

Using MLA Style

(Modern Language Association)

The Modern Language Association (MLA) citation style is used in the humanities. MLA uses parenthetical in-text citations which refer the reader to a reference list of works cited at the end of a research paper.

This tip sheet is a guide for using MLA style and not the authoritative manual.

If you do not know how to cite a particular item or if you are citing an item not addressed in this handout, consult the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers Seventh Edition* or the *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing*

A copy of the handbook is available at the Research Help Desk on the (second) main floor of the library. **Call No. LB2369 .G52 2009.** A copy of the manual and guide is also available. **Call No. REF PN147.G444 2008**

NOTE: Always ask your instructor which citation style you should use and which edition of the relevant style guide you should follow.

PARENTHETICAL CITATION?

A parenthetical citation is a brief reference within the body of your paper that guides readers to the proper entry in your works cited list.

In MLA style, the parenthetical reference usually contains the author's last name and the page number on which you found the information or quote that you have included in your paper.

Sometimes, if there is more than one work by the same author listed in your Works Cited page, you

may also have to include an abbreviated version of the title in your parenthetical citation.

Parenthetical citations look like this:

Experts believe that honor codes, important during Renaissance times, had a significant influence on the works of William Shakespeare (Terry 1071).

In this case, the author is pointing out that he has used an idea taken from a work by Reta Terry, and that the idea appeared on page 1071 of the text consulted.

A full citation for the item will appear in the works cited list at the end of the paper.

WORKS CITED LIST

Your works cited list should present an alphabetical list of all sources you have cited in your paper.

Most citation styles require you to format your list in a very specific way, and it is essential that you provide **complete** and **consistent** references in your works cited list. You can use the following examples to help you cite the most common types of materials you will use to write your papers.

CITING BOOKS

A book with 1 author

Shepherd, Valerie. *Literature About Language*. London: Routledge, 1994.

Format

Author (last name, first name). *Title*. Place of publication: Name of publisher, Date of publication.

A book with 2 or 3 authors

Nicholas, David, and Maureen Ritchie. *Literature and Bibliometrics*. London: C. Bingley, 1978.

Format

First author (last name, first name), and Second author (first name last name). *Title*. Place of publication: Name of publisher, Date of publication.

A book with more than 3 authors

Harman, Eleanor, et al. *The Thesis and the Book: A Guide for First-Time Academic Authors*. 2nd ed. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2003.

Format:

Primary Author (last name, first name), et al. *Title*. Place of publication: Name of publisher, Date of publication.

An edited book

Tooney, Deirdre, ed. *Yeats and Women*. New York: St. Martin's, 1997.

Format

Editor (last name, first name), ed. *Title*. Place of publication: Name of publisher, Date of publication.

A book in translation

Gedin, Per. *Literature in the Marketplace*. Trans. George Bisset. London: Faber, 1977.

Format

Author (last name, first name). *Title*. Trans. Translator (first name, last name). Place of publication: Name of publisher, Date of publication.

CITING REFERENCE MATERIALS

Encyclopedia entry

Klein, Peter. "Epistemology." *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Ed. Edward Craig. 10 vols. London: Routledge, 1998.

Format

Author of the article (last name, first name). "Article Title." *Title of the encyclopedia*. Ed. Editor(s) of encyclopedia (first name, last name). Edition. Number of volumes in set if multi-volume set. Place of publication: Name of publisher, Date of publication.

CITING ARTICLES

For articles with multiple authors, follow the same conventions as you would for [citing books](#).

Chapter, essay or article published in a book

Marcus, Sharon. "Anne Frank and Hannah Arendt, Universalism and Pathos." *Cosmopolitan Geographies: New Locations in Literature and Culture*. Ed. Vinay Dharwadker. New York: Routledge, 2001. 89-131.

Format:

Author of chapter, essay or article (last name, first name). "Chapter, Essay or Article Title." Book Title. Ed. Editor (first name last name). Place of publication: Name of publisher, Date of publication. Pages.

Article in a scholarly journal with continuous pagination

James, Heather. "Dido's Ear: Tragedy and the Politics of Response." *Shakespeare Quarterly* 52 (2001): 360-82.

Format

Author (last name, first name). "Article Title." Journal Title Volume (Publication Year): Pages.

Article in a scholarly journal that pages each issue separately

Sugars, Cynthia. "Can the Canadian Speak? Lost in Postcolonial Space." *Ariel: A Review of International English Literature* 32.3 (2001): 115-52.

Format

Author (last name, first name). "Article Title." *Journal Title* Volume.Issue (Publication Year): Pages.

Newspaper article

Myers, Heather. "Canadian Children's Literature — Write On: St. John's Public Libraries." *Telegram* [St. John's] 23 Nov. 2003, final ed.: B5.

Format

Author (last name, first name). "Title of article." Title of newspaper [city if not included in title] Date, Edition: Pages.

CITING ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Citing electronic resources is not an exact science and only basic examples are provided below.

You should be certain to consult an authoritative source when including this type of material in your works cited.

Web site

Internet Resources in English Literature. Ed. Ruth Hill-Lapensee. 8 July 1998. Department of English Language and Literature, Carleton University. 10 Oct. 2004
<<http://www.carleton.ca/%7Erhillap/links.htm>>.

Format

Title of the site. Ed. Name of editor of site. Site version number (if relevant). Date of publication or date last modified. Sponsoring institution or organization (if available). Date accessed <URL>.

E-book

Aristophanes. *Lysistrata*. Ed. Jeffrey Henderson. Newburyport, MA: The Focus Classical Library, 1992. The Perseus Digital Library. Ed. Gregory Crane. Tufts University. 10 Oct. 2004
<<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/cgi-bin/ptext?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.01.0036>>.

Format

Author. *Title of e-book*. Ed. Name of editor of book (first name, last name). Place of publication: Name of publisher, Date of publication or copyright. **[of original print version, if provided]** Title of the site. Ed. Name of editor of site (first name, last name). Site version number (if relevant). Date of publication or date last modified. Sponsoring institution or organization (if available). Date of access <URL>.

Article in an online encyclopedia

Klein, Peter. "Epistemology." *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy Online*. Ed. Edward Craig. 1998. London: Routledge. 10 Sept. 2004
<<http://www.rep.routledge.com/article/P059>>.

Format

Author of the article (last name, first name). "Article Title." *Title of the encyclopedia*. Ed. Editor(s) of encyclopedia (first name, last name). Date of electronic publication. Place of publication: Name of publisher. Date accessed <URL>.

Full-text journal article found in library database

Fand, Roxanne J. "Margaret Atwood's The Robber Bride: The Dialogic Moral of a Nietzschean Fairy Tale." *Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction* 45.1 (2003): 65-81. Literature Online. ProQuest. Carleton University Library, Ottawa, ON. 10 Oct. 2004 <<http://lion.chadwyck.com/>>.

Format

Author (last name, first name). "Article Title." *Journal Title* Volume.Issue (Publication Year): Pages. **[of original print version, if provided]**. Name of database searched. Database provider, if known. Name of library that provided access to the article, Location of library that provided access to the article. Date accessed <URL of database provider (if known)>.

Full-text newspaper article found in library databases

Sibley, Robert. "Up the Academy: Campus Novels Highlight the Hilarity of Higher Education." *Ottawa Citizen* 25 Jan. 2004, final ed.: C12. Canadian Newsstand. ProQuest. Carleton University Library, Ottawa, ON. 10 Oct. 2004
<<http://www.il.proquest.com/proquest/>>.

Format

Author (last name, first name). "Title of article." Title of newspaper [city if not included in title] Date, Edition: Pages. **[of original print version, if provided]** Name of database searched. Database provider, if known. Name of library that provided access to the article, Location of library that provided access to the article. Date accessed <URL of database provider (if known)>.

WEBSITES ON MLA STYLE

Harnack, Andrew and Gene Kleppinger
Beyond the MLA Handbook: Documenting Electronic Sources on the Internet
<http://english.ttu.edu/kairos/1.2/inbox/mla.html>

MLA Style
www.mla.org/style

Diana Hacker: Research and Documentation Online
Guidelines and examples for citing print and online resources in a variety of different fields.
www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Research Help Desk

Location: Main (2nd) floor, MacOdrum Library
Telephone: 613-520-2735

See click "Cite your sources" link at
www.library.carleton.ca

RefWorks

RefWorks will let you store your citations and help you create a bibliography. www.library.carleton.ca.

Writing Tutorial Service

Location: Room 404, MacOdrum Library
Telephone: 613-520-2600, ext. 1125
<http://www2.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/>