

# APA CITATION SYSTEM

**Why Reference your sources?** It is important to reference the sources you use for essays and reports, so that the reader can follow your arguments and check your sources. It is essential to correctly acknowledge the author when quoting or using other people's ideas in your work.

**\*\*Some Schools require a different style from the one outlined here.**

**Ask your lecturer** about the required citation style for your School or Faculty\*\*

APA is a citation style created by the American Psychological Association. This guide is based on information contained in these texts:

- *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 5<sup>th</sup> edn, CentRef BF 76.7 .A46 2001, and LtnRef 808.02 P976 2001.
- *The Pocket guide to APA style* by Robert Perrin CentRef BF 76.7 .P426 2004, and LtnRef 808.02 P458p 2004.
- Psychology students should adhere to the specific advice in: *School of Psychology formatting guide* prepared by Jane Shakespeare-Finch, available in the Morris Miller Library at CentRes BF 76.7 .S53 2005; LtnRes 808.06615 S527s 2005 and Cradle Coast Campus at 808.06615 S527s 2005.

## How do I use APA?

### Sources must be cited in two ways:

1. As **in-text citations** in the body of the text when other people's ideas or words are used. Examples below after **T**:

In-text citations consist of the author's name and year of publication inserted at an appropriate point in the text.

Sternberg (1993) suggests results should be carefully analysed  
OR

a discussion of results analysis (Sternberg, 1993)

- Page numbers are included in the in-text citation for direct quotations, such as (Sternberg, 1993, p.59).
- Direct quotations 40 words or less should be typed within the text surrounded by quotation marks, while direct quotations more than 40 words should be included as a separate paragraph.

2. In a list entitled **References** at the end of the main body of the text. Examples below after **R**:

- A reference list entry includes information about the source such as author, publication date, title, place of publication and publisher, but may include additional information depending on the type of source.
- The reference list starts a **new page** and is **arranged alphabetically** by author's last name.
- References are double spaced with the second and subsequent lines of each reference **indented**.
- Other sources consulted but not cited are listed separately under the heading **Bibliography**.

## Examples:

### A book

T: (Sternberg, 1993)

R: Sternberg, R. J. (1993). *The psychologist's companion* (2 ed.). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Multiple works by the same author in the same year are distinguished by adding a letter to the date. For example (Priest, 1990a) (Priest, 1990b).

### A book with two authors

T: (Smith & Jones, 1948)

R: Smith, F. J., & Jones, E. (1948). *A scheme of qualitative organic analysis*. London: Blackie.

### A book with three to five authors

T: (Fischer, Demetriou, & Dawson, 1992)

If citing for the second time list the first author and year (Fischer et al., 1992)

Then subsequently omit the year (Fischer et al.)

For works with six or more authors cite the first author only followed by et al. within the text, however include all authors in the reference list entry.

R: Fischer, K., Demetriou, A., & Dawson, T. L. (1992). *The development of mental processing: efficiency, working memory and thinking*. Boston: Blackwell Publishing.

### A book with six or more authors

T: (Jones et al., 1992)

R: Jones, K. K., Peters, F., Ho, L., Wang, W., Reddy, F.P., & Smyth, R. (1992). *Advances in mental processing: Memory and thinking*. Sydney: Apex.

In the reference list single authors go before multiple authors, for example:

Fischer, K. W., (1992)... before Fischer, K., Demetriou, A., & Dawson, T. L. (1992)....

### Edited book

T: (Hartman, 1994)

The editor's name occupies the author position for the in-text citation.

R: Hartman, G. H. E. (Ed.). (1994). *Holocaust remembrance: The shapes of memory*. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell.

### Chapter in an edited or non-edited collection

T: (Bjork, 1989)

R: Bjork, R. A. (1989). Retrieval inhibition as an adaptive mechanism in human memory. In H. L. Roediger & F.I.M. Craik (Eds.), *Varieties of memory and consciousness* (pp. 309-330). Hillsdale, NJ: Erlbaum.

For a non-edited collection include the word 'In' prior to the book title and omit the editor information.

## Journal article

**T:** (Deutsch, Lussier & Servis, 1993)

**R:** Deutsch, F. M., Lussier, J. B., & Servis, L. J. (1993). Husbands at home: Predictors of paternal participation in childcare and housework. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 65, 1154-1166.

**Note: Only include the journal or magazine issue number if each issue has separate pagination, for example:**

**R:** Lawson, W. (2004). A mental roadblock. *Psychology Today*, 37(5), 24.

## Thesis or dissertation (unpublished)

**T:** (Bennett, 2003)

**R:** Bennett, K. (2003). *Structures in early childhood learning*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation. University of Cape Town, Cape Town.

Published dissertations are treated as books.

## Corporate author (government, corporation or association document or report)

Use the title of the document if no author is identified. If the document or report has an assigned report number include that directly after the title.

**T:** (Telstra Research Laboratories, 1993)

Subsequent in-text citation can be shortened if it does not cause confusion: (TRL, 1993)

**R:** Telstra Research Laboratories. (1993). *New horizon: 1993 annual report*. Clayton, Vic.: Telstra Research Laboratories.

## Encyclopaedia or dictionary

**T:** (Squire, 1992)

**R:** Squire, L. R. (1992). *Encyclopedia of learning and memory*. New York: Macmillan.

For major works with a large number of editors list the lead editor, followed by et al. The title serves in the author/editor position if this information is absent.

## Conference proceedings

**T:** (Deci & Ryan, 1991)

**R:** Deci, E. L., & Ryan, R. M. (1991). A motivational approach to self: Integration in personality. In R. Dienstbier (Ed.), *Nebraska Symposium on Motivation: Vol. 38. Perspectives on motivation* (pp. 237-288). Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.

## Film, DVD, Video

The director or producer occupies the author position.

**T:** (Pollack, 1985)

**R:** Pollack, S. (Director). (1985). *Out of Africa* [Film]. United States: Universal.

## Radio and Television programs

**T:** (Murrow, 1940)

**R:** Murrow, E. R. (1940, September 13). [Radio broadcast]. New York: WCBS

## Secondary Sources

Secondary sources are sources that you did not actually view but are cited in a work you did view. For example, if you are referring to a study by Seidenberg and McClelland that is cited in an article by Coltheart, Curtin, Atkins & Haller, name the original work in-text and also cite the secondary source you have seen, then include the secondary source *only* in the list of references. **Note** the use of “as cited in” in the in-text reference.

**T:** Seidenberg and McClelland’s study (as cited in Coltheart, Curtin, Atkins & Haller, 1993) supported...

**R:** Coltheart, M., Curtis, B., Atkins, P., & Haller, M. (1993). Models of reading aloud: Dual route and parallel-distributed-processing approaches. *Psychological Review*, 100, 589-608.

## Electronic sources

References for **electronic sources** end in a **retrieval statement** consisting of the following basic information:

Retrieved *month, day, year*, from *electronic address* (do not include a full stop at the end of the URL as this might be mistaken as part of the electronic address).

When resources are accessed via **databases** such as ProQuest or PsycINFO include a **retrieval statement** that consists of the *date of retrieval* and the *name of the database*.

## Web pages

If referring to a particular page within a large website give the precise URL for that page rather than home or menu pages. If there are no page numbers use paragraph number (use the abbreviation “para” e.g. para.16) or cite the chapter or heading and the number of the paragraph. Use (n.d.) in the date position for sources with no apparent date.

**T:** (Benton Foundation, 1998)

**R:** Benton Foundation. (1998, July 7). Barriers to closing the gap. In *Losing ground bit by bit: Low-income communities in the information age* (chap. 2). Retrieved August 18, 2001, from <http://www.benton.org/library?low-income/two.html>

## **For a webpage that has no author begin the reference with the document title**

**T:** ("Expenditures for Health Care Plans," 1998)

**R:** Expenditures for health care plans for employers and employees. (1998, December 7). Washington, DC: Bureau of Labor Statistics. Retrieved February 17, 2002, from <http://stats.bls.gov>

## **Journal articles - direct copies of original print version**

When articles are in electronic form but are direct copies of the print version this should be indicated by including [Electronic version] after the article title.

**T:** (VandenBos, 2001)

**R:** VandenBos, G., Knapp, S., & Doe, J. (2001). Role of reference elements in the selection of resources by psychology undergraduates [Electronic version]. *Journal of Bibliographic Research*(5), 117-123.

## **Journal articles - originally published as print but not direct copies**

If you suspect there have been alterations to the original print version (look for format changes, additional information or changes in page numbers) include an accurate retrieval statement.

**T:** (Addis & Cohane, 2005)

**R:** Addis, M. E., & Cohane, G. H. (2005). Social Scientific Paradigms of Masculinity and Their Implications for Research and Practice in Men's Mental Health. *Journal of Clinical Psychology*, 61(6), 633-647. Retrieved June 24, 2005, from PsycINFO database.

## **Journal articles - originally published in electronic form**

**T:** (Fredrickson, 2000, March 7)

**R:** Fredrickson, B. L. (2000, March 7). Cultivating positive emotions to optimize health and well-being. *Prevention & Treatment*, 3 Article 0001a. Retrieved November 20, 2000, from <http://journals.apa.org/prevention/volume3/pre0030001a.html>

## **Newspaper or magazine article-online version**

**T:** (Rodriguez, 2001)

**R:** Rodriguez, C. (2001, January 9). Amid, dispute, plight of illegal workers revisited. *Boston Globe*. Retrieved January 10, 2002, from [http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2/010/nation/Amid\\_dispute\\_plight\\_of\\_illegal\\_workers\\_revisited+.shtml](http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2/010/nation/Amid_dispute_plight_of_illegal_workers_revisited+.shtml)

## **Online posting to forum or discussion group**

**T:** (Simons, 2000)

**R:** Simons, D. J. (2000, July 14). New resources for visual cognition [Msg 31]. Message posted to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/visualcognition/message/31>

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