

Concordia University Wisconsin

Bibliographic Citations for Electronic Sources American Psychological Association (APA) Format

Electronic databases, once retrieved from the electronic source, must be cited in the proper format. When information is retrieved from the electronic source (online, CD-ROM, email, electronic bulletin board, disc, etc.), it must be cited in the proper format. The following examples offer a guide to citing such information within the paper and in reference lists. It is important to give credit where credit is due, with facts and ideas even if not in the words of the original author. It is also essential to give sufficient detail so that the reader of your paper would be able to retrieve the original data to which you had accessed in your research. For further information, please see a copy of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, fifth edition (BF 76.7 .P83 2001).

Useful hints in research citation

The primary elements in citing electronic resources are:

- ✚ **Author(s):** Last name, followed by a comma, and the author's first initial (and middle initial, if given), ending with a period. If there is more than one author, list them in the order given, and an ampersand (&) between two, or before the final author.
- ✚ **Date:** In the electronic format, it is listed as the date the document was accessed and from where it was accessed: **Retrieved September 12, 2004 from EBSCOhost Business Source Elite database.**
- ✚ **Title:** Capitalize only the initial word or proper nouns in a title.

The following are examples of various types of electronic document citations. APA indicates inclusion of a retrieval statement given at the end of the citation as seen in the examples to follow. The statement indicates the date of access of the document and the proper name of the database it was retrieved from. The accession number may be included but is not required. If included, it should be in parentheses at the end of the retrieval statement.

Citing Electronic Sources Within the Body of the Paper

Document your sources by citing the author and date of publication.

One author: If the author appears as part of the text, place only the publication year in parentheses. See example below:

Silva-Smith (2005) indicated there is a dilemma with new caregivers who care for stroke victims.

Or (see example at the top of page 2)

If you are using a direct quotation, place the author's last name and publication year in parentheses within the text. For example,

“New caregivers hold unrealistic expectations in treating stroke victims” (Silva-Smith, 2005).

Two authors: When one work has two authors, cite both authors every time you make a reference to the work in your text.

(Silva-Smith & Wilson, 2005)

Three, four, or five authors: Cite all authors the first time the reference is used. Then any subsequent references need only include the first author's name, followed by “et al”. There should be a period after “et al” and then the year of publication.

(Chadwick, Hemke, Garrison & Koehler, 2005)

Exception: If two references with the same year begin with the same last name, cite the last names of the first two authors and as many of the subsequent authors as necessary to distinguish the two references. Henceforth, you only need include the last name for the author and use “et al” for the following authors. See example below:

Hemke, Thompson, Zablocki, and Rasmussen (2005)

Hemke, Thompson, et al. (2005)

When a work has six or more authors: Cite only the last name of the first author followed by “et al.”.

Exception: If two sources with six or more authors have the same last name, cite the last names of the first two authors and as many of the subsequent authors as necessary to distinguish between the two references, followed by a comma and “et al”. For example:

Alomepe, Clatworthy, Thomas, Stolder, et al. (2005)

Alomepe, Clatworthy, Noble, Stolder, Christianson, et al. (2005)

Alomepe, Clatworthy, Thomas, et al. (2005)

Alomepe, Clatworthy, Noble, et al. (2005)

Groups as Authors: General rule: Groups might be corporations, government agencies, associations, etc. You need to give as much information about the source for it to be readily apparent in the Reference list. See following example:

First citation in text: (After Breast Cancer Diagnosis [ABCD], 2005)

Subsequent citations: (ABCD, 2005)

Entry in Reference list: After Breast Cancer Diagnosis. (2005)

Publications with no author (Including Legal Materials): When a work has no author, cite in text the first few words of the reference list entry (most often it is the title) and the year.

For electronic sources that do not provide page numbers, use the paragraph number, if available, preceded by the ¶ symbol or the abbreviation “para.”.

Personal Communications: Might be in the form of letters, memos, e-mail, or messages from discussion or news groups or electronic bulletin boards. Cite personal communication in text only, not in Reference list.

Example: P.C. Curran (personal communication, June 7, 2005).

Reference List Citing—Electronic Resources

Aggregated Databases (such as CINAHL, Medline, etc.)

One to three authors: Electronic copy of a journal article:

Gerham, P.C. & Hoffmann, K.C. (2004). Nurses and patients working together. *Holistic Nursing Practice*, 8, 9-20. Retrieved August 10, 2005 from Ebscohost CINAHL database.

Three to five authors: Electronic copy of a journal article:

Linh, C., Wilson, J.M., & Perry, C. (2004). Keeping in tune with patients. *Nursing*, 20, 3-10. Retrieved July 1, 2005 from Ebscohost CINAHL database.

Six or more authors: Electronic copy of a journal article:

Way, B.L., Hall, W.O., Trantanaella, G. S., Georgi, H.Y., Bergum, B.D., Nicholas, H.W., et al. Critical thinking in critical care. What happened to the rhythm? (2005). *Pediatric Nursing: Official Publication of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Associates and Practitioners*, 16, 20-31. Retrieved August 1, 2005 from Ovid CINAHL database (69112485).

Abstract: Electronic copy of an abstract obtained from a secondary database:

Bowman, B.K. & Macciocchi, S. (2004). Dual diagnosis: diagnosis, management, and future trends. *Topics in Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation*, 10, 58-68. Abstract retrieved June 23, 2005 from Ebscohost CINAHL database.

Citing an Electronic copy of a Journal or Magazine Article from a Website:

Duaso, M.J. & Cheung, P. (2002). Health promotion and lifestyle advice in a general practice: what do patients think? *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 39. Retrieved September 13, 2002 from <http://www.journaladvancednursing.com/jan/sept2002/ingenta.html>.

Citing an Electronic Copy of a Newspaper Article:

Barnard, A. (2002, August 10). Suspended surgeon to cite personal pressures lawyer says lapse was an aberration. *Boston Globe*, B1. Retrieved September 12, 2002 from Proquest Newspapers.

Citing a Newspaper Article from a Website:

Marchione, M. (2002, September 13). West Nile infections predicted to peak in upper Midwest during next week. *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. Retrieved September 14, 2002, from <http://www.jsonline.com/alive/news/sept02/79525.asp>.

Citing an Electronic version of a United States Government Report Available on the Web:

National Center for Health Statistics. *Wisconsin Health Facts*. Retrieved September 12, 2002, from National Center for Health Statistics: www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/wisconsin.htm.

Citing an entire Website:

Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion Home Page: www.cdc.gov/ncidod/hip/.

Citing a Specific Document from a Website:

The National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information. *Substance use, dependence or abuse among full-time workers*. Retrieved September 13, 2002 from The National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information: <http://www.health.org/govstudy/shortreports/workers/>.

