Citing Your Sources
MLA Style (2009)

LIBRARY AND WRITING CENTRE
www.langara.bc.ca/library/reshelp/citing.html
www.langara.bc.ca/academic-services/writing-centre/help.html

The Modern Languages Association (MLA) style for documentation is widely used in the humanities. This guide provides examples for citing common types of sources and identifying them in the text of your essay. For more information, consult the 7th edition of the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (PE 1478 M57 2009). Copies are available at Langara Library, including one at the Reference Desk.

You may not always find guidelines or examples specific to the kind of source you want to cite. Keep in mind that the intent of the “Works Cited” list of your paper is to give enough information for the reader to locate the works. Do the best you can, and make sure the format of all your citations is consistent. When in doubt, err on the side of more rather than fewer details.

WORKS CITED – EXAMPLES

PRINT SOURCES – Whole book


Note 2: Use these abbreviations when a source doesn’t provide all the publication details:

Publication City: Publisher, publication year.

N.p. (if no place) n.p. (if no publisher) n.d. (if no year)

Whole book with one author (print source)
(Note: Use the abbreviation P (for Press) when citing a university press.)


Whole book with two or three authors (print source)


Whole book with more than three authors (print source)
Whole book with editor(s) (print source)

Whole book without author or editor (print source)

Whole book with corporate author (print source)

Whole book in a second or subsequent edition (print source)

PRINT SOURCES – Part of a book

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>“Essay Title.” <em>Book Title</em>. Ed. Editor’s Name(s). Publication City: Publisher, publication year. Page(s). Print.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Chapter in a book (print source)
*(Note: In a range of numbers, give the second number in full for numbers through 99. For larger numbers, give only the last two digits of the second number, unless more are necessary.)*

Short story/poem/play in an anthology (print source)
*(Note: If the specific literary work is part of the same author’s collection, then there will be no editor to reference.)*
*(Note: In an anthology, if you are aware the work was originally published independently, italicize its title.)*

Essay in an anthology (print source)
Introduction, preface, foreword, or afterword in a book (print source)


Article in a specialized encyclopedia (print source)
(Note: Omit page numbers for the article if the encyclopedia is arranged alphabetically.)


(Note: If the article is signed, give the author’s name first. If it is unsigned, give the title first.)

PRINT SOURCES – Work of visual art in a book

Artist. Title. Year Created. Institution Housing the Work, City. Book Title. By Author (or Ed. Editor). Publication City: Publisher, publication year. Plate # (or Page(s) or Figure #). Print.


PRINT SOURCES – Article from a print journal, magazine, or newspaper


Author. “Article Title.” Magazine/Newspaper Title Day Month Year: page(s). Print.

Article from a print journal

Article from a print magazine

(Note: To cite a magazine article, give its publication date instead of volume and issue numbers. Abbreviate the names of all months except May, June, and July. If the article is not printed on consecutive pages, write only the first number and a plus sign.)

Article from a print newspaper

(Note: Abbreviate the names of all months except May, June, and July. For newspaper articles that are not printed on consecutive pages, write only the first page number and a plus sign.)
PRINT SOURCES – Literary criticism reprinted in a book (e.g., Short Stories for Students)

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**Note:** In citing excerpts from a previously published article (only parts of which are reprinted in your source), give the original source first and then the source you used. “Excpt.” and “rpt.” are abbreviations for “excerpted” and “reprinted.” If the whole article was reprinted, use “Rpt.” only.


PRINT SOURCES – Courseware

|---|

**(Note:** some course packs have continuous pagination throughout; others preserve the original pagination of the compiled material. Cite whatever page numbers are available.)

PRINT SOURCES – Government publication

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Government. Name of Agency (and Subdivisions, if listed). Publication Title. Publication City: Publisher, publication year. Print.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Note:** If known, the name of the document’s author may follow the title and the word By or an abbreviation such as Ed. or Comp.
ELECTRONIC SOURCES – Journal, magazine, or newspaper article found by using an online database the Library pays for (e.g., Academic Search Premier, etc.)


Author. “Article Title.” Magazine/Newspaper Title Day Month Year: page(s). Database Name. Web. Access Date.

Journal article found by using an online database the Library pays for


Magazine article found by using an online database the Library pays for


Newspaper article found by using an online database the Library pays for

ELECTRONIC SOURCES – Book review found by using an online database the Library pays for


Review Author. “Review Title.” Rev. of Book Title, by Author. Magazine/Newspaper Title Day Month Year: page(s). Database Name. Web. Access Date.


ELECTRONIC SOURCES – Article found by using an online specialized encyclopedia the Library pays for


**ELECTRONIC SOURCES** – Literary criticism found by using an online collection the Library pays for (e.g., Short Stories for Students, etc.)

|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|

**Notes:**
- Logos and headers in online collections can be confusing. If it is difficult to determine the *Collection Name*, work with the on-screen information as best you can.
- In citing excerpts from a previously published article (only parts of which are reprinted in your source), give the original source first and then the source you used. “Excpt.” and “rpt.” are abbreviations for “excerpted” and “reprinted.” If the whole article was reprinted, use “Rpt.” only.


**ELECTRONIC SOURCES** – Electronic book found by using an online book collection the Library pays for (e.g., ebrary, NetLibrary, etc.)

|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**ELECTRONIC SOURCES** – Work of visual art found by using an online database the Library pays for (e.g., ARTstor, Grove Art Online, etc.)

|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
ELECTRONIC SOURCES – Whole Web site

Title of Web Site. Publisher/Sponsor, publication date. Web. Access Date. <insert URL in angle brackets if your instructor requires it>.

Notes:
- Publisher/Sponsor means the organization most closely associated with the Web site. If no publisher is given, use N.p.
- Publication Date means date published electronically (or date of the most recent revision). Include day and month if you find them. Use n.d. if you can’t find a date.


ELECTRONIC SOURCES – Document available for free on the Web

Author. Title of Work. Title of Web Site. Publisher/Sponsor, publication date. Web. Access Date. <insert URL in angle brackets if your instructor requires it>.

Notes:
- Enclose the titles of poems and songs in quotation marks (instead of italicizing them).
- You may find some citation details on the home page of the Web site. Some details may not be available at all. Find as many as you can.


ELECTRONIC SOURCES – Section of a Web site or document available for free

Author. “Title of Section.” Title of Web Site. Publisher/Sponsor, publication date. Web. Access Date. <insert URL in angle brackets if your instructor requires it>.

Note: Some Web documents are structured the way a book is structured, with section titles. Each section is its own Web page. If you want to cite one section, enclose its title in quotation marks.


ELECTRONIC SOURCES – Printed book available for free on the Web


ELECTRONIC SOURCES – Journal, magazine, or newspaper article for free on the publication’s or publisher’s Web site


(Note: If no page numbers are given (or if the first page of every article in an issue is called page 1) use the abbreviation n. pag. instead of providing inclusive page numbers.)


ELECTRONIC SOURCES – Government document available for free on the Web

Name of Government. Name of Agency (and Subdivisions, if listed). Publication Title. Publication City: Publisher, publication date. Web. Access Date. <insert URL in angle brackets if your instructor requires it>.


ELECTRONIC SOURCES – Work of visual art available for free on the Web

Artist. Title. Year Created. Institution Housing the Work. Title of Web Site. Web. Access Date. <insert URL in angle brackets if your instructor requires it>.

ELECTRONIC SOURCES – Television or radio program episode available for free on the Web


Note: Including the name of a person involved with the episode or program/series is optional. The name follows the episode or program/series title.


INTERVIEW – Conducted by you

Person Interviewed. Type of Interview. Date.

Robertson, Gregor. Personal interview. 11 Aug. 2009.

(Note: Interview types: personal interview (in-person), telephone interview, email interview.)

INTERVIEW – Publication, recording, or program

Person Interviewed. Interview (or Interview by Interviewer’s Name). [Continue with the usual details about the publication, recording, or program.]


(Note: If an interview title is given, cite the title instead of indicating “Interview” or “Interview by Interviewer’s Name.”)

MEDIA SOURCES – Feature film on DVD or video

Film Title. Dir. Full Name. (Year of Film Release, if relevant). Distributor, DVD/video year released. DVD/Videocassette.


MEDIA SOURCES – Documentary on DVD or video

Documentary Title. Dir. Full Name. Distributor, year released. DVD/Videocassette.

SECOND-HAND SOURCES
Sources you cite should be first-hand sources – ones that you have actually examined in their original, complete form. A second-hand source is a source that is quoted in a first-hand source that you are using.

Imagine that you have a book by Sharon Taylor. In it Taylor includes a very interesting quotation from an article by Richard Cook. If you want to quote the words of Cook, you should get a copy of his article. Good scholarly practice requires that you see the quote in its original form and examine the context in which it appeared.

What if you try, but you can’t get a copy of Cook’s article, and you really want to quote it? Just this once, you can create a citation for a second-hand source. This imaginary example shows how you would do it:


IN-TEXT REFERENCES – EXAMPLES

In-text references identify the sources of your information within the text of the paper. In-text references usually consist of the author’s last name (or title if there is no author) and a page reference. The titles indicated in your in-text references must be fully documented on your Works Cited list.

With one author
According to a study by Levine (23) . . .
A recent study indicates that . . . (Levine 23).

With two authors
According to a study by Brehm and Steffen (109) . . .
A recent study indicates that . . . (Brehm and Steffen 109).

With no author
Use the complete title, or a short form of the title if it is long. Book titles are italicized; articles titles are put in quotation marks.

According to the Dictionary of Symbols (83) . . .
Recent studies indicate . . . (“Arts funding crisis” 3).

If a source has no author and is sponsored by a corporate entity, such as an organization or a government agency, name the corporate entity as the author.

Research from the Centre for Policy Alternatives (32) indicates . . .

Referring to a specific part of an electronic document (web page, online article, etc.)
Use page numbers if specifically provided by the document (e.g., as with a PDF file). Do not use the page numbers of a printout as this pagination varies depending on settings such as font size. Use paragraph or section numbers if no page numbers are available.

According to McClean (pars. 3-5) . . .
A recent study cites that . . . (Chan sec. 8).

Note: par. is the abbreviation for paragraph; sec. is the abbreviation for section

When a source has no page, paragraph, or section numbers, omit the location reference.

A recent study cites that . . . (Mitchell).