This guide outlines how to cite some of the more common information sources in the MLA citation style.

For a comprehensive listing, please consult:

Call number: LB 2369.G53 2009

The library subscribes to RefWorks – an online bibliographic management package. For more information, see: http://www.tru.ca/library/guides/refworks/refworks.html

General Rules

- Cite your sources in parentheses within the text of your paper.
- All works referred to within your paper must also appear in the list of Works Cited at the end of your paper.
- Double-space your entire paper, including the Works Cited list.
- Each entry begins flush with the left margin of the page, and subsequent lines are indented. This is known as hanging indentation.
- Capitalize each word in a title, except for articles such as A, An, or The, unless they are the first word in the title.
- Titles of books, journals and government documents are italicized.
- Titles of book chapters, journal, magazine, and newspaper articles are put in "quotation marks".
- Use the author’s full first and last name when it is known. E.g. Smith, Bob.
- Arrange entries alphabetically by the last name of the first author or by title if there is no author. When beginning with the title ignore initial articles (e.g. A, An, The) for alphabetization.
- Multiple entries by one author are arranged chronologically.
- MLA no longer requires you to include the URL when citing online material. Include a URL only if you have been instructed to do so or if the document would be difficult to locate otherwise.
- All citations must include an indication of the medium of the source (e.g. “Print” or “Web”).

Books & Parts of Books

Basic Format:

Author Surname, First Name. Book Title: Subtitle. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year. Medium.
Book with One Author

Reference List:

In-text Citation:
(Berman 146-55)

Book with Two or Three Authors

Reference List:

In-text Citation:
(McCloskey and Stack 46)

Book with More Than Three Authors
For a book with more than three authors, you can choose to either list the first author’s name plus "et al." or to list all the names. Be consistent!

Reference List:

OR


In-text Citation:
(Pound et al. 54)

OR

(Pound, Dionne, Myers, and Musson 54)

Anthology or Compilation

Reference List:

In-text Citation:
(Gentile 227-29)
Work in an Anthology

Reference List:

In-text Citation:
(Bordo 127)

Book by a Corporate Author

If the name of the corporation/organization is quite long, a shortened form may be used for the in-text citation.

Reference List:

In-text Citation:
(Natl. Research Council 116)

Book with No Author

List the title first instead of the author; if the title is quite long, a shortened form may be used for the in-text citation.

Reference List:

In-text Citation:
(Geological Field Trips 162)

E-Book

Reference List:

In-text Citation:
(Kanneh 76)
Article in a Reference Book

Reference List:

In-text Citation:
(Kirschbaum 387)

Article in a well known Reference Book
You do not need to supply full publication information for well-known reference books.

Reference List:

In-text Citation:
(“Realism”)

Edition of a Book Other Than the First
Second edition = 2nd ed.
Revised edition = Rev. ed.
Abridged edition = Abr. ed.

Reference List:

In-text Citation:
(Deutschmann 85)

Introduction, Foreword, Preface, or Afterword

Reference List:

In-text Citation:
(Fisk xi)
Translation

Reference List:

In-text Citation:
(Langlois 94)

Journal, Magazine, & Newspaper Articles

Basic Format for Print Journals:
Author Surname, First Name. “Article Title: Subtitle.” *Journal Title* volume.issue (Year): page range. Medium.

Basic Format for Online Journals:
Author Surname, First Name. “Article Title: Subtitle.” *Journal Title* volume.issue (Year): page range. *Database Title*. Medium. Date of Access [Day Month Year].

Basic Journal Article

Reference List:

In-text Citation:
(Beeman, Glasberg, and Casey 32)

Journal Article from an Online Periodical

Reference List:

In-text Citation:
(Smith 45)
Journal Article from an Online Database

Reference List:

In-text Citation:
(Shah et al.)

Magazine Article

Reference List:

In-text Citation:
(Geddes 16)

Magazine Article from an Online Database

Reference List:

In-text Citation:
(Kohler 26)

Newspaper Article

Reference List:

In-text Citation:
(Everett-Green R2)

Web Documents
Basic Webpage
If there is no sponsoring institution or publisher, use “n.p.” If there is no date of publication, use “n.d.”
Reference List:

In-text Citation:
(Zalta)

Document from a Web Site

Reference List:

In-text Citation:
(Stein and Paletta)

Document from a Web Site with No Author
Use the title of the work for the parenthetical citation. If the title is long, use a shortened version.

Reference List:

In-text Citation:
(Mercantile Navy List)

Audiovisual Media

Video or DVDs
List the title of the film first, followed by "Dir." and the name of the director, and if relevant “Perf.” followed by the name of the performers.

Reference List:

In-text Citation:
(Double Indemnity)

Sound Recording
Cite sound recordings by the name of the artist; you may also include the composers (comp.) or performers (perf.).

Reference List:
Shostakovich, Dmitrii Dmitrievich. Symphony no. 15 etc. Perf. BBC Philharmonic. BBC Music, 2006. CD.
In-text Citation:
(Shostakovich)

Musical Composition

Reference List:

In-text Citation:
(Enrico and Bross Stuart 37)

Images & Art

Work of Art in a Print Publication

Reference List:

In-text Citation:
(Grandville 85)

Online Image

Reference List:

In-text Citation:
(Escher)

Course Materials

Lecture

Reference List:
In-text Citation:
(Rennie)

Online Course Materials

Reference List:

In-text Citation:
(Gaynor)

Other E-mail

Reference List:

In-text Citation:
(Barrett)

Indirect Sources
Sometimes an author writes about work that someone else has done, but you are unable to track down the original source. In this case, because you did not read the original work, you will include only the source you did consult in the Works Cited list.
The abbreviation “qtd.” in the parenthetical reference indicates you have not read the original research.

In-text Citation:
Fong’s 1987 study found that older students’ memory can be as good as that of young people, but this depends on how memory is tested (qtd. in Bertram 124).

Reference List:
Cite only the source you actually consulted: do not include Fong (1987) in Works Cited, do include Bertram.