6) date of publication;
- 7) page numbers.

From a Magazine

Mehta, Pratap Bhanu. "Exploding Myths." New Republic 6 June 1998: 17-19.

From a Journal With Continuous Pagination

Craner, Paul M. "New Tool for an Ancient Art: The Computer and Music."
Computers and the Humanities 25 (1991): 303-13.

From a Journal Paginating Each Issue Separately

Hallin, Daniel C. "Sound Bite News: Television Coverage of Elections, 1968-1988." Journal of Communication 42.2 (1992): 5-24.

From a Journal Using Only Issue Numbers

Bowering, George. "Baseball and the Canadian Imagination." Canadian Literature 108 (1986): 115-24.

An Anonymous Journal or Magazine Article

"Distant Deposits Hint at Eruption." Science News 142 (17 October 1992): 260.

Review In a Journal

Socha, Thomas J. Rev. of Learning the Rules: the Anatomy of Children's Relationships, by B. J. Bigelow, G. Tesson, and J. H. Lewko. Communication Education 47 (1998): 91-92.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: in citing newspaper articles, normally arrange the information in the following order:

- 1) author's name (usually identified under byline);
- 2) title of the article (usually called a headline);
- 3) type of article (i.e., letter, editorial, etc.);
- 4) name of the newspaper;
- 5) date of issue;
- 6) edition;
- 7) section and page number(s).

Lohr, Steve. "Now Playing: Babes in Cyberspace." New York Times 3 Apr. 1998, late ed.:C1+.

INTERNET SOURCES: These guidelines on "*MLA Documentation Style for the World Wide Web*" are available on the [Internet](#) and authorized by the Modern Language Association of America. The guidelines are quoted in full from the site.

- 1) Name of the author, editor, compiler, or translator of the source (if available and relevant), reversed for alphabetizing and followed by an abbreviation, such as ed., if appropriate.
- 2) Title of a poem, short story, article, or similar short work within a scholarly project, database, or periodical (in quotation marks); or title of a posting to a discussion list or forum (taken from the subject line and put in quotation marks), followed by the description Online posting.
- 3) Title of a book (underlined).
- 4) Name of the editor, compiler, or translator of the text (if relevant and if not cited earlier), preceded by the appropriate abbreviation, such as Ed.
- 5) Publication information for any print version of the source.
- 6) Title of the scholarly project, database, periodical, or professional or personal site (underlined); or, for a professional or personal site with no title, a description such as Home page.
- 7) Name of the editor of the scholarly project or database (if available).
- 8) Version number of the source (if not part of the title) or, for a journal, the volume number, issue number, or other identifying number.
- 9) Date of electronic publication, of the latest update, or of posting.
- 10) For a work from a subscription service, the name of the service and--if a library is the subscriber--the name and city (and state abbreviation, if necessary) of the library.
- 11) For a posting to a discussion list or forum, the name of the list or forum.
- 12) The number range or total number of pages, paragraphs, or other sections, if they are numbered.
- 13) Name of any institution or organization sponsoring or associated with the Web site.
- 14) Date when the researcher accessed the source.

- 15) Electronic address, or URL, of the source (in angle brackets); or, for a subscription service, the URL of the service's main page (if known) or the keyword assigned by the service

Article Subscription Databases

The following 7 examples assume you accessed these CSLA Library subscription databases on 7 March, 2003.

Sempreora, Margot. "Nick at Night: Nocturnal Metafiction in Three Hemingway Short Stories." Hemingway Review Fall 2002: 22. 1.
EBSCOHost Academic Search Premier. Cal State L. A. Lib., Los Angeles, CA. 7 Mar. 2003 <<http://www.epnet.com>>.

Bemrose, John. "Magical Monarch." Maclean's 9 September, 2002 .
Lexis/Nexis Academic Universe. Cal State L. A. Lib., Los Angeles, CA. 7 Mar. 2003 <<http://web.lexis-nexis.com/universe/>>.

Waters, Colin. "Was Medea a Feminist? One Writer's View." Washington Times April 26, 1998. Newsstand (Proquest). Cal State L. A. Lib., Los Angeles, CA. 7 Mar. 2003 <<http://proquest.umi.com/>>.

Schiffman, Zachary Sayre. "Rabelais, Renaissance, and Reformation: Recent French Works on the Renaissance." Renaissance Quarterly Spring 1995: 48.1. JSTOR. Cal State L. A. Lib., Los Angeles, CA. 7 Mar. 2003 <<http://www.jstor.org/>>.

Malak, Amin. "Margaret Atwood's The Handmaid's Tale and the Dystopian Tradition." Canadian Literature Spring 1987: 112. Contemporary Literary Criticism. Cal State L. A. Lib., Los Angeles, CA. 7 Mar. 2003 <<http://www.galenet.com/>>.

"Atwood, Margaret (Eleanor)" Britannica Online. Cal State L. A. Lib., Los Angeles, CA. 7 Mar. 2003 <<http://www.eb.com>>.

"Kingsley Amis" Scribner Writer's Series. Cal State L. A. Lib., Los Angeles, CA. 7 Mar. 2003 <<http://www.galenet.com/servlet/Scribner/>>.

The following example assumes you subscribe to America Online (AOL), that Compton's Encyclopedia Online is available to AOL subscribers, and that you accessed this article on 4 July 1998 via that subscription:

"Table Tennis." Compton's Encyclopedia Online. Vers. 2.0. 1997. America Online. 4 July 1998. Keyword:Compton's.

The following example assumes that you went to UCLA on 7 March 2003, used a computer workstation in a UCLA library to search UCLA subscription databases, and located the following article:

Tufel, Alice L. "A Hundred Conflicting Shades: The Divided Passions of George Eliot." BIBLIO November 1998: 3.11. Magazine & Journal Articles Database, California Digital Library. UCLA College Lib., Los Angeles, CA. 7 Mar. 2003 <<http://www.melvyl.ucop.edu/?CSdb=mags>>.

Article from a Public Domain/Non-subscription Database

"Argentina." CIA World Factbook. 7 Mar. 2003
<<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/ar.html>>.

Scholarly Project

Victorian Women Writers Project. Ed. Perry Willett. Apr. 1997. Indiana U. 26 Apr. 1997 <<http://www.indiana.edu/~letrs/vwwp/>>.

Professional Web Site

Portuguese Language Page. U of Chicago. 1 May 1997
<<http://humanities.uchicago.edu/romance/port/>>.

OTHER SOURCES: This includes, among others, these common categories below.

Material From an Information Service, Not Previously Published

Groark, James J. Utilization of Library Resources by Students in Non-residential Degree Programs. ERIC, 1974. ED 121 236.

Films

Robinson, Phil Alden, dir. Field of Dreams. With Kevin Costner, Amy Madigan, and James Earl Jones. Universal, 1989.

Performance of a Play

Parker, Stewart. Pentecost. Dir. Kevin Kingley. Round House Theatre, Washington, DC. 25 Oct. 1992.

Recordings

The Beatles. "The Long and Winding Road." Let It Be. Apple Records, n.d

Interviews

Rosser, James. Interview with author. 20 Nov. 1992.

Works Of Art

Houdon, Jean-Antoine. Statue of Voltaire. Comédie Française, Paris. Illus. 51 in Literature Through Art: A New Approach to French Literature. By Helmut A. Hatzfeld. New York: Oxford UP, 1952.

Electronic Book

Woll, Stanley. Everyday Thinking. New Jersey: L. Erlbaum, 2002. Cal State L.A. Lib., Los Angeles, CA. 7 Mar. 2003 <<http://www.Netlibrary.com>>.

Most examples in this handout were culled from the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (call number [LB2369 .G53 1999](#)) and the MLA section of *Form and Style* (call number [LB2369 .C3 2000](#)). Both sources are kept at the Reference Center and should be consulted if you require more detailed information. If you have trouble finding the right form for your citation, please ask a reference librarian for help.

– Rev. 10/6/04–HY