MLA Style (6th) Quick Guide

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References indicate the exact location for sources of information used in the text of the paper; the bibliography (or list of works cited) describes, as a whole, the works from which the citations are taken. PLEASE NOTE: The examples on the following pages are based on the style recommended in the <u>MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers</u> (6th ed. 2003). MLA style is commonly used in research papers on topics in the humanities.

Note: In this handout, <u>underlining</u> is being used for titles of monographs and serials. In many documentation styles (including MLA) *italics* and <u>underlining</u> are used interchangeably. Some instructors prefer <u>underlining</u> because they feel *italics* can interfere with clarity and meaning. The important thing is consistency. Use one or the other, but not both within the same research paper.

IMPORTANT: Dalhousie University defines plagiarism as "the presentation of the work of another author in such a way as to give one's reader reason to think it to be one's own. Plagiarism is a form of academic fraud." Find out what plagiarism is and how to avoid it at http://plagiarism.dal.ca.

Bibliography

There is no single correct format for a bibliography, but consistency must be observed in all entries. The bibliography, or list of works cited, is normally included at the end of the paper. Numbers in parentheses refer to the section in the <u>MLA Handbook</u>.

SAVE TIME: Use **RefWorks** to easily keep track of your references and quickly format them correctly for your bibliography. RefWorks is a personal bibliographic citation managing system that Dalhousie University subscribes to. For more information, go to **http://www.library.dal.ca/libraries/RefWorks.htm**.

Books

- *one author (5.6.1)*:
    Hillman, Richard. <u>Shakespeare, Marlowe, and the Politics of France</u>. New York: Palgrave, 2002.

- *two authors (5.6.4)*:
    Hand, Richard J. and Michael Wilson. <u>Grand-Guignol: the French Theatre of Horror</u>.
        Exeter: University of Exeter Press, 2002.

- *three authors (5.6.4)*:
    Cargill, Oscar, William Charvat, and Donald D. Walsh. <u>The
        Publication of Academic Writing</u>. New York: Modern Language Association, 1966.

- *more than three authors (5.6.4)*:
    Howe, Louise, et al. <u>How to Stay Younger while Growing
        Older: Aging for all Ages</u>. London: Macmillan, 1982.

- *no author given (5.6.11)*:
        <u>The Chicago Manual of Style</u>. 15th ed. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 2003.

- *an organization or institution as "author" (5.6.6)*:
    American Psychological Association. <u>Publication Manual of the American Psychological
        Association</u>. 5th ed. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 2001.

- *an editor or compiler as "author" (5.6.2)*:
    Updike, John, comp. and ed. <u>The Best American Short Stories of the Century</u>. Boston:
        Houghton Mifflin, 1999.

- *an edition of an author's work (5.6.12):*
    Austen, Jane. <u>Pride and Prejudice</u>. Ed. Robert P. Irvine. Peterborough, ON:
        Broadview P, 2002.

    Milne, A. A. <u>When We Were Very Young</u>. New ed. New York: Dutton, 1948.

    Shakespeare, William. <u>A Midsummer Night's Dream</u>. Ed. R.A. Foakes. Cambridge:
        Cambridge UP, 2003.

- *a translation (5.6.13)*:
    García Márquez, Gabriel. <u>Living to Tell the Tale</u>. Trans. Edith Grossman.
        New York: Knopf, 2003.

- *a work in a series (5.6.16)*:
    Renwick, William Lindsay. <u>English Literature, 1789-1815</u>. The Oxford
        History of English Literature 9. Oxford: Clarendon P, 1963.

- *a work in several volumes (5.6.15)*:
    Gardner, Stanley E. <u>The Artifice of Design</u>. New York: Hill & Wang, 1962. Vol. 2 of
        <u>A History of American Architecture</u>. 5 vols. 1960-64.

    Parker, Hershel. <u>Herman Melville: A Biography</u>. 2 vols. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP,
        1996-2002.

- *conference proceedings (5.6.22)*:
    Kartiganer, Donald M. and Ann J. Abadie, eds. <u>Faulkner at 100: Retrospect and
        Prospect: Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha, 1997</u>. Proc. of the 24th Faulkner and
        Yoknapatawpha Conf., 1997, U of Mississippi. Jackson: Univ Press of Mississippi, 2000.

Articles

- *periodical (5.7.1)*:
  Issues paginated continuously throughout the volume:
  Loesberg, Jonathan. "Dickensian Deformed Children and the Hegelian Sublime."
  Victorian Studies 40 (1997): 625-54.

  York, Lorraine M. "Rival bards: Alice Munro's Lives of Girls and Women and
  Victorian poetry." Canadian Literature 112 (1987): 211-16.

  Each issue starts with page 1:
  Wilkin, Karen. "A Degas Doubleheader." New Criterion 17.1 (Sept. 1998): 35-41.

- *newspaper (5.7.5)*:
  Jonas, Jack. "A Visit to a Land of Many Facets." Washington Star 5 Mar. 1961,
  eastern ed., sec. F: 4.

- *magazine (5.7.6)*:
  Funicello, Dori. "Portugal's Reign of Terror." National Review 19 Aug. 1999: 34-37.

- *a review (5.7.7)*:
  Burt, Struthers. "John Cheever's Sense of Drama." Rev. of The Way Some
  People Live, by John Cheever. Saturday Review 24 April 1943: 9.

  Koehler, Robert. Rev. of The Emperor's Club, dir. Michael Hoffman. Variety
  388.5 (2002): 30-1.

- *an article in a reference book or encyclopedia - signed and unsigned (5.6.8)*:
  Haseloff, Arthur. "Illuminated Manuscripts." Encyclopaedia Britannica. 1967 ed.

  "Painting, The History of Western." Encyclopaedia Americana. 13th ed. 1998.

  "Parsimony." The Oxford English Dictionary. 2nd ed. 1989.

- *a work in a collection or anthology (5.6.7)*:
  Davidson, Cynthia A. "Alyson Hagy." American Short-Story Writers Since World War II.
  Fourth Series. Dictionary of Literary Biography 244. Detroit: Gale, 2001. 164-169.

  Arnold, Matthew. "Dover Beach." Norton Anthology of English Literature.
  Ed. N.H. Abrams et al. 4th ed. Vol 2. New York: Norton, 1979. 1378-79.

  Shapcott, Tom. "Margaret Atwood's Surfacing." Commonwealth Literature in
  the Curriculum. Ed. K. L. Goodwin. St. Lucia: South Pacific Association
  for Common-wealth Literatures and Languages Studies, 1980. 86-96.

- *paper published as part of the proceedings of a conference (5.6.22)*:
  Aytür, Necla. "Faulkner in Turkish." William Faulkner: Prevailing Verities and
  World Literature. Ed. Wolodymyr T. Zyla and Wendell M. Aycock. Proceedings of the 6th
  Comparative Literature Symposium, January 24-26, 1973. Lubbock, TX: Interdepartmental
  Committee on Comparative Literature, Texas Tech U, 1973. 25-39.

Dissertations

- *published (5.6.27)*:
    Carlson, William Robert. <u>Dialectic and Rhetoric in Pierre Bayle</u>.
      Diss. Yale U, 1973. New York: Macmillan, 1977.

- *unpublished (5.6.26)*:
    Carlson, William Robert. "Dialectic and Rhetoric in Pierre Bayle."
      Diss. Yale U, 1973.

- *a dissertation abstract (5.7.8)*:
    Lydic, David Lynn. "Relational Mapping as a Measure of Writing Ability in College
      Freshmen." Diss. U of Texas at Austin, 1988. <u>DAI</u> 49 (1988): 1395A.

Electronic Texts

The practice of citing electronic texts, especially those only available at remote sites accessible through the Internet, is still evolving. The Internet tends to be changeable, and URLs are often not stable over time. A number of style sheets and style manuals contain sections on electronic sources and recommend formats for citations. However, as yet there are no universally recognized standards.

A citation to material published electronically should accomplish the same task as a citation to material published in print form: it should make it possible for a reader to follow the trail the writer provides in order to locate the item being cited. However, because of the fluid nature of the Internet, citations to electronic resources often require additional information, such as the date on which the electronic work was accessed or the name of a database. Section 5.9 of the 6th edition of the <u>MLA Handbook</u> discusses a variety of cases and provides examples of electronic citations.

IMPORTANT: In many cases, books and articles published in HTML format lack traditional markers, such as page numbers, that make it possible for scholars to direct readers to the precise location where a quotation or idea originated. Some online publishers (notably Johns Hopkins University in <u>Project Muse</u>) have attempted to provide a fix by inserting page break indicators directly within the HTML text, and other publishers will number a text's paragraphs. The advent of page imaging in PDF and other formats alleviates the problem to the extent that readers have in hand an exact replica of the original document. However, despite the efforts of publishers to make citing their texts easier, there will be instances in which precise information is simply not available. MLA style acknowledges these difficulties by recommending that scholars make do with the information available to them and only include in citations information such as paragraph numbers and pagination when it is provided.

IMPORTANT: Many of the databases and Internet sites providing students with materials they use in their papers, and which they subsequently include in lists of works cited, are resources that are purchased by the library through which the student accesses them. If this is the case, MLA style suggests noting the fact by including the name of the library or library system, and, in cases where it would be useful, the city, state, or province, in the citation (see section 5.9.7). The information is inserted after the name of the database and before the date of access:

O'Neill, Peter. "Going Round in Circles: Popular Speech in Ancient Rome." <u>Classical Antiquity</u>
    22.1 (2003): 135-76. <u>Caliber</u>. Univ of California Press. Dalhousie U, Killam Lib., Halifax,
    NS 16 June 2004 <http://caliber.ucpress.net/doi/pdf/10.1525/ca.2003.22.1.135>.

However, if you are doing all of your research using the electronic resources of a single library or library system, it is

possible that your professor will not consider these details to be necessary. Before deciding to include or omit this information, become familiar with your professor's preferences and expectations.

The following are examples of some commonly cited types of electronic sources:

Books

- *an entire book converted to electronic form (5.9.3a)*:
    Connolly, James. <u>Labour in Irish History</u>. Dublin, 1910. <u>CELT: The Corpus
        of Electronic Texts</u>. 1996. 16 Jan. 2002 < http://www.ucc.ie/celt/published/E900002-
        001/index.html>.

    Holder, William. <u>Elements of Speech: An Essay of Inquiry into the Natural Production of Letters</u>.
        London, 1669. <u>Early English Books Online</u>. 19 Apr. 2003
        <http://eebo.chadwyck.com/search/>.

    Irving, Washington. <u>Wolfert's Roost, and Other Papers, Now First Collected</u>. New York:
        Putnam, 1855. 20 March 2003. <u>Wright American Fiction 1851-1875</u>. Ed. Perry Willett.
        <http://www.letrs.indiana.edu/web/w/wright2/>.

- *an article or chapter in an electronic book (5.9.3b)*:
    Lernout, Geert. "Reception Theory." <u>The Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory and Criticism</u>.
        Ed. Michael Groden and Martin Kreiswirth. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1997.
        13 June 2004 <http://www.press.jhu.edu/books/hopkins_guide_to_literary_theory/
        entries/reception_theory.html>.

- *a work that has no print equivalent (5.9.3a)*:
    "The Canterbury Tales: The Miller's Tale." <u>KnowledgeNotes™ Student Guides</u>. Ed. Sarah Shute.
        Cambridge: Proquest Information and Learning Company, 2002. <u>Literature Online</u>.
        22 May 2003 <http://lion.chadwyck.com/contents/contents.jsp>.

Articles

- *an article in a journal accessed through an online database (5.9.4a)*:
    Aird, John S. "Fertility Decline and Birth Control in the People's Republic of China."
        <u>Population and Development Review</u> 4.2 (1978): 225-54. <u>JSTOR</u>.
        <http://www.jstor.org/search>.

    Haskins, Rob. "Four Musical Minimalists." <u>American Record Guide</u> 64.1 (2001): 281.
        <u>Research Library</u>. 10 Dec. 2003 <http://www.library.dal.ca/cgi-bin/proquest.pl?Pub=21508>.

    Streeby, Shelley. "American Sensations: Empire, Amnesia, and the US-Mexican War." <u>American
        Literary History</u> 13.1 (2001): 1-40. <u>Project Muse</u>. 31 Jan. 2003 <http://muse.jhu.edu/
        journals/american_literary_history/v013/13.1streeby.html>.

- *an article in a journal accessed directly from the publisher (5.9.4a)*:
    Boyd, Alex. "Comfort and Canadian Poetry." <u>The Danforth Review</u>. 14 June 2004
        <http://www.danforthreview.com/features/essays/alex_boyd.htm>.

    Kuntz, Lucía Iglesias. "Pirates and the paper chase." <u>UNESCO Courier</u> March 2001. 11 June

2003 < http://www.unesco.org/courier/2001_03/uk/culture.htm>.

- ***a review or article in a newspaper accessed through an online database (5.9.4b)***:
  "Ford plans job cuts." <u>The Guardian</u> [Charlottetown, P.E.I.] 19 July 2003: B7. <u>Canadian Newsstand</u>
  <u>Atlantic</u> 6 Aug. 2003 <http://www.library.dal.ca/cgi-bin/proquest.pl?Pub=53522>.

- ***a review or article in a newspaper accessed directly from the publisher (5.9.4b)***:
  Scott, A.O. "Flower Children Grown Up: Somber, Wiser and Still Talking Dirty."
  Rev. of <u>The Barbarian Invasions</u>, dir. Denys Arcand. <u>New York Times</u>
  <u>on the Web</u> 17 Oct. 2003. 3 Nov. 2003 <http://movies2.nytimes.com/
  2003/10/17/movies/17BARB.html>.

- ***an article posted on an open-access or personal website***:
  Berardinelli, James. Rev. of <u>Return to Paradise</u>, dir. Joseph Ruben. <u>Reelviews</u> 1998. 20 Nov.
  2000 <http://movie-reviews.colossus.net/movies/r/return_paradise.html>.

  Dyer, John. "John Cheever: Parody and The Suburban Aesthetic." 3 March 2002
  <http://xroads.virginia.edu/~MA95/dyer/cheever4.html>.

Other Electronic Resources:

- ***an internet site (5.9.2)***:
  <u>Literature Online</u>. June 2004. ProQuest Information and Learning Company. 5 July 2004
  <http://lion.chadwyck.com/>.

  <u>Silva Rhetoricae</u>. Ed. Gideon Burton. 2003. Brigham Young U. 4 Apr. 2003
  <http://rhetoric.byu.edu>.

  <u>RBC Royal Bank</u>. 5 Nov. 2003. Royal Bank of Canada. 20 Nov. 2003 <http://rbcroyalbank.com>.

- ***a single page from a larger internet site (5.9.1)***:
  "Northern Ireland Timeline: Early Christian Ireland." <u>BBC.co.uk.</u> 2004. British Broadcast Corp.
  20 May 2004 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/timelines/ni/early_christian.shtml>.

- ***a personal email message (5.9.9j)***:
  Howard, Teresa. "Feedback on Electronic Writing." E-mail to Lily Briscoe. 23 May 1999.

- ***a posting to an online discussion group or listserv (5.9.9k)***:
  Romney, Paul. "Most Important Elections." Online posting. 19 May 2004.
  H-Canada: Canadian History and Studies. 1 July 2004
  <http://h-net.msu.edu/cgi-bin/logbrowse.pl?trx=lm&list=H-Canada>.

- ***a personal homepage (5.9.2c)***:
  Bernholdt, David E. <u>David Bernholdt's Personal Homepage</u>. 8 Oct. 2001. 23 Aug. 2003
  <http://mywebpages.comcast.net/davidbernholdt/>.

- ***a cd-rom publication (5.9.5a)***:
  <u>The Oxford English Dictionary</u>. 2nd ed. CD-ROM. New York: Oxford UP, 1992.

References & Documentation

In MLA style, you acknowledge your sources by including parenthetical citations within your text. These refer the reader to the alphabetical list of works cited, or bibliography, that appears at the end of the document. For example:

> The close of the millennium was marked by a deep suspicion of the natural world and an increasing reliance "upon the pronouncements of soothsayers and visionaries, who caused hysteria with their doom-laden forecasts of the end of humanity" (Mulligan 234).

The citation "(Mulligan 234)" informs the reader that the quotation originates on page 234 of a document by an author named Mulligan. Consulting the bibliography, the reader would find the following information under the name Mulligan:

> Mulligan, Grant V. The Religions of Medieval Europe: Fear and the
> Masses. London: Secker, 1977.

The bibliography might list a second work by this author, which, in accordance with MLA style, would appear in the list with three hyphens substituting for the author's name (5.6.3):

> ---, The Tudor World. London: Macmillan, 1981.

In this case, the parenthetical reference above would include more information in order to make it clear which of the two books contains the quoted passage. Usually, a shortened form of the title is sufficient: (Mulligan, Religions 234). See section 6.4.6 for further examples.

Parenthetical references should be kept as brief as clarity will permit. If the context in which the quotation appears makes it clear which document in the bibliography the quoted text comes from, then no further identification is needed:

> Reva Basch reports that the Georgetown Center for Text and Technology, which has been compiling a catalogue of electronic text projects, lists "over 300 such projects in almost 30 countries" (14).

The parenthetical reference "(14)," in combination with the mention of Reva Basch at the beginning of the passage, makes it clear to the reader that the quoted text comes from page 14 of the following document listed in the bibliography:

> Basch, Reva. "Books Online: Visions, Plans, and Perspectives for Electronic
> Text." Online 15.4 (1991): 13-23.

Endnotes & Footnotes

Some scholars prefer to use endnotes and footnotes to document sources. These are described in "Appendix B" of the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (6th ed.). If you use this method of documentation you may not need a List of Works Cited at the end of your paper. Check your instructor's preference.