

BUSSE LIBRARY: GUIDE TO MLA CITATION FORMAT

The **MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, Seventh Edition (2009)** (MLA) is commonly used by students and scholars in the liberal arts and humanities, including speech, languages, literature, history, philosophy, religious studies, and theology.

The basic formats for several of the common items included in bibliographies, reference lists, or endnotes are illustrated here. A bibliography or “works cited list” is an alphabetical list of the items cited in the body of the paper.

Table of Contents:

Books	p. 2	Media	p. 9
Magazines	p. 4	Interviews	p. 10
Journals	p. 6	Websites	p. 11
Newspapers	p. 8	In-Text Citing	p. 12

GENERAL NOTES ABOUT MLA STYLE AND THIS GUIDE

With the seventh edition of the MLA Handbook, it should be noted that the style has adopted italicization in the place of underlining. This change in convention applies to titles of works noted within citations (Section 3.3). New to the seventh edition is the requirement of noting the medium (**print, Web, DVD, etc.**) of each work included in the works cited list. This element is usually **the last to appear** in a given entry and is followed by a period.

Formatting the Works Cited Page

The references list appears on a separate page at the end of the paper. Center the title “Works Cited” an inch from the top of your page. Double-space between this title and your first entry.

NOTE: Our models reflect spacing and indentation requirements for MLA works cited list items. Begin each entry flush with the **left margin**; if an entry requires more than one line, indent all succeeding lines **one-half inch** from the left margin. This style is known as a **hanging indent** (Section 5.3.2). Double-space all citations, but do not skip spaces between entries.

How to Create the Hanging Indent

To create the hanging indent for a single item, place the cursor adjacent to the first character of the affected line. Now hold down the **CONTROL** key while pressing **TAB** simultaneously.

To create the hanging indent **for an entire works cited list**, select the full list and right click, selecting “Paragraph.” Under “Indentation” and the “Special” category, select “Hanging.” The full list will now be formatted to feature hanging indents, where applicable.

BOOKS: PRINT & ELECTRONIC MODELS

For books, MLA stresses using a book's title page to derive author, title, and publisher information. Use an author's name as it is provided on the title page; use initials if they are included. Italics denote titles of works; capitalize the first word, last word, and all principal words of the title (Section 3.6.1). Cite only the city of publication (no state required). If several cities are listed for a publisher, use the first noted. Shorten a publisher's name following guidelines (Section 7.5).

ONE AUTHOR (section 5.5.2)

Larson, Erik. *The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair That Changed America*. New York: Vintage Books, 2003. Print.

Manchester, Simon. *The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity, and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary*. New York: Harper Perennial, 2005. Print.

TWO OR MORE AUTHORS (section 5.5.4)

NOTE: List authors in same order shown on the book's title page. Reverse name of first author (last name, first), place a comma, and then provide the other names in normal form. Separate author names with a comma. If there are three or more authors, note only the first author and then add *et al.* ("and others").

Braskamp, Larry A., et al. *Putting Students First: How Colleges Develop Students Purposefully*. Bolton: Anker Publishing, 2006. Print.

Levitt, Steven D., and Stephen J. Dubner. *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything*. New York: William Morrow, 2009. Print.

CORPORATE AUTHOR (section 5.5.5)

San Diego Museum of Art. *Sculpture in California, 1975-1980: An Exhibition*. San Diego: The Museum, 1980. Print.

NO AUTHOR (section 5.5.9)

NOTE: Begin entry with title of book. Alphabetize entry by its title.

New York Public Library American History Desk Reference. New York: Macmillan,
1997. Print.

EDITOR OR COMPILER [no author] (section 5.5.3)

NOTE: Begin entry with name of editor or compiler, followed by “ed.” or “comp.”

Satin, Joseph, ed. *Shakespeare and His Sources*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1966. Print.

BOOK PUBLISHED IN A SECOND OR LATER EDITION (section 5.5.13)

NOTE: Details for later editions are noted following title of book.

Lima, Carolyn W., and John A. Lima. *A to Zoo: Subject Access to Children’s Picture
Books*. 5th ed. New Providence: R.R. Bowker, 1998. Print.

CHAPTER OR WORK IN AN ANTHOLOGY (section 5.5.6)

NOTE: Begin with the author and title of the part of the book being cited. Italicize the title of the larger work and provide its publishing details.

Boccaccio, Giovanni. “The Decameron.” *The Norton Anthology of World Masterpieces:
The Western Tradition*. Ed. Sarah Lawall and Maynard Mack. 7th ed. New York:
W.W. Norton, 1999. Print.

ARTICLE IN AN ENCYCLOPEDIA [REFERENCE WORK] (section 5.5.7)

NOTE: If article is signed, give author’s name first. If the article has no author, give the title first.

Davis, Anthony. “Hamlet, Prince of Denmark.” *The Oxford Companion to Shakespeare*.
Ed. Michael Dobson and Stanley Wells. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001.
Print.

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT [corporate author model] (section 5.5.20)

U.S. Government, Department of Commerce, Economics, and Statistics Administration,
 Bureau of the Census. *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2012*.
 Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Commerce, 2011. Print.

ELECTRONIC MODEL (E-book) (section 5.7.18)

NOTE: When citing an electronic book, build the reference for a print version of the work and end with the medium of publication (Kindle file, Nook file, EPUB file, or PDF file). If you cannot identify the file type, use the phrase "Digital file."

Birkby, Evelyn. *Always Put in a Recipe and Other Tips From Iowa's Best Known
 Homemaker*. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2012. Digital file.

MAGAZINE ARTICLES: PRINT & SUBSCRIPTION DATABASES

NOTE: Magazines are print periodicals that appear daily, weekly, or monthly and include coverage on diverse topics. For magazines, give complete publishing date (month, date, and year, if available) and abbreviate the month, followed by a colon, page numbers, and print medium ("Print"). **Do not include** volume and issue numbers. If an article is not printed on consecutive pages, include only the first page number and a plus "+" sign.

PRINT MODELS**MAGAZINE ARTICLE, NO AUTHOR (section 5.5.9)**

"The Big Winner of the Year/South Korea." *Canadian Business* Winter 2012/2013: 31-
 32. Print.

MAGAZINE ARTICLE, ONE AUTHOR (section 5.4.6)

Speciale, Alessandro. "Pope Francis Reconfirms Directive to American Nuns." *Christian
 Century* 15 May 2013: 18-19. Print.

MAGAZINE ARTICLE, TWO OR MORE AUTHORS

NOTE: Include both names, as shown, for articles with two authors. For articles with three or more authors, note only the first author and then use "et al."

Catalini, Michael, et al. "Poll: How Damaging is the IRS Controversy to Obama?"

National Journal 17 May 2013: 16. Print.

MAGAZINE ARTICLES FROM A DATABASE

NOTE: When citing articles from a periodical database, follow the rules for print articles, including page numbers, where available. The citation must also include the title of the database (**italicized**), the consulted medium ("**Web**"), and the date of access (day, month, year).

When noting the database's name, particularly for EBSCOhost, be sure to include the **specific index or source** that produced the citation. This information is found within search results, positioned above the full-text link.

MAGAZINE ARTICLE FROM A FULL-TEXT DATABASE

Altman, Alex. "On Immigration, a Hawkeye in No Hurry." *Time* 27 May 2013: 10.

EBSCOhost, Academic Search Complete. Web. 31 May 2013.

Gates, Bill. "The Era of Innovation Isn't Over. For the Poor, It's Just Beginning." *New*

Statesman 19 December 2011: 23+. *LexisNexis Academic*. Web. 4 June 2013.

MAGAZINE ARTICLES FROM A PUBLISHER'S WEBSITE

NOTE: For article's retrieved from a publisher's website, include the publishing medium ("**Web**"), and the article's URL, enclosed in angle brackets, followed by a period. Be sure to remove underlining (hyperlink) formatting. For articles that have an original, print appearance, include the publisher name and original date of publication **prior to** "Web."

Raynor, Michael E., and Mumtaz Ahmed. "Why Abercrombie & Fitch (Almost) Never

Puts Anything on Sale." *Fast Company*. Web. 3 June 2013.

<<http://www.fastcompany.com/3010968/why-abercrombie-fitch-almost-never-puts-anything-on-sale>>.

Slaughter, Anne-Marie. "Why Women Still Can't Have it All." *The Atlantic*. Atlantic

Monthly Group, 13 June 2012. Web. 3 June 2013.

<<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2012/07/why-women-still-cant-have-it-all/309020/>>.

JOURNAL ARTICLES: PRINT & SUBSCRIPTION DATABASES

NOTE: Scholarly journals are issued less frequently than magazines and address specific professional concerns. Their articles feature abstracts and reference lists. Begin with author names, listed as shown on the article, followed by the article title in quotation marks. Italicize the journal title and include volume and issue numbers. Year of publication is shown in parentheses, followed by a colon, page numbers, and print medium (“**Print**”). If a journal does not use volume numbers, cite the issue number instead (**section 5.4.3**).

PRINT MODELS

SCHOLARLY JOURNAL, ONE AUTHOR (section 5.4.2)

Santos, Bielinski M. “Irrigation, Mulches, and Fumigants on Tomato Performance in Sandy Soils.” *International Journal of Vegetable Science* 19.3 (2013): 274-281. Print.

SCHOLARLY JOURNAL, TWO OR MORE AUTHORS (section 5.4.2)

Lu, Lingyu, and Cameron G. Thies. “War, Rivalry, and State Building in the Middle East.” *Political Research Quarterly* 66.2 (2013): 239-253. Print.

Pallas, Sarah Wood, et al. “Community Health Workers in Low-and Middle-Income Countries: What Do We Know About Scaling Up and Sustainability?” *American Journal of Public Health* 103.7 (2013): e1-e9. Print.

JOURNAL ARTICLES FROM A DATABASE

NOTE: When citing journal articles from a periodical database, follow the rules for print articles, including page numbers, where available. The citation must also include the title

of the database (**italicized**), the consulted medium (“**Web**”), and the date of access (day, month, year).

When noting the database’s name, particularly for EBSCOhost, be sure to include the **specific index or source** that produced the citation. This information is found within search results, positioned above the full-text link.

JOURNAL ARTICLE FROM A FULL-TEXT DATABASE

Benoit, William L., et al. “New York Times’ Coverage of American Presidential Primary

Campaigns, 1952-2004.” *Human Communication* 13.4 (2010): 259-280.

EBSCOhost: Communication & Mass Media Complete. Web. 3 June 2013.

Klein, Tony. “Memorializing Soldiers or Celebrating Westward Expansion: Civil War

Commemoration in Sioux City and Keokuk, 1868-1938.” *Annals of Iowa* 71.4

(2012): 291-322. *EBSCOhost, America : History & Life*. Web. 31 May 2013.

ARTICLES FROM AN ONLINE JOURNAL (Open Access, etc.)

NOTE: Follow the model for print articles, note publishing medium (“Web”) after page number, and include date of access. For articles without page numbers, use the abbreviation “n.pag.” to indicate no pagination. A URL is not required.

Barrot, Jessie Saraza. “Revisiting the Role of Linguistic Complexity in ESL Reading

Comprehension.” *3L: Language, Linguistics, Literature: The Southeast Asian*

Journal of English Language Studies. 19.1 (2013): 5-18. Web. 4 June 2013.

Haas, Astrid. “Borderlands Identities and Borderlands Ideologies in Willa Cather’s *Death*

Comes for the Archbishop.” *American Studies Journal* 57 (2012): n. pag. Web.

4 June 2013.

PERIODICALS (Newspapers): PRINT & ELECTRONIC MODELS

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE (section 5.4.5)

When citing English-language newspapers, state the name on the masthead as it appears, omitting any introductory article. If the city of publication is not included, add the city in square brackets, not italicized, after the name. For nationally published newspapers, do not add the publishing city. If an edition is on the masthead, add a comma after the date in your citation; now specify the edition. Follow this information with the page number(s). For sections labeled with letters and paginated separately, include such data and copy this location exactly to your citation. For articles not printed on consecutive pages, use the first page number and a plus sign.

PRINT MODELS

SIGNED NEWSPAPER ARTICLE (author present)

Hennigan, Gregg. "In for the Long Haul." *Gazette* [Cedar Rapids, IA] 3 June 2013: A1+.

Print.

Palazzolo, Joe. "Apple's E-Book Trial to Begin." *Wall Street Journal* 3 June 2013: B1.

Print.

UNSIGNED NEWSPAPER ARTICLE (no author)

"Window to Our City: Convention Center, Arena Project Expand Opportunities." *Gazette*

[Cedar Rapids, IA] 2 June 2013: A9+. Print.

**NOTE: Citing a newspaper editorial (section 5.4.10); review of film, book, or other medium (section 5.4.7).*

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES FROM A DATABASE

NOTE: When citing newspaper articles from a periodical database, follow the rules for print articles, including page numbers, where available. The citation must also include the title of the database (**italicized**), the consulted medium ("**Web**"), and the date of access (day, month, year).

When noting the database's name, particularly for EBSCOhost, be sure to include the **specific index or source** that produced the citation. This information is found within search results, positioned above the full-text link.

Bruha, Jessica, and Michael Kinney. "Tornado Rekindles Nightmare Storm of 1999."

American [Moore, OK] 21 May 2013. *Newsbank*. Web. 3 June 2013.

Magg, Christopher. "In Eastern Iowa, the City That 'Would Never Flood' Goes 12 Feet Under." *New York Times* 13 June 2008: 18. *EBSCOhost, MasterFILE Premier*. Web. 3 June 2013.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES FROM A PUBLISHER'S WEBSITE

NOTE: For article's retrieved from a publisher's website, include the publishing medium ("**Web**"), and the article's URL, enclosed in angle brackets, followed by a period. Be sure to remove underlining (hyperlink) formatting.

Boshart, Rod, and James Q. Lynch. "Democrats Delivered for Iowa's Middle Class, Cedar Rapids Representative Says." *The Gazette* [Cedar Rapids, IA] Web. 29 May 2013. <<http://thegazette.com/2013/05/29/democrats-delivered-for-iowas-middle-class-cedar-rapids-representative-says/>>

Haberman, Clyde. "A Producer Who Knew When to Have Marilyn Monroe on Hand." *New York Times* Web. 2 June 2013. <<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/06/03/nyregion/producer-knew-when-to-have-marilyn-monroe-on-hand.html?ref=theaterspecial>>

OTHER COMMON SOURCES (Media): Sample Models

FILM OR VIDEO RECORDING (section 5.7.3)

The entry for a film includes the title, director, distributor, year of release, and medium consulted ("Film" for VHS titles or "DVD").

FILM (documentary)

Spurlock, Morgan, dir. *Super Size Me*. Hart Sharp Video, 2004. DVD.

FILM (feature film)

Lee, Ang, dir. *Life of Pi*. 20th Century Fox Home Entertainment, 2013. DVD.

Little Miss Sunshine. Dir. Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris. Twentieth Century Fox-Searchlight Pictures, 2006. DVD.

**NOTE: Television broadcast of feature film(s) (section 5.7.1); films or film clips on the Internet (section 5.6.2d)*

SOUND RECORDING (section 5.7.2)

Schubert, Franz, and Robert Schumann. *Schubert & Schumann Lieder*. Perf. Marian Anderson. RCA Victor, 2000. CD.

INTERVIEWS (section 5.7.7)

MLA recognizes two kinds of interviews – those published or broadcast and those conducted by the researcher. For **published** interviews, begin with the name of the interviewee, and then place title of interview in quotation marks. Include the interviewer's name (if known) and end with applicable bibliographic details and medium. For an interview that **you** conducted, give the name of the person interviewed, the kind of interview, and the date.

PUBLISHED INTERVIEW

Obama, Barack. "Obama, The Road Ahead." Interview by Douglas Brinkley. *Rolling Stone* 8 November 2012: 32-42. Print.

CONDUCTED FOR RESEARCH

Murphy, Marilyn. Personal interview. 31 May 2013.

Smith, George. Telephone interview. 10 June 2013.

ELECTRONIC SOURCES (Web-based) [The Internet]

The World Wide Web offers multimedia information that should be acknowledged and cited like any other resource. Here, we offer MLA citation examples for files on the web. The basic forms for web-based materials mirror their print counterparts (articles and books) but may include the web address and the date you accessed its content (found the source online).

In the current edition of the MLA Handbook (7th ed., 2009), the inclusion of a web address (URL) is considered of "limited value" (section 5.6.1) because of the web's lack of stability and of address complexity. Most web-based resources do not provide all

desired citation information, making the exact location of information difficult to determine. MLA guidelines state that a URL may exist as *supplementary information* when a reader cannot locate the source without such data or if an instructor requires the presence of the URL. A URL should be enclosed in angle brackets and followed by a period.

BUSSE LIBRARY NOTE:

*While the MLA Handbook (7th ed., 2009) stresses that the presence of the URL is not mandatory, your instructor may require including such information within a citation. Our recommendation is to incorporate the address in **each** citation as an essential element.*

THE ELEMENTS OF A BASIC WEBSITE CITATION (section 5.6.2)

1. Name of the author, compiler, editor, narrator, performer, or translator
2. Title of the work
3. Title of the overall website (italicized)
4. Version or edition used
5. Publisher or sponsor of the site
6. Date of publication
7. Medium of publication (Web)
8. Date of access

**NOTE: In a web-based resource's citation, each item is separated by a period, except for the publisher or sponsor, which is followed by a comma.*

INDIVIDUAL ELECTRONIC WORK (WEBPAGE) WITHOUT AN AUTHOR

"Grant Wood." *Artnet*. artnet – The Art World Online. c2013. Web. 3 June 2013.

<<http://www.artnet.com/artists/grant-wood/>>

Thinkmap Visual Thesaurus. Thinkmap, Inc., c1998-2013. Web. 3 June 2013.

<<http://www.visualthesaurus.com/>>

INDIVIDUAL ELECTRONIC WORK (WEBPAGE) WITH AN AUTHOR

Gray, Terry A. *Mr. William Shakespeare and the Internet*. Terry A. Gray, c1995-2011.

Web. 3 June 2013. <<http://shakespeare.palomar.edu/>>.

Raine, Kristy. *When Tillage Begins: The Stone City Art Colony and School*. Busse Library, Mount Mercy University, c2003-2013. Web. 3 June 2013.
<<http://projects.mtmercy.edu/stonecity/>>

INDIVIDUAL FILE THAT IS PART OF A LARGER WORK (e.g., encyclopedia)

“Arthurian Legend.” *Encyclopedia Mythica*. Encyclopedia Mythica, c1995-2006. Web. 3 June 2013. <<http://www.pantheon.org/areas/folklore/arthurian/>>

DOCUMENT ON AN INSTITUTIONAL, EDUCATIONAL, ORGANIZATIONAL, or GOVERNMENT AGENCY WEBSITE

Iowa State University Library. *Grant Wood Murals – About the Murals*. Iowa State University, c2000-2010. Web. 3 June 2013. <<http://www.lib.iastate.edu/narrative-main/3000/10701>>

State Historical Society of Iowa. *The Annals of Iowa*. State of Iowa, c2013. Web. 3 June 2013. <<http://www.iowahistory.org/publications/the-annals-of-iowa/index.html>>

Referencing Citations in the Text (Parenthetical Citations)

When references are cited within the narrative, the most common style is most the **author-page** system. When quoting, use the author(s) and page(s) numbers. Enclose author and page information within parentheses; upon closing parentheses, place the period. Examples:

Grant Wood taught and supervised at the Stone City Colony and Art School (Dennis 22).

“By January of 1934, Wood had been named chairman of the PWAP in Iowa” (Dennis 22).