University of KwaZulu-Natal Library, Pietermaritzburg

# MLA STYLE: ELECTRONIC SOURCES

## Referencing guide

## WHAT is referencing?

When an assignment is handed in, details about the sources of information (references) used need to be provided.

- There are two parts to referencing an assignment:
  1. **within-text referencing**: details of sources of information used are written within the body of the assignment
  2. **list of works cited**: details of sources of information used, which appear at the end of the assignment.
- Specific details about each source of information must be provided and these details must be presented in a particular way.

### 1. Citing sources in the text

**Within text referencing**, brief details are given about the sources of information used. This usually includes an author name and location. These references must point clearly to specific sources in the **list of works cited**.

Examples follow, using paragraph number to show the exact location in the text:

Native peoples have little to lose by adopting these practices (Johnson, par. 3).

Viviano sees advantages in this line of defense (par. 3).

Buddhist organizations have taken a somewhat different approach ... (Inada, par. 2).

*NOTE: The word "paragraph" is abbreviated as "par." in the examples above.*

### 2. The list of works cited

The list of works cited provides full information about all the sources used in a paper.

The list starts on a new page at the end of a paper and is headed **Works Cited**. Entries are listed alphabetically using double-spacing. Each work listed begins flush with the left-hand margin, and any subsequent lines in the entry are indented one-half inch (five spaces) from the left-hand margin.

Include as much as information as is relevant and available.

**An entire web site**

Basic format:

*Name of Web Site*. Name of editor of the site (if given). Date of Posting/Revision. Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site. Date of access <electronic address>.

Example:

*Victorian Women Writers Project.*Ed. Perry Willet. May 2000. Indiana U. 26 June 2002 <http://www.indiana.edu/~letrs/vwwp/>.

**Online books (including dictionaries, encyclopedias and reports)**

Basic format:

Author. *Title of Work.* Edition (if given). Publication information for original print version. (place of publication: publisher, date), if given. *Title of Electronic Work*. (eg. title of internet site). Date of access <electronic address>.

Example:

Douglass, Frederick. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*, *Written by Himself*. Boston, 1845. 30 Jan. 1997 <gopher://gopher.vt.edu.10010/02/73/1>.

**Part of an online book**

Emerson, Ralph Waldo. "Compensation". *Essays and English traits*. New York: P.F. Collier, 1909. *Bartleby.com: Great Books Online*. Ed. Charles W. Eliot. 2001. 2 Oct. 2004 <http://www.bartleby.com./5/105.html>.

**An article from an online journal or magazine**

Basic format:

Author. "Article Title." *Journal Title.* volume. issue (year): number of pages or paragraphs. Date of access <electronic address>.

Example:

Inada, Kenneth. "A Buddhist Response to the Nature of Human Rights." *Journal of Buddhist Ethics* 2 (1995): 9 pars. 21 June 1995 <http://www.cac.psu.edu/jbe/twocont.html>.

**An article or publication from an electronic database**

Basic format:

Author. "Title of Article." *Publication Name* Publication date: vol (if necessary). page number. *Database name*. Service name. Library name, City. Date of access <electronic address of the database>.

Example:

Clark, Zsuzsanne. "From Saturday-Night Poetry to Big Brother." *New Statesman* 21 July 2003: 32. *Academic Search Premier*. EBSCOhost. University of KwaZulu-Natal library, Pietermaritzburg. 18 Nov. 2004 <http:www.ebscohost.com>.

**E-mail**

Basic format:

Author. “Subject of Message (if any)”. E-mail to person’s name. Date of message.

Example:

Boyle. Anthony T. “Re: Utopia.” E-mail to Daniel J. Cahill. 21 June 1997.

**Article from an online newspaper**

Basic format:

Author . “Article Title” . *Newspaper Title*. volume issue (year) : number of pages or paragraphs. Date of access <electronic address>.

Example:

Achenbach, Joel. “America’s River”. *Washington Post* 5 May 2002. 20 May 2002 <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A13425-2 202 May1.html>.

**Online government publication**

U.S. Census Bureau. *Statistical Abstract of the United States.* 2003. 2 Oct. 2004 <http://www.census.gov/prod/www/statistical-abstract-03.html>.

***For more detailed information see:***

Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 6th ed. New York: Modern Language Association of America, 2003. **[R 808.02 GIB]**

Xia, Li, and Nancy B. Crane. *Electronic Styles: A Handbook for Citing Electronic Information*. 2nd ed. Medford: Information Today, 1996. **[R 808.02 LI]**

Memering, Dean and William Palmer. *Discovering Arguments: an Introduction to Critical Thinking and Writing with Readings.* Upper Saddle River, NJ.: Prentice Hall, 2006. **[808.0427 MEM]**

For information on how to reference print sources see: **MLA STYLE: PRINT SOURCES: referencing guide**