
This most recent edition of the *MLA Handbook* is both briefer than the previous edition and more inclusive of different resources. As in previous editions, it includes information on in-text citations and Works Cited elements. Both are required to document sources used. This new style is not centered on publication format; consequently, it is much easier to cite new media such as e-mails and tweets.

What is different – Works Cited

- The concept of the *container*. When a source is located within something larger than itself, such as a chapter in a book, an article in a journal, an episode in a television series, a video within a web site, that larger source is the Container. If the container is located within something larger than itself, such as a database, that will be a second container. Titles of containers are italicized.
- No longer needed: media type (print or web)
- Punctuation
  - When citing a journal article, only commas are used to separate the title of the journal, volume, number, date, and page numbers – see example. No parenthesis around the date
- When citing a periodical, rather than just numbers, the abbreviations for volume and number are used – see examples
- Use of DOI (digital object identifier) when available. Like other documentation styles, MLA recognizes the importance of using persistent/stable links, such as DOIs, for online sources. ERIC numbers and other identification numbers can be used. When no such numbers are available, use the URL, and, if possible, a permalink, which is generally more stable and shorter.
- For a book, place of publication not needed
- Authors, when a source has three or more authors (editors, translators), only cite the first author, followed by et al.

Note regarding subscription databases: the databases are seen as Container 2 in this new MLA format. Cite the database by name. If using an EBSCOHost database, it is not wrong to cite the name of the specific database, such as Academic Source Premier, rather than EBSCOHost. *Date accessed* is no longer required.

What is the same:

- Importance of citing the source of information used.
- In-text citations are basically the same as in the previous edition.
In-text citations. Whenever you use a direct quote, a summary, a reference to someone else’s ideas, note this by using in-text references, which will usually include the author’s last name and a page number. Variations can be: using the author’s name in the text, as in a signal phrase such as: according to Jane Austen, …… (24); then using the page number (or numbers) in parenthesis. Or, using a direct quote: “Some victims of hate crimes endure serial attacks” (Turpin-Petrosino 137). For two authors cite both names: (Alexander and Shelton 379), and for more than two authors, cite the first author’s last name, followed by et al. and page number (Ellis et al. 174). When there is no author, cite by title.

Any sources cited in-text must be included in the Works Cited list at the end of the document.

Works Cited – Examples

Please note: For online examples used in this handout for materials located though subscription databases, complete URLs are not provided.

Books

Book with one author:

Book with two authors

Book with three or more authors

Electronic book – cite an e-book as a version, see below example

Chapter in a book (or essay in a collection)
Periodicals

Periodicals – journal article – with doi.

Periodical – journal article – with ERIC number

Periodical – journal article – without doi.

Periodicals – monthly magazine – print version

Periodicals – monthly magazine – online version

Periodicals – daily newspaper – online version

Other resources

Web site:

Video on a Web Site:

Film: - if focused on a particular actor or director, begin the citation with the person’s name. If citing the film as a whole, begin the citation with the title, as the example below.
Film Review: Same format for book review.

Interview – cite person interviewed as author, then provide a title if available, and, if relevant, publication information. If untitled, see example below of personal, unpublished interview:
  Cruz, Nancy. Interview. By Alex Morganis. 27 Aug. 2016.

For more information and examples, use the MLA Handbook (8th edition), on reserve at the Circulation Desk. Also see online materials from the MLA Style Center at: style.mla.org/.