LIBRARY SKILLS WORKSHOP - APA FORMAT

APA is the American Psychological Association, which produces the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association.* This book is used as a reference for essays or research papers, especially in psychology and the sciences.

When you write a research paper for a class, at the end of the paper you will create a reference list of the sources used, such as magazine and journal articles, books, electronic databases, or websites. If your instructor asks you to use APA format for your paper, the reference list will be in a certain order: author, date, title, etc. This provides the information for someone reading your paper to locate the sources you have used.

Websites present a particular challenge for creating citations. Two general rules to follow for an APA citation of a website are to reference specific information, rather than just homepages or menu pages, and give web addresses that work. Below are a few examples, but these don't cover every possibility. If you have a citation for a research paper that doesn't fit the examples below, remember the library's website has links to online sites that you can consult for additional help.

General Rules on APA Citations:

- Author's name is inverted, using only initials for first/middles names
- If more than one author, list the authors in the order that they appear on the title page, and put an ampersand & before the last name listed; if more than seven list the first six, followed by three periods, then list the last name
- Editors, institutions and organizations can be listed as authors
- If source has an editor, put (Ed.) after the name
- If source is from a periodical, capitalize all the major words in the periodical title
- For books and articles within periodicals, capitalize only the first word of the title and subtitle along with proper nouns
- Italicize the titles of periodicals, books and websites
- List the year of publication in parenthesis after the author; if no date is available, put (n.d.)
- For periodicals list month and day of publication if available, list p. or pp. before page numbers if there is no volume number
- For journals list volume and issue numbers after the title of the journal
- List the doi (digital object identifier) number if available for an online article or book
- If there is no doi from an online source list the URL; list the date retrieved only if the source may change
- For books list publisher and city/state of publication, for major cities listing state isn't necessary
- If a book has an edition, list the edition in parenthesis after the title
- If citation is more than one line, indent the second line and double space

Books – Print & Online

Basic format for books:
Lastname, Firstinitial. Middleinitial. (Year of publication). *Title* (edition).

> Place of Publication: Publisher.

Book with one author:
Myers, D. G. (2005). *Exploring psychology* (6th ed.). New York: Worth Publishers.

Book with two authors:
DeSpelder, L. A., & Strickland, A. L. (2005). *The last dance: Encountering death and dying* (7th ed.).

> Boston: McGraw-Hill.

Book with an editor:
Tobin, J. (Ed.). (1997). *Making a place for pleasure in early childhood education.*

> New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

Book with more than seven authors or editors:
Corsini, R., Anatasi, A., Allen, M., Ardila, R., Lundin, R., Pickney, N., …Wright, L. (Eds.). (1994).

> *The encyclopedia of psychology* (2nd ed.). New York: Wiley.

A Chapter/Portion/Entry from a Book:

Basile, M. (2005). Bipolar disorder. In B. Narins (Ed.), *The Gale encyclopedia of genetic disorders*

> (pp. 166-170). Detroit: Gale.

Book with no author:
Webster's new biographical dictionary (1988). Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster.

Periodicals – Print & Online

Basic format for articles in magazines and newspapers:
Lastname, Firstinitial. Middleinitial. (Year, month day of publication). Title of article.

> *Title of Magazine or Newspaper,* p. or pp. and page numbers.

Magazines
Magazine article:
Welch, D. (2005, January 17). Will these rockets rescue Saturn? *BusinessWeek*, pp. 78-79.

Anonymous magazine article:
Making plans to save wildlife. (2007, June/July). *National Wildlife,* p. 52.

Magazine article from database:
Doskoch, P. (1997, July/August). You hate me? How romantic! *Psychology Today, 30*(4), 34.

Newspapers

Newspaper article:
Daragahi, B. (2005, June 27). Joint isn't jumping in Baghdad. *Los Angeles Times*, pp. A1, A6.

Newspaper article from database:
Spotts, P. N., & White, J. (2006, August 17). Plutons? Brown dwarfs? A new crowd in the solar system.

    Christian Science Monitor, p. 25.

Journals

Basic format for journals:
Lastname, Firstinitial. Middleinitial. (Year of publication). Title of article.

    Title of Journal, volume number(issue number), pages.

Journal article paginated by volume:
Stevenson, R. J., & Boakes, R. A. (2003). A mnemonic theory of odor perception. *Psychological Review,*

    110, 340-364.

Journal article paginated by issue:
Makings, E. (2006). Flora of the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area. *Desert Plants,*

    22(2), 3-104.

Journal article with digital object identifier number (doi):
Wilson, L., & Crowe, M. (2009, April). Parenting with a diagnosis bipolar disorder. *Journal of Advanced*

    Nursing, 65(4), 877-884. doi:10.1111/j.1365-2648.2008.04954.x

Articles Not in Print

Basic format for articles online that are not in print:
Lastname, Firstinitial. Middleinitial. (Year of publication). Title of article.

    Title of Website. Retrieved from http://web address

        Note: If website may change put Retrieved month day, year, from http://web address

Article on website with author:
Bernstein, B. E. (2012, May 21). *Pediatric bipolar affective disorder.* Retrieved July 12, 2012, from

    http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/913464-overview

Article in an online magazine:
Purpura, L. (2009, September/October). On coming back as a buzzard. *Orion*. Retrieved from

    http://www.orionmagazine.org/index.php/articles/article/4939

Websites:

Basic format for websites:

Title of webpage. (Year, month day of publication). *Title of website*. Retrieved from http://web address

Note: If website may change put Retrieved month day, year, from http://web address

Webpage within a website:

Bipolar disorder. (2012, July 11). *Wikipedia: The free encyclopedia*. Retrieved July 12, 2012,

from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bipolar_disorder

Webpage within a website with no date:

Global climate change. (n.d.). *Exploratorium.* Retrieved from

http://www.exploratorium.edu/climate/atmosphere/index.html

Website sponsored by organization or institution (no personal author):

Mayo Clinic. (2012, January 18). *Bipolar disorder*. Retrieved July 11, 2012, from

http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/bipolar-disorder/DS00356

In-Text Citations

In the paper you write you will insert in-text citations. The in-text citation refers to the work cited page, so the reader knows which source you got the information from. The basic in-text citation lists the author's last name and year in parenthesis. If there is no author put the title in italics if it is a book, periodical or website. For an article or webpage with no author put in title in quotation marks. For title in-text citations capitalize first letter if word is four or more letters. You can shorten a long title. If there is no date put n.d. as you would in the reference list. For a print source put the page number if you are using a direct quote or paraphrasing. For an online source with no page numbers list the paragraph number and/or section heading. The *Publication Manual of APA* and the OWL website have more detailed examples of in-text citations.

In-text citations example - a paragraph from a short paper:

Wildlife, including desert animals, are a vital part of planet Earth ("Making Plans," 2007). Unfortunately animals are affected by the stress of a warming climate ("Global Climate," n.d.).   One of the hazards to animals stressed by warming would be ending up eaten by buzzards (Purpura, 2009, para. 2). DeSpelder and Strickland (2005) noted that "death rituals are changing to include bereavement for the death of wild animals" (p. 48). Additional research into bereavement for death of wild animals has shown the benefits for human beings (DeSpelder & Strickland, 2005, p. 104). The definition of bereavement includes sorrow for the death of animials (*Webster's new*, 1988, p. 107).

References

DeSpelder, L. A., & Strickland, A. L. (2005). *The last dance: Encountering death and dying*

(7th ed.). Boston: McGraw-Hill.

Global climate change. (n.d.). *Exploratorium.* Retrieved from

http://www.exploratorium.edu/climate/atmosphere/index.html

Making plans to save wildlife. (2007, June/July). *National Wildlife,* p. 52.

Purpura, L. (2009, September/October). On coming back as a buzzard. *Orion.* Retrieved

from http://www.orionmagazine.org/index.php/articles/article/4939

Webster's new biographical dictionary (1988). Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster.