APA Format — Sample Entries for Reference List

Part I: Books

Book - Single Author

Multiple Books – by the Same Author (should be arranged chronologically)

Book - Multiple Authors (for six or fewer authors)

Book – Edited

[Note: In the above entry, the “IL” is dropped in the location name, as the state of Illinois is part of the university press name.]

Article or Chapter in an Edited Book

Work in an Anthology

[Note: In the paper, use the following parenthetical citation: (Lipstadt, 1992/2004).]
Entry in a Reference Work, Author Indicated

Entry in a Reference Work, Author Not Indicated

Part 2: In-print Periodicals, Reports, and Media not Online

Journal Article (if page numbers in annual volume are reset with each issue)

Journal Article (if page numbers throughout annual volume are continuous)

Article in a Monthly or Bimonthly Magazine

Article in a Weekly or Biweekly Magazine

Newspaper Article, Author Indicated

Newspaper Article, Author Not Indicated

Editorial in a Newspaper, Author Not Indicated

Book, Report, Catalog, or Pamphlet Authored by a Group or Organization
Aurora University. (2009). Aurora University graduate catalog 2009-2011. Aurora, IL: Author. [Note: Use the word “Author” in the position of the publisher’s name if the group or organization is also the publisher.]
Corporate Author / Government Report

Recording, Film, or Broadcast

Part III: Personal Communications

Personal communications include multiple types of data that are not available for retrieval. Examples include conversations and discussions, e-mail messages, class lectures, presentation slides, and personal interviews. Because this data is not available for someone else to retrieve, the reference is included ONLY in the text; it is NOT included on the reference page. When including personal communications in the text, you should list the initials and surname of the person who provided the information and the date of the communication.

As a Parenthetical Citation
(D. Brooks, personal communication, September 24, 2009)

With the Person as Part of the Sentence
D. Brooks (personal communication, September 24, 2009)

Part IV: Online Materials and Electronic Media

The 6th edition of the manual has placed greater emphasis on retrieval and citation of electronic sources, as one might expect. In particular, the manual presupposes that the use of a “digital object identifier” (DOI) is now the norm for journal articles (and electronic books), although in practice there are electronic sources still lacking a DOI number. In fact, the manual even recommends using a DOI for an in-print source when available.

Basically, follow the advice of the manual: “we recommend that you include the same elements, in the same order, as you would for a reference to [an in-print] source and add as much electronic retrieval information as needed for others to locate the sources you cited” (APA, 2010, p. 187). In other words, if you are using a journal, after setting the reference up as if it were an in-print source, add the DOI at the end of the reference (see example below). If there is no DOI, then provide the home page URL for the journal. That means you no longer should list the name of a database as part of the retrieval information. In other words, if you lack a DOI, you will either have to go online and locate for yourself the journal’s home page URL, or in rare
circumstances you will have to give the entry page URL for the online archive (such as some documents in ERIC or JSTOR) if you cannot locate a journal home page.

You also no longer need to include retrieval dates, unless the source is likely to change over time (e.g., a website using Wiki technology). Make sure when giving a URL for a specific document (other than a journal article) that it is the full URL, down to the last character. In other words, someone should be able to cut-and-paste that address into a browser window and get to the actual document. In any URL, do not add dashes, periods, or any other punctuation on your own, including at the end of the URL.

Internet Reference Work, Dictionary, or Encyclopedia, Author Not Indicated

Stand-alone Internet Document, Author Indicated

[Note: The designation (n.d.) can be used when no clear date is available as to when the document was authored or last revised.]

Stand-alone Internet Document, Author Not Indicated

Journal Articles Retrieved from a Website or Database (if a DOI is available)

Journal Articles Retrieved from a Website or Database (if no DOI is available)

[Note: The example above uses the journal’s home page, as there is no DOI available.]

Online Newspaper Article
Online Report Available on an Organization’s Website


Within the box below is an example of how an actual reference list would look. Note the hanging indent of each new reference entry. Note also that all items are alphabetized by the first major word of the entry. Finally, note that everything is double spaced. An actual reference list would have at least 1-inch margins. The page has a running head in the header area (i.e., a shortened version of the paper’s title). The reference list comes at the end of the paper, so the pagination continues (i.e., this would be page 14 of the paper).

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<th>References</th>
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