

# GIVING CREDIT IN RESEARCH: Citing Sources MLA Style

There are a couple different citation styles in use at Redwood. Most departments use MLA style, which was developed by the Modern Language Association, the association of college English professors. The science department uses the style developed by the American Psychological Association (APA style). Both styles have recently been updated with publication of new manuals. The *MLA 2009 Formatting and Style Guide*, found at Purdue University's Online Writing Lab site ([owl.english.purdue.edu](http://owl.english.purdue.edu)), states the following:

MLA style specifies guidelines for formatting manuscripts and using the English language in writing. MLA style also provides writers with a system for referencing their sources through parenthetical citation in their essays and Works Cited pages. Writers who properly use MLA also build their credibility by demonstrating accountability to their source material. Most importantly, the use of MLA style can protect writers from accusations of plagiarism, which is the purposeful or accidental uncredited use of source material by other writers. If you are asked to use MLA format, be sure to consult the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (7th edition, 2009).

The APA also released the most recent edition of its *Publication Manual* in 2009. An online tutorial on using APA style may be found here: <http://flash1r.apa.org/apastyle/basics/index.htm>.

For government documents there is a good site at the University of Memphis Library: Uncle Sam - Brief Guide to Citing Government Publications <http://www.lib.memphis.edu/gpo/citeweb.htm>.

## Part I – In-Text Citations, Footnotes and Endnotes

### IN-TEXT CITATIONS

According to the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*:

In MLA documentation style, you acknowledge your sources by keying brief parenthetical citations in your text to an alphabetical list of works that appears at the end of the paper. The parenthetical citation that concludes the following sentence is typical of MLA style.

The aesthetic and ideological orientation of jazz underwent considerable scrutiny in the late 1950s and early 1960s (Anderson 7).

The citation "(Anderson 7)" tells readers that the information in the sentence was derived from page 7 of a work named Anderson. If readers want more information about this source, they can turn to the works-cited list, where, under the name Anderson, they would find the following information.

Anderson, Iain. *This Is Our Music: Free Jazz, the Sixties, and American Culture*. Philadelphia: U of Pennsylvania P, 2007. Print.

This entry states that the work's author is Iain Anderson and its title is *This Is Our Music: Free Jazz, the Sixties, and American Culture*. The remaining information relates, in shortened form, that the work was produced in Philadelphia by the University of Pennsylvania Press in 2007 as a print publication.

The citation in MLA style contains only enough information to enable readers to find the source in the works-cited list. If the author's name is mentioned in the text, only the page number appears in the citation: "(7)." If more than one work by the author is in the list of works cited, a shortened version of the title is given: "(Anderson, *This* 7)."

For works which do not have an author use the first word(s) of the title instead.

Shells were used as currency in many Mediterranean countries in the pre-Christian era ("Money" 86).

This citation might refer to the following entry:

"Money." *World Book Encyclopedia*. 2010 ed. Print.

### FOOTNOTES & ENDNOTES

Footnotes appear at the bottom of the page four lines below the last textual line. Single-space each entry; double space between entries. Indent first line by five spaces, and continue the next name at the left edge.

Endnotes appear at the end of the entire text on a separate page, numbered in order of their occurrence.

#### GENERAL FORM

First name Last name. Title (Place: Publisher, date) page(s).

#### SUBSEQUENT USE OF THE SAME SOURCE

Last name, page(s).

## Part II – Works-Cited Page

A Works Cited page is used by MLA to list sources used in producing a work, usually a paper or research study. This list contains all the works you will cite in your text.

It usually appears at the end of a project on a separate page, and is arranged alphabetically by main entry (i.e., author or other first component excluding initial article). The list is typically double-spaced within and between entries, the second and subsequent lines of each entry indented by a ½ inch tab (hanging indent). Titles (of books, websites, etc.) are italicized.

### EXAMPLES

#### ONE AUTHOR

Last name, First name. Title. Place: Publisher, date. Medium.

**Jones, Jim.** *How I Created the People's Temple.* San Francisco: People's Temple Press, 1972. Print.

Same name after first entry

---. Title. Place: Publisher, date. Medium. [date of access for websites].

---. *How I Destroyed the People's Temple.* *People's Temple Online.* 1978. Web. 28 Aug. 2009.

#### BOOK PUBLISHED ONLINE

**Du Bois, W. E. B.** *The Souls of Black Folk.* Chicago: A.C. McClurg & Co., 1903; *Bartleby.com*, 1999. Web. 28 Mar. 2002.

#### TWO OR THREE AUTHORS

Last name, First name, [SecondLast name, First name] and LastFirst name Last name. Title. Place: Publisher, date. Medium.  
[date of access for web sites].

**Jones, Jim, and Carol Thomas.** *Guyana: A Great Place to Settle Down.* Los Angeles: Angel Press, 1976. Print.

**Jones, J., Darling, C.W., and Carol Thomas.** *Guyana: A Wonderful Place to Leave.* *People's Temple Online*, 2003. Web. 29 Aug. 2009.

#### MORE THAN THREE AUTHORS (In this citation et al. means “and others”)

Last name, First name, et al. Title. Place: Publisher. date. Medium.

**Torrigino, Mario, et al.** *How to Win Every Legal Battle You Fight.* Pacifica, Calif.: Legal Battle Press. 1989. Print.

#### ANONYMOUS

Title. Place: Publisher, date. Medium.

*Jimson Weed.* Reno: Weed Publishing, 1998. Print.

#### CORPORATE/ASSOCIATION AUTHOR

CorporateAuthor. Title. Place: Publisher, date. Medium.

**People's Temple.** *How We Let Ourselves Be Abused.* San Francisco: People's Temple Press, 1975. Print.

#### AN ANONYMOUS BOOK

[Start with the title. Do not use Anonymous or Anon. Alphabetize by the first word in title, ignoring any initial A, An, or The.]

*American Heritage Guide to Contemporary Usage and Style.* Boston: Houghton, 2005. Print.

#### AN INTRODUCTION, A PREFACE, A FOREWORD, OR AN AFTERWORD

Last name, First name. Foreword/Preface/etc. Title. By First name Last name. [book's author] Place: Publisher, date. Pages.  
Medium.

**Pepin, Ronald E.** Foreword. *The Saints of Diminished Capacity: Selected Poems, 1972-1997.* By Charles Darling. Hartford: Capital Press, 1997. ii-ix. Print.

#### TRANSLATED WORK

**Borges, Jorge Luis.** *Ficciones.* Trans. Anthony Kerrigan. New York: Grove Press, 1962. Print.

#### EDITED WORK

**Clement, Jane C., ed.** *Collected Works of Clint Eastwood.* Carmel: Make My Day Press, 1997. Print.

#### WORK IN AN ANTHOLOGY

Last name, First name. "Selection." Title. Ed. First name, Last name. Place: Publisher: date. Pages. Medium.

**Munro, Alice.** "The Turkey Season." *In Another Part of the Forest: An Anthology of Gay Short Fiction.* Ed. Alberto Manguel and Craig Stephenson. New York: Crown, 1994. 84-111. Print.

### GENERAL ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLE (no place or publisher necessary)

Last name, First name. [if known] "ArticleTitle." *EncyclopediaTitle*. Ed. Medium.

Harlow, Henry Robert. "Drawing." *Encyclopaedia Britannica: Macropaedia*. 2010 ed. Print.

"Drawing" *Encyclopaedia Britannica Online*. Academic ed. 2009. Encyclopædia Britannica. Web. 24 Aug. 2009.

### OTHER MULTIVOLUME REFERENCE (SPECIALIZED ENCYCLOPEDIA)

"The Mbuti." *Peoples of the Earth*. Ed. Cerise MacDonald. 20 vols. New York: Grolier, 1975. Print.

### MAGAZINE or NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

Last name, First name. "ArticleTitle." *JournalTitle*, day Month year [or] volume. number [for newspaper include edition if relevant] : page[s]. [for newspapers include section with page, e.g. G3]. Medium. [date of access for web resource].

Campbell, Susan. "Are We So Very Different?" *Hartford Courant* 1 Dec. 1996, first ed.: A1+. Print.

Christie, John S. and Susan Washington. "Garcia Marquez's Faulknerian Chronicle of the Death Foretold." *Latin American Literary Review* 13.3 (Fall 1993): 21-29. Print.

Green, Joshua. "The Rove Presidency." *The Atlantic.com*. Atlantic Monthly Group, Sept. 2007. Web. 15 May 2008.

Kennedy, David M. "Victory at Sea." *Atlantic Monthly*, March 1999: 51-76. Print.

"What's a Hoatzin?" *Newsweek* 27 Sept. 1993: 72-73. Print.

For a review

Williams, Larry. "Powerful Urban Drama Builds in Bells' Tense 'Ten Indians'." Rev. of *Ten Indians*, by Madison Smartt Bell. *Hartford Courant* 1 Dec. 1996: G3. Print.

### ARTICLE IN A SUBSCRIPTION DATABASE

Begin the entry by following the above suggestions for articles in print periodicals, but change the medium to Web. If possible give the inclusive page numbers or, when pagination is not continuous, the first page number and a plus sign; if pagination is not available, use *n. pag.* Conclude the entry with the following items:

1. Title of the database (italicized)
2. Medium of the publication consulted (*Web*)
3. Date of access (day, month, and year)

Anderson, J. "Keats in Harlem." *New Republic* 204.14 8 Apr. 1991: 27+. *MAS Ultra*. Web. 29 Dec. 2008.

Bendic, Antonia, Maja Bozic, and Merica G. Durdov. "Metaplastic breast carcinoma with melanocytic differentiation." *Pathology International* 59.9 (Sep. 2009): 676-680. *Advanced Placement Source*. Web. 25 Aug. 2009.

Griffith, Kelly. "Escape from the Red States: Gay Parents Can Wake Up to Find That Their Home State Wants to Break Up Their Family; Some Fight Back; Others Simply Leave for Friendlier Locales," *The Advocate* 19 July 2005. *QuestiaSchool*. Web. 25 Aug. 2009.

### ARTICLE IN AN ONLINE JOURNAL

Fitter, Chris. "The Poetic Nocturne: From Ancient Motif to Renaissance Genre." *Early Modern Literary Studies* 3.1 (Sept. 1997): 61 pars. Web. 28 Mar. 2009.

### LEGAL DOCUMENT

Do not set off titles of laws or acts with underlines, italics or quote marks. You may abbreviate titles, with the works cited by section and the years added if relevant: 21 US Code. Sec. 1401a. 1988; US Const. Art. 1, sec.1.

**Driving a Professor Crazy Act of 1996. Publ. L. 100-418. 14 Nov. 1996. Stat. 99.1496. Print.**

[Public Law number. Enactment date. Statutes at Large cataloging number. Medium.]

**Kaun v. Library of California. 154 USPQ 677. CA Supr. Ct. 1999. Print.**

This case is described in the United States Patent Quarterly, page 677 of volume 154.

### MAP or CHART

*Title*. Chart/Map. Place: Publisher, date. Medium.

*1914 New Balkan States and Central Europe Map. NG Maps Print Collection. National Geographic, 1914. Web. 25 Aug. 2009.*

*The Physical World. Map. New York: Rand McNally, 1993. Print.*

### GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION

Government Agency. *Title*. Place: Publisher, date.

**US Bureau of the Census. 1990 U.S. Census of Population and Housing. Washington: GPO, 1990. Print.**

### SPEECH

Last name, First name. "Speech title." Sponsoring Organization. Site: City. date Month year.

**King, Martin Luther, Jr. "I Have a Dream." March on Washington. Lincoln Memorial: Washington. 28 August 1963.**

## **INTERVIEW**

Last name, First name. Personal interview. day Month year.

**Brown, Willy. Personal interview. 4 Nov. 1999.**

## **A LETTER, A MEMO, OR AN E-MAIL MESSAGE**

**LETTERS:** Last name, First name. Letter to First name Last name. date Month year. Medium.

**Frost, Robert. Letter to John Fitzgerald Kennedy. 5 Dec. 1960. TS.** [for typescript]

**E-MAIL:** Last name, First name. Message to First name Last name [or *the author*]. date Month year. E-mail.

**Kaun, Thomas. Message to the author. 25 Aug. 2009. E-mail.**

## **FILM or VIDEO**

To the extent that a narrator, director, producer, performer, etc. are known, they may be added to the citation with abbreviated title, e.g. Narr., Dir., Prod., Perf., etc., after the name of films and other broadcast media entries.

*Title*. Dir. First name Last name. Film distributor, date. Medium.

***The Wizard of Oz*. Dir. Victor Fleming. Perf. Judy Garland, Ray Bolger, Bert Lahr, Jack Haley. Loew's Incorporated, 1939. Film.**

For a videorecording of a previously distributed film, use the term videocassette, videodisc, DVD, or other appropriate description at the end of the entry and add the production year after the director's name. Name the video distributor and date rather than the film distributor.

***The Wizard of Oz*. Dir. Victor Fleming. 1939. MGM/UA Home Video, 1989. Videocassette.**

## **TV or RADIO PROGRAM**

Last name, First name. [as appropriate] Title. [Other information as known]. Production Company. LocalChannelName, Place, day Month year. Medium [e.g. *Radio, Television*]

**Schneider, Pamela. Interview. Seniors: What Keeps Us Going. With Linda Storrow. NPR. WNYC. New York. 11 July 1988. Radio.**

**Sixty Minutes. CBS. KPIX, San Francisco. 3 January 1999. Television.**

## **SOME MORE WEB EXAMPLES**

An entry for a non-periodical publication on the Web usually contains most of the following components, in sequence:

1. Name of the author, compiler, director, editor, narrator, performer, or translator of the work
2. Title of the work italicized if the work is independent; in roman type and quotation marks if the work is part of a larger work
3. Title of the overall Web site (italicized), if distinct from item 2
4. Version or edition used
5. Publisher or sponsor of the site; if not available, use N.p.
6. Date of publication (day, month, and year, as available); if nothing is available use n.d.
7. Medium of publication (Web)
8. Date of access (day, month, and year)

If necessary for clarity or if your instructor requires it, the URL may be added at the end of the entry between angle brackets <>.

***The Avalon Project: Articles of Confederation*. 31 Dec. 1969 [1996]. *The Avalon Project at Yale Law School*. Web. 29 Mar 2009. <<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/artconf.htm>>.**

**Blake, William. "Earth's Answer." *Dove Cottage*. Web. 28 Mar. 2002.**

***A Guide to for Writing Research Papers Based on Modern Language Association (MLA) Documentation*. Humanities Department and Arthur C. Banks, Jr. Library, Capital Community College, 31 May 2000. Web. 28 Mar. 2002. <<http://www.ccc.commnet.edu/mla/index.shtml>>.**

**Jascot, John. Home page. Web. 28 Mar. 2009. <<http://ccc.commnet.edu/faculty/~jascot/jascot.htm>>.**

**Lessig, Lawrence. "Free Debates: More Republicans Call on RNC." *Lessig 2.0*. N.p., 4 May 2007. Web. 29 Aug. 2009.**

**Quade, Alex. "Elite Team Rescues Troops behind enemy Lines." CNN.com. Cable News Network, 19 Mar. 2007. Web. 29 Aug. 2009.**