



Citation Styles

Authors: Sulabha M Naik, Mahendra S Naik, Nainjot Kaur Bains

Affiliation: Associate Professor, M M Institute of Medical Sciences & Research, Mullana, India;

Associate Professor, M M Institute of Medical Sciences & Research, Mullana, India; Intern, M M

Institute of Medical Sciences & Research, Mullana, India

Corresponding author email: sulabha.naik@gmail.com

The practice of evidence based medicine and widespread clinical research have rendered literature search, a vital tool. It is practically impossible to write any article without inputs from previous literature, whether from a book, journal or a website. The backbone of any publication is the bibliography or references. This is a compilation of all the sources of data used for the research paper. A reference mentions all the details of the source, namely title, authors, journal name, year, volume and issue number and page numbers. In order to avoid plagiarism, all references should be quoted in proper context after giving due credit to the respective authors. If a manuscript needs to be revised with inclusion of additional references, the authors will have to also modify the list of references appropriately to accommodate the same.

For citing a reference from a scientific journal, various citation styles are followed. The option of using a particular citation style does not rest with the author. Every journal has its own preferred citation style, which is binding on the contributors.

Citation styles differ and this may create confusion for novice authors. The Department of Library Services, De Montfort University (Harvard Handbook) has classified Citation styles into 2 subtypes:

I) Numeric type – Allusion to every reference is assigned a number in Arabic numerals (either in round brackets or as a superscript) in a serial manner in the manuscript. The reference list is numbered in the same manner correspondingly. If the

same source is subsequently quoted again in the manuscript, it bears the previously assigned number. eg Vancouver, NLM, MLA.

This method of numbering of references is reader-friendly, as it permits easy location of the citation in the reference list by its serial number. However, any revision of the manuscript with inclusion of additional references is a bane for the author, as it involves the tedious task of re-numbering all the references in the new serial order.

II) Author-date type – The name of author and the year are mentioned in the manuscript itself in parenthesis. The references are listed in alphabetical order based on the author surname. eg Harvard, APA.

This method of numbering of references is author-friendly. It permits easy inclusion of additional references, during revision of the manuscript. The additional citation is merely inserted in the reference list according to its alphabetical location.

In this paper, we have attempted to simplify each Citation style.

NLM STYLE

This is used in PubMed. PubMed is a free online resource provided by the National Center for Biotechnology Information (U.S. National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health).

All author names are to be mentioned.

Abbreviated Journal name required.

No italics.

Steps for NLM style -

Author1 Surname [insert space] 2 Initials without space in between [insert comma] Author2 Surname [insert space] 2 Initials without space in between [insert comma] Author3 Surname [insert space] 2 Initials without space in between [insert full stop after last author name] Title [insert full stop] [insert space] Journal name [abbreviated name] [insert full stop] [insert space] Year [insert space] Month [insert semicolon] Volume [mention number only] Issue [mention number, use brackets] [insert colon] starting page no [insert hyphen] ending page no [full stop]

Vancouver style

This is used by most biomedical journals. It is also known as the *Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals* (Vancouver Community College Library, Vancouver Citation Style). It was finalized at a meeting of medical journal editors in 1978, held in Vancouver, Canada and is maintained by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors.

Only 1st six author names to be mentioned, then add et al.
Abbreviated Journal name required.
Journal name should be in italics.

Steps for Vancouver style –

Author1Surname[*insert space*]Initials[*insert comma*]Author2Surname[*insert space*]Initials[*insert comma*] Author3Surname[*insert space*]Initials[*insert comma*] [*insert et al*] [*insert full stop*] Title[*insert full stop*]Journal name [*abbreviated name in italics*] [*insert full stop*] [*insert space*]Year [*insert space*]Month[*insert space*]Date[*insert semicolon*]Volume[*mention Vol followed by number*] Issue[*mention Issue followed by number, use brackets*][*insert colon*]starting page no[*insert hyphen*]ending page no [*full stop*]

MLA style

Modern Language Association style for documentation is used in the humanities, particularly in literature. (Cornell University Library. Citation Management.)

Title to begin & end with quotation marks.

Full Journal name required.

Journal name to be underlined.

Year of publication inserted in parenthesis.

The characteristic mark of the MLA format is in indicating the medium of publication used, either print or the web.

Steps for MLA style-

Author1Surname[*insert comma*] [*insert space*] Author1Name[*insert space*]
Author1Initial[*insert full stop*] Title[*use quotation marks for title*][*insert full stop*] Journal
name [*full name of journal & to be underlined*][*insert full stop*] [*insert space*]
Volume[*mention Vol followed by number*] Issue[*mention Issue followed by number*]
[*insert space*] Year [*use brackets*][*insert colon*] [*insert space*] starting page no[*insert hyphen*]ending page no [*full stop*][*Medium of publication. Insert the word Print or insert the word Web. If Web, then add date*]

APA style

This was developed by American Psychological Association (The University of Waikato.Library.) Used in Social and Behavioral Sciences.

If single author, then author name & year mentioned every time, throughout.

If two authors, then both author names & year mentioned every time, throughout.

If number of authors is 3 to 5, the first citation in the text bears the names of all the authors. Subsequently, only 1st author name & year, followed by et al, mentioned throughout.

If number of authors is 6 or more, only 1st author name & year, followed by et al, mentioned throughout.

Full Journal name required.

Journal name should be in italics.

Steps for APA style -

Author1Surname[*insert comma*] Author1Initial1[*insert full stop*] Author1Initial2[*insert full stop*] [*insert comma*] Author2Surname[*insert comma*] Author2Initial1[*insert full stop*] Author2Initial2[*insert full stop*] [*insert comma to separate author names*] [*After last author name insert full stop*] [*insert space*] Year [*use brackets*] [*insert full stop*] [*insert space*] Title[*insert full stop*] Journal name [*full name in italics*] [*insert comma*] Volume[*mention Vol followed by number*] Issue[*mention Issue followed by number, use brackets*][*insert comma*] [*insert space*] starting page no[*insert hyphen*]ending page no [*full stop*]

Harvard style

Used in academic publications(Harvard Handbook).

In the text, author surname name followed by year is used with ampersand in between.

All this is used in brackets.

If only 2 authors, then names of both authors mentioned. If more than 2 authors, then 1st author name only cited followed by et al.

In reference list, up to 3 author names can be given. This reference list is arranged alphabetically, by author surname. Author names should always be in capitals.

Steps for Harvard style-

Author1Surname[*use capitals*][*insert comma*]Initial[*full stop*] Initial[*full stop*]
Author2Surname[*use capitals*][*insert comma*]Initial[*full stop*] Initial[*full stop*] Year [*use brackets*] Title[*insert full stop*] Journal name [*full name in italics*][*comma*]
Volume[*mention Vol followed by number*] Issue[*mention Issue followed by number, use brackets*][*insert comma*]use p if single page, use pp if multiple pages[*insert full stop*]
starting page no[*insert hyphen*]ending page no [*full stop*]

References

1)De Montfort University Leicester.Department of Library services. Harvard Handbook
Available at <http://www.library.dmu.ac.uk/Images/Selfstudy/Harvard.pdf>

2)Cornell University Library. Citation Management.
Available at <http://www.library.cornell.edu/resrch/citmanage/mla>

3)The University of Waikato.Library.
Available at
http://www.waikato.ac.nz/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/51632/APA_Referencing_6th_ed.pdf

4)[U.S. National Library of Medicine.National Institutes of Health](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html)
Available at http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html

6)Vancouver Community College Library. Vancouver Citation Style
Available at http://library.vcc.ca/downloads/VCC_VancouverStyleGuide.pdf