ACS Style Citation Basics

American Chemistry Society (ACS) Style is the set of rules for writing papers, articles, and other documents related to chemistry.

There are three ways you can cite references using ACS Style according to The ACS Style Guide:

1. Superscript numbers: "Oscillation in the reaction of benzaldehyde with oxygen was reported previously."³

2. Italic numbers: "The mineralization of TCE by a pure culture of a methane-oxidizing organism has been reported (6).

3. Author name and date of publication: "The primary structure of this enzyme has also been determined (Finnnegan et al., 2004). (1)

According to University of Wisconsin-Madison's “ACS Style Guide,”

References should be numbered sequentially. If a reference is cited more than once, it does not receive a new number. If citing more than one reference at a time, include reference numbers in increasing order separated by commas." (2)

Reference Lists

According to The ACS Style Guide, a reference “must include certain minimum criteria:

- Periodical references must include the author names, abbreviated journal title, year of publication, volume number (if any), and initial page of cited article (the computer span is better).
- Book references must include the author or editor names, book title, publisher, city of publication, and year of publication.
- For material other than books and journals, sufficient information must be provided so that the source can be identified and located. (1)

Common Types of Sources

Periodicals

Last name, First initial; Author 2; Author 3; etc. Title of Article. Journal Abbreviation Year, Volume, Page numbers.

Books

Last name, First initial. Title of Book; Publisher: City, Year; Page numbers.
Books with editors

Last name, First initial. Title of Book; Last name, First initial, Ed.; Publisher: City, Year; Page numbers.

Government publications

Title of Report.; Name of Department, U.S Government Printing Office: Washington, DC, Year.

Websites

Title of Web Page. URL (accessed Month Date, Year)

Theses

Last name, First initial. Title of Thesis. Ph.D./M.A Thesis, Name of University, Month Year.
References
