Citing Electronic Sources: APA Style

Introduction:

APA style is the preferred writing style of The American Psychological Association. It is widely used by scholars, researchers, and students of Psychology, Sociology, Education, Political Science, Anthropology, Economics, and Nursing in researching, recording, documenting, and writing research papers.

The following recommendations for citing electronic resources are based on the 6th edition of Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (2010) and selective Web publications on APA electronic citations. A copy of the manual should be available at the reference desk of your academic or public library in the United States. For more online instructions and examples of APA general writing format, parenthetical reference, Reference List of various sources, and notes, please go to Online Writing Lab (OWL) at Purdue University <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>.

General Guidelines for the Reference List

- Center References on the top of a new page at the end of the research paper
- Double space between References and the first citation
- Flush to the left to type each entry and indent five spaces (or Tab) after the first line if an entry runs more than one line
- Single-space between words/fields
- Double-space between lines throughout the References page
- Spell out only the authors’ last names and provide the initials of the authors’ first names and middle names.
- Reverse all of the authors’ names (e.g., Haugen, D. M., & Musser, S.)
- Start with the title if there is no author or corporate author
- Place the publication year in parentheses after the author or title entry
- Capitalize the initial letter in the title and subtitle of an article, a chapter from a book, and a book title
- Capitalize proper nouns and all keywords in a periodical title
- Italicize the titles of books or periodicals (journals, magazines, newspapers), and the volume number of a periodical
- Place a comma and a space after the periodical title and the issue number [e.g., Nature, 462(7271), 251+]
- Place the issue number in parentheses right after the volume number but do not italicize the issue number (See the above example)
- Place a plus sign (+) right after the beginning page number if the page number range is not given (See the above example)
- Place a period at the end of each field except the author field since there is already a period after the first name or middle name initial
- Alphabetize the citations under References by the authors’ last names or the beginning of a title if there is no author
Cite Articles from Journals or Magazines

If the journal or magazine is available in print format and easily available from a subscription online database, cite the journal or magazine article as if it is a print source.

If the article has one to five authors, cite all of their names in References. When a work has six or more authors, cite the first author’s name and add “et al.” If the author’s first and middle names are hyphenated, use hyphenation to link the first name initial and the middle name initial.

If the article is only in electronic format available from a subscription online database, add “Retrieved from Database Name” at the end of the citation.

If there is no author listed for the article, start the citation with the article title followed by the edition information, if any, in parentheses. Place the publication year in parentheses in the following field.

- **Cite Journal Articles from Subscription Online Databases:**

  Author's last name, First name initial, and Middle name initial. (Date of Publication).

  Article title. *Journal Title, volume number* (issue number), the beginning page number followed by a plus sign if the original publication is of more than 1 page.


- **Cite Magazine Articles from Subscription Online Databases:**

  Author's last name, First name initial, and Middle name initial. (Date of Publication).

  Article title. *Magazine Title, volume number*, page number.


- **Cite Journal Articles from an Internet-Only Publication:**

  Author's last name, First name initial, and Middle name initial. (Publication year).
  
  Article title. *Journal Title, volume number* (issue number), page number.
  
  Retrieved from the URL of the journal home page

  

**Cite E-Books or a Chapter from an E-Book**

For books or chapters that are available in print format, cite the electronic version from subscription online databases as if they were print sources.

Author's last name, First name initial, and Middle name initial. (Date of Publication).


Publication Place: Publisher.


For books or chapters available only online, the electronic retrieval statement takes the place of publisher location and name. If it is from a subscription online database, list the database name.

Author's last name, First name initial, and Middle name initial. (Date of Publication).

*Book title*. Retrieved from URL.


http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/pridprej.html/

Author's last name, First name initial, and Middle name initial. (Date of Publication).


Chapter title. (Date of Publication). In First name initial and Last name of the editor (Ed.), Book Title, (Edition, Volume, Pages). Retrieved from Name of the Online Database.


Cite Newspaper Articles

- Cite Newspaper Articles from a Subscription Online Database:
  Author's last name, First name initial, and Middle name initial. (Year, Month Date).
  Article title. Newspaper Title. Retrieved from Name of the Database.


- Cite Newspaper Articles from a Website:
  Author's last name, First name initial, and Middle name initial. (Year, Month Date).
  Article title. Newspaper Title. Retrieved from the main URL


Cite Articles from Websites

- Cite an Article from a Website with an Author:

- **Cite an Article from a Website without an author:**

  Obama gets a second shot at getting health care reform right. (2013, November 30).


- **Cite an Article from a Website with a Corporate Author:**


**Cite a Message Posted to an E-Mail List:**

(E-mail or messages from a discussion groups or electronic mailing list)

  Author's last name, First name initial, and Middle name initial. (Year, Month Date).

  Title of the e-mail as listed in the subject field [Specific type of message].

  Retrieved from the URL


For instructions on how to cite books and articles in print format in References and how to do in-text citations in APA style, please visit Online Writing Lab (OWL) at Purdue University <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>.