



# Guide to APA Referencing

APA Style is the standardised format used by psychologists for laying out work, citing and referencing sources. The Library has copies of the APA Publication Manual (6th ed.), which you can consult for guidance. There are also useful websites:

<http://www.apastyle.org/learn/index.aspx>

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/>

This guide provides an overview of the basics of citation and referencing and should not be regarded as a substitute for the information sources above.

## Citing within the text

You should always cite the work of individuals whose material you have used in your work. This includes ideas, theories and research. You should include the author's name(s) and date of publication each time you quote, paraphrase or summarise from a source. Each citation should also be included in your reference list and vice-versa. References to classical texts such as the Bible and Qur'an should only be included in the reference list.

The citation can be placed in several places in the sentence:

- I. at the beginning: Subbotsky's (1993) moral development theory suggests ....
- II. in the middle: ... as a result of self-identity (Subbotsky, 1993), and learned behaviour...
- III. at the end: ... the child identifies with his/her positive moral self-image (Subbotsky, 1993).
- IV. as part of the narrative: In 2003, Subbotsky's investigation into moral self-identity revealed...

With two authors of the same work, both authors should be cited each time the reference occurs:

- I. Subbotsky and Lewis (2001) found that children's positive moral self-images...
- II. ...that children's identification with their moral self-image is the most likely candidate (Subbotsky & Lewis, 2001). **NB** When in brackets, the ampersand (&) is used.

With three or more authors of the same work, include all authors the first time the reference occurs:

Subbotsky, Lewis and Bremner (2005) demonstrated...

In subsequent references to the same work in the same paragraph:

Subbotsky et al. (2005) also found...

When citing multiple-author references in a new paragraph, follow the same guidelines.

With six or more authors of the same work, cite only the name of the first author followed by et al. and the year for all first and subsequent citations.

Secondary sources should be used sparingly. However, when the original source is unavailable, you may refer to an author's work which is included in a book or journal written by another author. You need to include both authors in the text citation:

Lewis's theory (as cited in Subbotsky, 2003)...

In your reference section, you only need to include Subbotsky (2003).

When a work doesn't have an author, cite the title or abbreviated title and capitalize all but link words. Italicize the title of a journal or book and use double quotation marks around the title for a journal article, book chapter or web page:

... discovery of a new vaccine ("New Child Vaccine," 2001) ...

## Reference list

Your references should be listed alphabetically by the author's surname. The list is located on a new page at the end of your essay/report and should only include those sources cited in your work. Attention to detail, including spelling and formatting is extremely important. Your reference list should be double spaced and the second and subsequent lines of references should be indented.

Here are some examples of how to reference some of the sources you may use:

### Book

Author, A. A. (Year). *Title of work*. Location: Publisher.

Subbotsky, E. V. (1993). *The birth of personality*. London: Harvester Wheatsheaf.

*NB* Use initials after the surname, even when a full name is given.

### Book with multiple authors

Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (Year). *Title: Subtitle*. (Edition). Location: Publisher.

Burns, T., & Sinfield, S. (2008). *Essential study skills: The complete guide to success at university*. (2nd ed.). London: SAGE.

*NB* For 2-7 authors, list all the authors in your reference list. For more than seven authors, list the first six authors, then an ellipsis (...) followed by the last author. The ampersand (&) is always used in the reference section and should be preceded by a comma. The initial letter of the subtitle is capitalized. If the book is a second or subsequent edition, include an edition statement.

### Edited book

Editor/s (Ed/s.). (Year). *Title*. Location: Publisher.

Maguire, M., Reiner, R., & Morgan, R. (Eds.). (2002). *The Oxford handbook of criminology*. (3rd ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

### **Translated book**

Author, A. (Year). *Title*. (A. Translator, Trans.). Location: Publisher. (Original work published year).

Freud, S. (1999). *The interpretation of dreams*. (J. Crick, Trans.). Oxford: Oxford University Press. (Original work published 1900).

**NB** Your in-text citation must include both dates (Freud, 1900/1999)

### **Book section or chapter**

Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (Year). Title of chapter. In A. Editor & B. Editor (Eds.), *Title of book*. (pp.xxx-xxx). Location: Publisher.

Town, J. S. (2003) Information literacy and the information society. In S. Hornby and Z. Clarke (Eds.), *Change and challenge: Debates on the information society for the 21st century*. (pp. 83-103). London: Facet Publishing.

**NB** For book chapters and newspaper articles precede page numbers by p. for a single page or pp. for multiple pages. For journal articles simply enter the page numbers.

### **Electronic book**

Author, A. A. (Year). *Title of work*. Retrieved from <http://www.xxxxxxx>

McQueen, R. A., & Knussen, C. (2006). *Introduction to research methods and statistics in psychology*. Retrieved from <http://lib.myilibrary.com/Open.aspx?id=177083>

**NB** For all electronic material, check with your lecturer whether the date of retrieval should be included in your citation. If it is required, it should appear in the format Retrieved Month dd, Year, from <http://www.xxxxxxx>

### **Journal article (printed)**

Author, A. A. (Year). Title of the article. *Title of the Periodical*, volume number(issue number), page numbers.

Buss, D. M. (1995). Evolutionary psychology: A new paradigm for psychological science. *Psychological Inquiry*, 6(1), 1-30.

### **Journal article (Electronic)**

Author, A. A. (Year). Title of the article. *Title of the Periodical*, volume number(issue number), page numbers. Retrieved from <http://www.xxxxxxx> (or DOI, where available)

Addyman, C., & Mareschal, D. (2010). The perceptual origins of the abstract same/different concept in human infants. *Animal Cognition*, 13, 817-833.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10071-010-0330-0>

### **Magazine article**

Author, A. A. (Year, Month dd). Title of article. *Title of Magazine*, (Issue number), page numbers.

Hankinson, A. (2012, September). Olympic impact. *Easyjet Traveller*, 112-114.

## **Newspaper article**

Reporter. A. (Year, Month dd). Title. *Newspaper*, p. x.

Ramesh, R. (2012, June 26). Half of care homes 'fail patients with learning disabilities'.  
*The Guardian*, p.14.

## **Newspaper article online**

Reporter, A (Year, Month dd). Title of article. *Newspaper*. Retrieved from <http://www.xxxxxxx>

Ramesh, R. (2012, Jun 25). Half of care homes fail to meet standards, warns watchdog.  
*The Guardian*. Retrieved from <http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2012/jun/25/half-care-homes-fail-standards?INTCMP=SRCH>

## **Thesis**

Author, A. (Year). *Title of dissertation*. (Unpublished level dissertation). Name of Institution, Location.

Charlton, J. P. (1997). *The modelling of performance on specialist computing courses*.  
(Unpublished doctoral dissertation). University of Manchester, Bolton.

## **Conference proceedings**

Proceedings of conferences, symposia, etc. can be published in book or, if they are regular events, periodical format. If this is the case use the appropriate book, book chapter or journal format for your reference list.

For unpublished papers or poster presentations, follow the format below.

Presenter, A. (Year, Month). *Title of paper or poster*. Paper or poster session presented at Event Name of  
Organization Name, Location.

Smith, B. (2009, July). *Assessment – are we getting it right?* Paper presented at the  
Annual Learning and Teaching Staff Conference of the University of Bolton, Bolton.

## **Report**

Author or Organization. (Year). *Title* (Report Number or code if applicable).Location: Publisher.

Department for Education and Skills. (2005). *Government response to hidden harm: The report of an inquiry by the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs*. Nottingham: DfES Publications.

## **Webpage**

Author or Organisation. (Year). Title of webpage. Retrieved from <http://www.xxxxxxx>

Lemetyinen, H. (2012). Language acquisition. Retrieved from  
<http://www.simplypsychology.org/language.html>

With websites it can sometimes be difficult to identify an author or a date. If you can't find an individual or organizational author, then use the title as your point of entry. The title entry should be in normal rather than italic font, unless it is a report or similar document, and only the initial letter should be capitalized. Always check the bottom of a web page for the date that a web page was last updated. If this information is missing, enter n.d. in the brackets where the year would appear.

New child vaccine gets funding boost. (2001). Retrieved March 21, 2001, from [http://news.ninemsn.com.au/health/story\\_13178.asp](http://news.ninemsn.com.au/health/story_13178.asp)

### **Online comments**

Author, A. A. (Year, Month dd). Title of post [Description of form]. Retrieved from <http://www.xxxxxxx>

Herbert, Wray. (2012, August 29). Having heart: Can we rethink life's stresses? [Web log post]. Retrieved from <http://www.psychologicalscience.org/index.php/news/were-only-human/having-heart-can-we-rethink-lifes-stresses.html>

### **Data sets**

Author, A. (Year). *Title of dataset* [Data set]. Retrieved from <http://www.xxxxxxx> (or DOI, where available)

Huxley, P. J., Thomas, R., Rogers, A., & Robson, B. (2002). *Urban regeneration, mental health and quality of life in Wythenshawe, South Manchester, 1998-2001* [Data set]. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5255/UKDA-SN-4410-1>

### **Audiovisual material**

Reference as you would a book, listing the main contributors in the author position and use brackets to label their contribution. Identify the format of the material in square brackets after the title. For a single item from a series or collection, reference as you would a chapter in an edited book.

Eg

#### **Film**

Sacks, O. (Writer), & Marshall, P. (Director). (1990). *Awakenings* [Motion picture]. USA: Columbia Pictures Corporation.

#### **Podcast**

Scaer, R. (2012, September 25). *The brain in trauma and PTSD* [Audio podcast]. Retrieved from <http://www.shrinkrapradio.com/>

#### **TV programme**

Mosley, M. (Presenter), & Stinitz, A. (Director). (2011). Broken brains [Television series episode]. In K. Townsend (Series producer), *The brain: A secret history*. London: British Broadcasting Corporation.