Documentation II: Author-Date References

The Author-Date system consists of an in-text citation composed of the author’s last name and a year of publication together with a corresponding entry in the reference list (titled “References” or “Works Cited”) at the end of the paper.

The in-text citation can cite a whole work (with no page number given) or cite a specific portion (include a page number or range of pages). Examples of in-text citations:

(Pollan 2006) — author last name, year of publication; cites whole work
(Mnookin and Kornhauser 1979, 22) — two authors, year, page number
(Jones, Smith, and Chao 2008, 118-119) — three authors, year, page number range
(Barnes et al. 2008) — four or more authors uses only first author
(Spinoza 232; Hawkins 36) — two citations listed together, separated by a semicolon

If you use the author’s name in your sentence, omit it from the in-text citation and place the citation after the name: “As Ramirez (2005, 86) asserts, the best thing to do is to escape…”

Authors in reference list: If you have four or more authors of a work, list all of them instead of using “et al.” If the work has no identifiable author or editor, start the citation with the work’s italicized title, and use an italicized short form of the title in your in-text citation: A True and Sincere Declaration of the Purpose and Ends of the Plantation is shortened to (True and Sincere Declaration 1610).

Reference list arrangement: Alphabetize by the author’s last name. If there is more than one work by the same author, arrange them chronologically from oldest to newest. If there is more than one work by the same author in the same year, begin them as "Jones, Frank. 2006a. …", "——. 2006b. …", etc. Indent all but the first line of each reference by three or four spaces—a “hanging indent”.

For more information, consult the section numbers of the Chicago Manual of Style given after each heading below.

Book or e-book (14.68-110; 15.32-15.42): Use the first named city on the copyright page of the book for the place of publication. Use state codes after the city only if the city is not well known or may be confused with a different place (14.134-138). For a library e-book, include the distributor (NetLibrary, Ebrary, etc.) at the end. For free online e-books, include a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) or URL.

In-text: (Delafield and Jones 2009, 145)

Book chapter or work in an anthology (14.111-117; 15.9):

In-text: (De Vinne, Jones, and Fly 2009, 41)
Journal article (14.175-198; 15.43-15.47): If you access the article through a GALILEO database, include a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) or a stable/persistent URL at the end of your reference. Sometimes there is no DOI and the URL is too long or not stable. In these cases you can list the database name and a unique identifying number for the article, usually called the accession number, in parentheses. If you use the article in print, omit the URL, DOI, etc.


Magazine or newspaper article (14.199-213; 15.47): These may be cited in-text and omitted from the references, or you may choose to cite a lesser-known magazine in the references.

Meacham (Newsweek, October 12, 2009) writes that Zakaria “argues that deterrence has worked since 1945.”


Encyclopedia entry (14.247-248): If the encyclopedia is well-known, cite it in-text and omit it from the References. Include the edition number if you are not using the first edition. Put the entry title, in quotes, after the abbreviation s.v. (“under the word”). If you are using an online encyclopedia, include a DOI or URL; if there is no publication or revision date, include the date you accessed the article.


Cite articles from a lesser-known encyclopedia in-text and in the references, as you would a book:

In text: (Wigoder 2002, s.v. “Passover”)


If the encyclopedia entry has a named author and is “substantial” (fairly long), you can use a format similar to the one for a book chapter (see above):


Website (14.243-246; 15.51): If possible, determine author of the content, page title, site title or site owner, and the URL. If there is no publication or revision year, use the year in which you accessed the document.


Film or TV (14.279): List the screenwriter as the principal author; the film, episode, scene or commentary track title; and the media type (DVD, VHS, etc.), followed by publication information. Film and TV series titles are italicized; episode, scene and commentary titles are placed in quotes.


Online Video (14.280): From YouTube, Hulu, etc. Include the hosting website, duration in hours and minutes, information about the original performance, the date posted, and the URL.

In text: (“UGA VII rushes the field” 2010)