

MLA Style (8th) Quick Guide

Dalhousie Libraries

In-text citations indicate the exact location for sources of information used in the text of a document (see page 6 of this guide).

The **Works Cited list** 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 *MLA Handbook* (8th ed., 2016). MLA style is commonly used in research papers on topics in the humanities.

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>.

Works Cited

- The Works Cited page begins on a separate page at the end of your document
- All citations should be double-spaced and listed in alphabetical order
- The second line of each citation should be indented by 0.5 inches (this is called a “hanging indent”)

MLA now follows a universal set of guidelines for all source types. This means that publication format is not considered when formatting references for the Works Cited list. Rather, MLA styles requires that you consult a list of core elements for all formats—think of these as guiding principles that you can use for all sources on your Works Cited list.

Include all applicable core elements in your citation. The core elements follow a specific order and require set punctuation. Order and punctuation are indicated below:

1. Author.
2. Title of source.
3. Title of container,
4. Other contributors,
5. Version,
6. Number,
7. Publisher,
8. Publication date,
9. Location.

Please note, the core element “location” does not refer to place of publication; rather, it represents the location of electronic texts, usually represented as a URL or a Digital Object Identifier (DOI).

SAVE TIME: Use RefWorks to easily keep track of your references and quickly and correctly format them for your Works Cited list. RefWorks is a personal bibliographic citation managing system that Dalhousie University subscribes to. For more information, go to: <http://libraries.dal.ca/research/refworks.html>

Example references for Works Cited

Books

Basic format for books

Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Publication Date.

Number of or type of author

One author	Wright, Julia. <i>Representing the National Landscape in Irish Romanticism</i> . Syracuse UP, 2014.
Two authors	Diepeveen, Leonard, and Timothy Van Laar. <i>Artworld Prestige: Arguing Cultural Value</i> . Oxford UP, 2012.

Three or more authors	Wysocki, Anne Frances, et al. <i>Writing New Media: Theory and Applications for Expanding the Teaching of Composition</i> . Utah State UP, 2004.
Two or more books by the same author	List works alphabetically by title (but ignore articles like A, An and The). Luckyj, Christina. <i>The Duchess of Malfi: A Critical Guide</i> . Continuum, 2011. ---. "A Moving Rhetoricke:" <i>Gender and Silence in Early Modern England</i> . Manchester UP, 2002.
Book with no author	<i>Encyclopedia of Indiana</i> . Somerset, 1993.
Book by a corporate author or organization	American Psychological Association. <i>Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association</i> . 5th ed., American Psychological Association, 2001.

Type of work

A translated book	García Márquez, Gabriel. <i>Living to Tell the Tale</i> . Translated by Edith Grossman, Knopf, 2003.
A work prepared by an editor	<i>Ten Fifteenth-Century Comic Poems</i> . Edited by Melissa Furrow, Garland Press, 1985.
A subsequent edition of a work	Crowley, Sharon, and Debra Hawhee. <i>Ancient Rhetorics for Contemporary Students</i> . 3rd ed., Pearson, 2004.
An anthology or collection	Irvine, Dean, editor. <i>Auto-Anthology: The Complete Poems and Translations of F.R. Scott, 1918-1984</i> . Canadian Poetry Press, 2007. Cawsey, Kathleen, and Jason Harris, editors. <i>Transmission and Transformation in the Middle Ages: Texts and Contexts</i> . Four Courts Press, 2007.
A work in an anthology or collection (or a book chapter)	<i>Basic format:</i> Last name, First name. "Title of Essay/Chapter." <i>Title of Collection/Book</i> , edited by Editor's Name(s), Publisher, Year, Page range of entry. Enns, Anthony. "The Undead Author: Spiritualism, Technology and Authorship." <i>The Ashgate Research Companion to Victorian Spiritualism and the Occult</i> , edited by Tatiana Kontou and Sarah Willburn, Ashgate, 2012, pp. 55-78.

Article in a reference book (such as an encyclopedia or dictionary)	"Abjection." <i>The Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms</i> . 3 rd ed., 2008.
A multivolume work	<p><i>Citing a single volume:</i> Quintilian. <i>Institutio Oratoria</i>. Translated by H. E. Butler, vol. 2, Loeb-Harvard UP, 1980.</p> <p><i>Citing all volumes:</i> Quintilian. <i>Institutio Oratoria</i>. Translated by H. E. Butler, Loeb-Harvard UP, 1980. 4 vols.</p>

Articles

Article in a scholarly journal	<p><i>Basic format:</i> Author(s). "Title of Article." <i>Title of Journal</i>, Volume, Issue, Year, pages.</p> <p>Ross, Trevor. "Translation and the Canonical Text." <i>Studies in the Literary Imagination</i>, vol. 33, no. 2, 2000, pp. 1-21.</p>
Article in a magazine	Funicello, Dori. "Portugal's Reign of Terror." <i>National Review</i> , 19 Aug. 1999, pp. 34-37.
Article in a newspaper	Jonas, Jack. "A Visit to a Land of Many Facets." <i>Washington Star</i> , 5 Mar. 1961, p. F4.
A review	<p><i>Basic format:</i> Review Author. "Title of Review (if there is one)." Review of <i>Performance Title</i>, by Author/Director/Artist. <i>Title of Periodical</i>, Day Month Year, page.</p> <p>Burt, Struthers. "John Cheever's Sense of Drama." Review of <i>The Way Some People Live</i>, by John Cheever. <i>Saturday Review</i>, 24 April 1943, p. 9.</p>

Dissertations and theses

Published	Carlson, William Robert. <i>Dialectic and Rhetoric in Pierre Bayle</i> . Dissertation, Yale University, 1973. Macmillan, 1977.
Unpublished	Carlson, William Robert. "Dialectic and Rhetoric in Pierre Bayle." Dissertation, Yale University, 1973.

Electronic sources

An entire website	<p><i>Basic format:</i> Editor, author, or compiler name (if available). <i>Name of Site</i>. Version number, Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (sponsor or publisher), date of resource creation (if available), URL, DOI or permalink. Date of access (if applicable).</p> <p><i>The Purdue OWL Family of Sites</i>. The Writing Lab and OWL at Purdue and Purdue U, 2008, owl.english.purdue.edu/owl. Accessed 23 Apr. 2008.</p>
A page on a website	"MLA Style." <i>The Purdue OWL Family of Sites</i> . The Writing Lab and OWL at Purdue and Purdue U, 2008, owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/11. Accessed 18 Sep. 2016.
An article in a web magazine	Jacobus, Mark. "Reading Cy Twombly." <i>The Paris Review</i> , 16 Sep. 2016, www.theparisreview.org/blog/2016/09/16/reading-cy-twombly. Accessed 18 Sep 2016
An article in an online scholarly journal (accessed directly from the publisher)	<p><i>Please note: if the Digital Object Identifier (DOI) is available, include the DOI number instead of the URL</i></p> <p>Bennett, Lyn. "Women, Writing, and Healing: Rhetoric, Religion, and Illness in An Collins, "Eliza," and Anna Trapnel." <i>Journal of Medical Humanities</i>, vol. 36, no. 2, 2015, pp. 157-170, doi: 10.1007/s10912-015-9328-6.</p>
An article in an online scholarly journal (accessed through an online database)	<p><i>Please note: if the Digital Object Identifier (DOI) is available, include the DOI number instead of the URL</i></p> <p>Greenfield, Bruce. "'Now Reader Read': The Literary Ambitions of Henry Kelsey, Hudson's Bay Company Clerk." <i>Early American Literature</i>, vol. 47, no. 1, 2012, pp. 31-58. JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/41705641. Accessed 18 Sep. 2016.</p>

An email (including email interviews)	English, Sam. "Re: Romantic Literature." Received by Wanda White, 20 Aug. 2016.
A Youtube video	<p><i>If the author's name is the same as the video uploader, you only need to cite the author once. If the author is different from the uploader, cite the author's name before the title and the uploader's name following "YouTube." See examples, below, for clarification.</i></p> <p>British Library. "Virginia Woolf's 'Mrs Dalloway.'" <i>YouTube</i>, 24 May 2016, www.youtube.com/watch?v=QM-fyF7xFtk.</p> <p>McGonigal, Jane. "Gaming and Productivity." <i>YouTube</i>, uploaded by Big Think, 3 July 2012, www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkdzy9bWW3E.</p>

In-Text Citations

According to MLA style, you acknowledge your sources by including parenthetical citations within your text. These refer the reader to the alphabetical list of Works Cited 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 work by an author named Mulligan. Consulting the Works Cited list, 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 Works Cited 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:

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

In this case, the parenthetical reference above would include more information in order to clarify which of the two books contains the quoted passage. Usually, a shortened form of the title is sufficient: **(Mulligan, *Religions* 234)**.

Parenthetical references should be kept as brief as clarity will permit. If the in-text citation clearly shows which document in the Works Cited the quoted or paraphrased text refers to, 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 on the Works Cited page:

Basch, Reva. "Books Online: Visions, Plans, and Perspectives for Electronic Text." *Online*, vol. 15, no. 4, 1991, pp. 13-23.

If the author of a source is unknown, use a shortened title of the work instead. Article titles should be put in quotation marks. Titles of longer works, such as books and entire websites, should be italicized. Wherever possible, provide a page number.