APA Style for Electronic Sources
(American Psychological Association)

This guide provides basic guidelines and examples for citing electronic sources using the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6th edition and the *APA Style for Electronic Sources* (2008). APA style requires that sources receive attribution in the text by the use of parenthetical in-text references. General guidelines for in-text references are included on the last page of this guide.

Where available, the doi (digital object identifier) number should be used to provide access information for electronic materials. URLs may be included for resources that do not have a doi number. The names of full-text databases and rarely necessary in an APA citation. Retrieval date information should only be included when the page/site/information is likely to change.

Journal Articles

Article with DOI	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial. (Year of Publication). Article title. *Journal Title*, *volume* #(issue number), start page-end page. doi: alphanumeric string **Sample Citation:** Welch, K.E. (2005). Technical communication and physical location: Topoi and architecture in computer classrooms. *Technical Communication Quarterly 14*(3), 335-344. doi: 10.1207/s15427625tcq1403_12
Article without DOI	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial. (Year of Publication). Article title. *Journal Title*, *volume* #(issue number), start page-end page. Retrieved from URL **Sample Citation:** Fisher, D., Russell, D., Williams, J., & Fisher, D. (2008). Space, time & transfer in virtual case environments. *Kairos 12*(2), 127-165. Retrieved from http://kairos.technorhetoric.net/12.2/binder.html?topoi/fisher-etal/articleIntro.html
Advance Online Publication	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial. (Year of Publication). Article title. *Journal Title*, *volume* #(issue number), start page-end page. Advance online publication. doi: alphanumeric string or URL **Note:** In the following sample, the text includes neither page numbers nor a doi number. Therefore, the page number component is not included and the URL is substituted for the doi. **Sample Citation:** St. John, J., & Quinn, T.W. (2008). Rapid capture of DNA targets. *Biotechniques 44*(2). Advance online publication. Retrieved from http://www.biotechniques.com/default.asp?page=aop&subsection=article_display&display=full&id=112633

In-press article, retrieved from institutional or personal Web site	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial. (in press). Article title. *Journal Title*. 　　　Retrieved from doi or URL **Sample Citation:** Papini, P., Adriani, O., Ambriola, M., Barbarino, G.C., Basili, A., Bazilevskaja, G.A., et al. (in press). In-flight performances of the PAMELA satellite experiment. *Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research Section A: Accelerators, Spectrometers, Detectors, and Associated Equipment.* Retrieved from http://www.sciencedirect.com
Manuscript in preparation, retrieved from institutional or personal Web site	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial. (n.d.). *Manuscript title.* Manuscript in preparation. 　　　Retrieved from URL **Note:** The initials n.d. (no date) are included here in lieu of the publication date. **Sample Citation:** Goggans, H. (n.d.) *The "Floating Bear" as zine precursor.* Manuscript in preparation. Retrieved from http://www.heathergoggans.com

Electronic Books

Entire Book	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial. (Year). *Title.* Retrieved from URL **Sample Citation:** Dickens, C. (1910). *A tale of two cities.* Retrieved from http://books.google.com/books?id=Pm0AAAAAYAAJ
Book Chapter	**Format::** Author Last, First Initial. (Year). Chapter title. In First Initial Last Name & First Initial Last Name (Eds.), *Book title* (pp. start page-end page). doi: alphanumeric string **Note:** Use a doi number if available. If a number is not available, do not provide retrieval information for book chapters. See sample. **Sample Citation:** Shun, I. (1998). The invention of the martial arts: Kanao Jigorao and Kaodaokan judo. In S. Vlastos (Ed.), *Mirror of modernity: Invented traditions of modern Japan* (pp. 163-173).

Dissertation and Theses

Thesis retrieved from database	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial. (Year). *Title*. Retrieved from database name. (accession number if available) **Sample Citation:** Houck, A.M. *If God is God: Laughter and the divine in ancient Greek and modern Christian literature*. Retrieved from ProQuest Digital Dissertations. (AAI9990560)
Dissertation defense	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial. (Year, Month Day of Pub). *Title* [Format of defense] (Dissertation defense, University Name). Name. Retrieved from URL **Sample Citation:** Boardman, R. (2004, September 24). *Improving tool support for personal information management* [PowerPoint slides](Dissertation defense, Imperial College of London Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering). Retrieved from http://www.slideshare.net/rick/phd-defense-improving-tool-support-for-personal-information-management/

Abstracts

Abstract as original source	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial. (Year, Month Day of Pub). *Title.* [Abstract]. Retrieved from name of database. **Note:** If a publication number is assigned to the abstract, it may be included in parentheses after the title. See sample. **Sample Citation:** Berman, L.M., & Letellier, B. (1996). *Pharaohs: Treasures of Egyptian art from the Louvre* (AEB 1996.0572) [Abstract]. Retrieved from Annual Egyptological Bibliography database.
Abstract submitted for meeting, symposium, or poster session	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial. Title of Article. (Year, Month Day). Title of abstract. In First Initial Last Name of authority (Title of Authority), *Title of Meeting, Symposium, or Poster Session*. Type of meeting conducted at the name of sponsoring meeting or conference. Abstract retrieved from URL **Sample Citation:** Miller, C. (2007, June 25). Preserving soil survey data with GIS. In J.J. Meier (Web Editor), *Issues and trends in digital repositories of non-textual information: Support for research and teaching.* Poster session conducted at the ACRL Science and Technology Section conference. Abstract retrieved from http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/sciencetech/stsconferences/posters07.cfm#poster5

Abstract from secondary source	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial. (Year). Article title. *Journal Title volume* #(issue number if available), start page-end page. Abstract retrieved from secondary source name. **Sample Citation:** Chung, D.S., & Kim, S. (2008). Blogging activity among cancer patients and their companions: Uses, gratifications, and predictors of outcomes. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology 59*(2), 297-306. Abstract retrieved from Wiley InterScience database.

Bibliographies

Bibliography from Web site	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial. (Year of Pub). *Title.* Retrieved from Name of Source: URL. **Sample Citation:** de Zepetnek, S.T., Nielsen, W.C., & Aoun, S. (n.d.). *Selected bibliography for work in comparative cultural studies (history, theory, method).* Retrieved from CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture: http://clcwebjournal.lib.purdue.edu/library/comparativeculturalstudies(biblio).html
Bibliography from courseware	**Format:** Last Name, First Initials of Author. (Year of Pub). *Title of course* [Bibliography]. Retrieved from Name of University and Courseware Product/Site: URL. **Sample Citation:** Johnston, S.L. (2004). *French resources on the web* [Bibliography]. Retrieved from Trinity University BlackBoard site: http://bb.trinity.edu

Book Reviews and Journal Article Commentaries

Book Review	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial. (Year of Publication). Title of review [Review of the book *Title of book*]. *Journal Title, volume* #(issue # if available), inclusive page numbers or location on the web page. Retrieved from URL **Sample Citation:** Ferrer, H. (2006). The case of the disappearing genres [Review of the book *Best American mystery stories 2005*]. *American Book Review, 27*(4), 8-9. Retrieved from http://americanbookreview.org

Peer commentary, titled	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial. (Year of Pub). *Title of commentary* [Peer commentary on the journal article "Title of article"]. Retrieved Month Day, Year, from URL **Note:** If the title of the item under review is clear from the title of the review, then the bracketed explanation is not necessary. **Sample Citation:** Bizzell, P., & Herzberg, B. (1988). *A response to Kathleen E. Welch* [Peer commentary on the journal article "A critique of classical rhetoric: The contemporary appropriation of ancient discourse"]. *Rhetoric Review 6*(2): 246. Retrieved from http://www.jstor.org/stable/465942

Curriculum and Course Materials

Curriculum Guide	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial. (Year of Publication). *Title*. Retrieved from host web site name: URL. **Sample Citation:** National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. (2007). *Imagining the corps of discovery: Visual art of and about the Lewis and Clark expedition.* Retrieved from Lewis and Clark Journey of Discovery web site: http://www.nps.gov/archive/jeff/LewisClark2/Education/VisualArt/VisualArtLessonPlan.htm
Lecture Notes	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial. (Year of Pub). *Title* [format of notes]. Retrieved from host web site name: URL. **Sample Citation:** Johannesson, C. (2008). *The mole* [PowerPoint slides]. Retrieved from Communication Arts High School web site: http://www.nisd.net/communicationsarts/pages/chem/ppt/molarconv_pres.ppt

Raw Data

Data Set	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial or Corporate Author Name. (Year of Publication). *Title*. [Format of data]. Available from Name of source site: URL **Sample Citation:** Chris Bell U.S. Congress Committee. (2004). *FEC-116877 Form F3* [Data file]. Retrieved from Federal Election Commission web site: http://www.fec.org/finance/disclosure/efile_search.shtml
Graphic representation of data	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial or Corporate Author Name. (Year of Pub). [Description of graphic representation of data]. *Title of source.* Retrieved from URL **Sample Citation:** Sullivan, R.D. (2007). [Map depicting 10 different political regions in the United States for the 2008 election year]. *Beyond red & blue.* Retrieved from http://massinc.typepad.com/beyondredandblue/2007/09/beyond-red-blue.html

Qualitative data	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial (Responsibility) and Subject Last, First Initial (Responsibility). (Year of Publication). *Title of collected data* [Format of data]. Retrieved from Name of web site: URL **Note:** Interviews conducted one-on-one that have not been preserved in print or other formats should be cited in text as a personal communication. Data that cannot be retrieved is not included in the list of references. **Sample Citation:** Quintard, T. (Interviewer) & Monroe, E. (Interviewee). (1974). *Ethel Monroe, April 5, 1974* [Audio file]. Retrieved from Black Oral History web site: http://www.wsulibs.wsu.edu/holland/masc/xblackoralhistory.html

Reference Materials

Online Encyclopedia	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial. (Year of Publication). Title of entry. In First Initial Last Name of editor (Ed.), *Title*. Retrieved Month Day, Year, from URL of index or main page of encyclopedia **Note:** If no author is listed for an entry, include the title of the entry first in the citation. **Sample Citation:** Kania, A. (2007). Philosophy of music. In E.N. Zalta (Ed.), *The Stanford encyclopedia of philosophy*. Retrieved from http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/music/
Online Dictionary	**Format:** Title of entry. (Year of Publication). In *Title of dictionary*. Retrieved Month Day, Year, from URL of index or main page of dictionary **Sample Citation:** German shepherd. (n.d.). In *Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary*. Retrieved from http://www.britannica.com/dictionary?book=Dictionary
Online Handbook	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial. (Year of Publication). Title of entry. In First Initial Last Name of editor (Ed.), *Title*. Retrieved Month Day, Year, from URL of index or main page of handbook **Note:** If no author is listed for an entry, include the title of the entry first in the citation. **Sample Citation:** Wallace, E. (n.d.). Fort Stockton, TX. In R.R. Barkley (Ed.), *The Handbook of Texas online.* Retrieved from http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/index.html
Wiki	**Format:** Title of entry. (n.d.). Retrieved Month Day, Year, from Title of Wiki: URL **Note:** Wikis are collaboratively authored, rarely signed, and always changing. Therefore, author and publication date are not required. **Sample Citation:** Judo. (n.d.). Retrieved August 29, 2007, from Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judo

Gray Literature

Annual Report	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial or Corporate Author Name. (Year of Publication). *Title*. Retrieved from URL **Sample Citation:** Honda Motor Co. (2004). *Annual report*. Retrieved from http://world.honda.com/investors/annualreport/2004/07.html
Fact Sheet	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial or Corporate Author Name. (Year of Publication). *Title* [Fact sheet]. Retrieved from URL **Sample Citation:** Boy Scouts of America. (n.d.). *Merit badge program* [Fact sheet]. Retrieved from http://www.scouting.org/factsheets/02-500.html
Consumer Brochure	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial or Corporate Author Name. (Year of Publication). *Title* [Brochure]. Retrieved from URL **Sample Citation:** First Five Oral Health. (2005). *Healthy teeth begin at birth* [Brochure]. Retrieved from http://www.first5oralhealth.org/page.asp?page_id=439
Public service announcement	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial or Corporate Author Name (Responsibility of Author). (Year of Publication). *Title* [Format of announcement]. Retrieved from URL **Sample Citation:** Lynch, D. (Director). (2007). *Clean up New York* [Video file]. Retrieved from http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZSWv90msTUc
Presentation slides	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial or Corporate Author Name. (Year of Publication). *Title* [Format of slides]. Retrieved from URL **Sample Citation:** Rutter, R., & Boulton, M. (2007). *Web typography sucks* [PowerPoint slides]. Retrieved from http://webtypography.net/sxsw2007/
Technical or research report	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial or Corporate Author Name. (Year of Publication). *Title* (Report No. if available). Retrieved from URL **Sample Citation:** Miller, D.C., Sen, A., & Malley, L.B. (2007). *Comparative indicators of education in the United States and other G8 countries* (Report No. GPO ED003826P). http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2007006

Press release	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial or Corporate Author Name. (Year, Month Day of Publication). *Title* [Press release]. Retrieved from URL **Sample Citation:** Department of Athletics, Trinity University. (2008, January 7). *Trinity wins Pontiac game changing performance of the year award* [Press release]. Retrieved from http://www.trinity.edu/departments/athletics/Football/Pontiac_GCPOY.htm
Policy brief	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial or Corporate Author Name. (Year of Publication). *Title* (Policy No. if available). Retrieved from URL **Sample Citation:** Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. (2007). *Climate change: Meeting the challenge to 2050*. Retrieved from http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/6/21/39762914.pdf
Educational standards	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial or Corporate Author Name. (Year of Publication). *Title*. Retrieved from URL **Sample Citation:** Texas Education Agency. (1998). *Texas essential knowledge and skills for social studies, subchapter c., high school*. Retrieved from http://www.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter113/ch113c.pdf
White paper	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial or Corporate Author Name. (Year of Publication). *Title* [White paper]. Retrieved from URL **Sample Citation:** OCLC Online Computer Library Center. (2002). *OCLC white paper on the information habits of college students* [White paper]. Retrieved from http://www5.oclc.org/downloads/community/informationhabits.pdf
Newsletter article	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial or Corporate Author Name. (Year of Publication). Title of Article. *Title of Newsletter, volume* # (issue #). Retrieved from URL **Sample Citation:** Seiden, Peggy. (2006). Library survey evaluates service. *@library.edu, the Swarthmore College library newsletter, 8*(2). Retrieved from http://www.swarthmore.edu/Documents/library/spring06.pdf

General Interest Media and Alternative Presses

Newspaper article	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial. (Year, Month Day of Publication). Article title. *Newspaper Name*. Retrieved from URL **Sample Citation:** Mapes, L.V. (2005, May 25). Unearthing Tse-whit-zen. *Seattle Times*. Retrieved from http://seattletimes.nwsource.com

Television feature, podcast	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial, & Author Last, First Initial (Author Responsibility). (Year of Pub). *Title of television feature* [Motion picture]. In First Initial Last Name (Role of Presenter), *Title of program.* Podcast retrieved from Name of host site: URL **Sample Citation:** Schultz, D. (Producer/Writer). (2007). *Silence of the bees* [Motion picture]. In Kaufman, F. (Executive Producer), *Nature.* Podcast retrieved from PBS: http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/rss/podcast.xml
Audio podcast	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial (Author Responsibility). (Year, Month Day of Publication). Title of podcast [Podcast identification number if available]. *Podcast series Name.* Podcast retrieved from URL **Sample Citation:** Hinze, S. (Host). (2007, December 25). Robots! [Show 440]. *Fanboy radio.* Podcast retrieved from http://media.libsyn.com/media/fanboyradio/fbr_440.mp3
Online magazine content not found in print version	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial. (Year of Pub). Title of article [Online exclusive]. *Title of Magazine.* Retrieved Month Day, Year, from URL **Sample Citation:** Millet, M. (2005). NextGen: Is this the ninth circle of hell? [Online exclusive]. *Library Journal.* Retrieved December 7, 2007, from http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA509641.html

Online Communities

Message posted to a newsgroup, online forum, or discussion group	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial. (Year, Month Day of posting). Title of post [post number if available]. Message posted to URL **Sample Citation:** Epstein, P. (2005, November 20). Dice manipulation. Message posted to http://www.bkgm.com/rgb/rgb.cgi?menu
Message posted to an electronic mailing list	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial. (Year, Month Day of Pub). Title of post [Msg. # if available]. Message posted to Name of List, archived at URL **Note:** Since messages in an e-mail list are posted through email, the URL should direct readers to the web site or page where the messages have been archived. **Sample Citation:** Bennick, T. (2007, December 28). Speedball press [Msg. #00189]. Message posted to Book Arts Web electronic mailing list, archived at http://palimpsest.stanford.edu/byform/mailing-lists/bookarts/#archive

Weblog post	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial. (Year, Month Day of Publication). Title. Message posted to URL **Sample Citation:** Rush, Wilhelmina. (2007, July 12). Four stars! Message posted to http://wilhelminarush.livejournal.com
Video Weblog post	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial. (Year, Month Day of Publication). Title [Format of post]. Video posted to URL **Note:** If the author's name is not provided, the screen name of the posting author may be used instead. **Sample Citation:** Rjsivey. (2007, July 27). Narcoleptic Chihuahua [Video file]. Video posted to http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XyzeCiW-nn0

Computer Programs, Software, and Programming Languages

Software downloaded from a Web site	**Format:** Author Last, First Initial. (Year of Publication). Name of product [format of product]. Available from Name of source: URL *Title*. **Sample Citation:** Elizabeth Huth Coates Library, Trinity University. (2007). Coates library toolbar [Software]. Retrieved from Coates Library: http://lib.trinity.edu/toolbar/index.shtml

In-Text Parenthetical References in APA Style

To cite the use of a source in the text of an essay, APA advocates two methods: parenthetical citation and attribution within the essay's content. Parenthetical references should be included *immediately after* the quotation marks used in direct quotations or immediately after the use of the source, even if this means including the parenthetical reference in the middle of the sentence. The following is the general form for parenthetical citations in APA style:

        Parenthetical Citation: (Author Last Name, Year of Publication)
        Example: (Smith, 1988)

To make the citation of the source less distracting, the APA also suggests mentioning the author in the essay's content so that only the year of publication and page number may be required in the parenthetical reference.

        Attribution in text: Author Last Name (Year of Publication) has argued this point.
        Example: Smith (1988) has argued this point.

Page numbers are not required in APA in-text citation. However, it is highly suggested that these be included. To include references to a specific part of the text, add the page number or chapter number after the year.

Examples: Smith (1988, p. 244) has written that...   or   Smith (1988, chap. 5) has written that...

When a work has two authors, both names should be cited in every parenthetical reference. Use an ampersand (&) to separate the names of authors. If a work has three or four authors, all authors should be included in the first parenthetical reference. After the first parenthetical reference, only the last name of the first author and the phrase "et al." may be used.

        First mention of the reference: Johnson, Smith, and Brown (1999) agree that...
        Subsequent mention: Johnson et al. (1999) also argue...

If a text has been authored by more than five individuals, the full listing of authors is not required in the first reference or any subsequent in-text references.

If a group or corporation is the author, the full name of the group or corporation should be included in place of an author's name. If an organization has a recognizable abbreviation, this may be used in subsequent references.

        First mention of the reference: (American Medical Association, 2002)
        Subsequent mention: (AMA, 2002)

If no author is given for a specific text, use the first few words of the title in place of the author's last name. Title fragments should be formatted using the same punctuation as titles on the References page. Here are two examples of attribution using titles instead of author names:

        The recent publication *Plagiarism and You* (2002) offers some explanation...

        In "Five Ways to Protect Yourself" (2000) one can find...

Examples of parenthetical attribution:

        (*Plagiarism and You*, 2002) or ("Five Ways to Protect Yourself," 2000)

When no date is given for the publication of a text (as is the case with many websites), include the abbreviation "n.d." in place of the year of publication.

For more information see the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6th ed. (pages 174-179).