APA Citation Style Guide

Please refer to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association for more detailed information and examples (the current edition is available at the Trible Library Reference Desk). For further assistance, contact a reference librarian (594-7132, library@cnu.edu) or visit the Alice Randall Writing Center in the Center for Academic Success (Trible Library Room 240).

Formatting the Reference List

The reference list appears at the end of your paper. It should be arranged alphabetically by author’s last name. Sources without authors are arranged alphabetically by title (omitting a, an, the). The first line should be aligned with the left margin. The second line should be indented ½ inch from the left margin. Entries are double-spaced within and between sources (examples below are single spaced to save room).

Sample Reference List Entries

Books
Author’s Last Name, Initials (Date of publication). Title of the book. Place of publication: Publisher.

Single Author:

Two to Seven Authors: [For 8 or more, list the 1st six followed by … and then the last authors name.]

Article within a book:
Author’s Last Name, Initials (Date of publication). Title of the article/chapter. In A. Editor, B. Editor, & C. Editor (Eds.), Title of the book (p/pp. page numbers). Place of publication: Publisher.


Periodicals
Scholarly Journal:
Author’s last name, Initials (date of publication). Title of the article. Title of the journal, volume number (issue number), page numbers.


Magazine:
Author’s Last Name, Initials (year, month + day of publication). Title of the article. Title of the Magazine, volume (if given), page numbers.


Daily Newspaper:
Author’s Last Name, Initials (year, month + day of publication). Title of the article. Title of Newspaper, p/pp. page number.

Electronic Publications

Material from a Website:
Author’s Last Name, Initials (date of publication or last revision, if known). Title of the article.  
Title of webpage: subtitle if needed. Retrieved month + day, year, from URL of source. 
(If you do not know the author, start with the title of the article, followed by the date of publication.)


Electronic versions of books or articles:
Follow the same instructions as print versions for these material types. Follow the citation with either the 
DOI number for the article (preferable) or the URL of the material. The DOI number is an alphanumeric 
string used to uniquely identify journal articles or documents. It is often found in citation information for an 
article in a database. You can also look up a DOI at CrossRef.org. You only need to include the retrieval 
date for sources that may change over time (ex. Wikis).

Author’s Last Name, Initials (date of publication). Title of the article. Title of the Periodical, 
volume number(issue number), page numbers. doi:xxxxxxxx


In-Text Citation

Place references in parentheses in the text of the paper. The parenthetical reference should proceed the 
concluding punctuation mark. The information in the parentheses should include the author’s name, the date, 
page number (if you are citing material from a specific page), and should refer to the same source in the 
Reference List. Place the parenthetical reference as near as possible to the material it documents, preferably 
at the end of a sentence. If a source does not have an author, use a shortened version of the title instead.

Basic Format of Author-Date Method of Parenthetical Citation:

Behaviorism is a philosophy of science and mind that involves empirical background theory and represents a 
certain set of values (Zuriff, 1985).

Variations of Parenthetical Citation:
If the author is named in the text, only the year is cited. 
   Example: According to Irene Taylor (1990), the personalities of Charlotte…

If there are 2 authors, cite both names each time the reference appears. 
   Example: Sexual-selection theory often had been used to explore patterns of various insect 
mating (Alcock & Thornhill, 1983) …Alcock and Thornhill (1983) also demonstrate…

For 3 or more authors, follow the guidelines on page 177 of the 6th ed. of the APA Manual.

If citing specific pages or chapters, the page number follows the year. 
   Example: Emily Bronte “expressed increasing hostility for the world of human relationships, 
whether sexual or social” (Taylor, 1988, p.11).

If there are 2 books with the same author and same publication date, add an identifying letter to each date to 
indicate the difference. 
   Example: Study results have shown a continuing trend (Bloom, 1987a, 1987b).