

AMA CITATION STYLE GUIDE

“References serve 3 primary purposes—documentation, acknowledgement, and directing the reader to additional resources. Authors may cite a reference to support their own arguments or lay the foundation for their theses (documentation); as a credit to the work of other authors (acknowledgment); or direct the reader to more detail or additional resources (directing or linking).”¹

This brief guide will help you cite literature according to the AMA Manual of Style (11th Edition, 2020). This guide was prepared using material compiled from the online resources available at the libraries of the British Columbia Institute of Technology, BC, Canada²; East Carolina University, NC, USA³; and the University of Southern California, CA, USA.⁴ If you need additional information, please consult the [11th edition of the AMA Manual of Style](#).

The two components of citing literature using the AMA style are:

1. Citing it in text of your manuscript.
2. Creating a sequential list of these citations at the end of your manuscript as a ‘List of References’.

Citations in the text of your manuscript

- Citations are to be included for any information quoted or paraphrased from a source.
- All citations should be marked in consecutive numerical order by means of superscript Arabic numerals.
- Place the number directly after the fact, idea, or quotation that is being cited.
- If a reference is used multiple times in one document, use the same number throughout the document.
- Use superscript numerals outside periods and commas, and inside colons and semicolons.

Example: The derived data were as follows^{3,4}:

- Use commas (without space) to separate multiple citation numbers in text, but use a hyphen if you are citing consecutive citation numbers.

Example: As reported previously,^{1,3-8,19}

- When referring to authors in the text, use last names only. If the reference has 2 authors, use both their last names. If the reference has more than 2 authors, use the first author’s last name followed by “et al” (Latin phrase meaning “the others”).

Example: Smith¹ reported...; *Example:* Smith and Johnson² reported...

Example: Smith et al³ reported...

- Unpublished works and personal communications should not be included in the reference list, but may be included in the text by enclosing within parenthesis.
- Avoid placing a superscript reference citation immediately after a number or a unit of measure.

Example: The 2 largest studies to date included 35 patients² and 40 patients.³

- If you are using a figure/table from another source, cite it after the legend/ title.

Example: Figure 1. Structure of salbutamol.⁷

- If you use a direct quotation from another work, you should enclose the quotation within quotation marks.

Example: The engineer announced that “the house was built on solid ground.”³⁸

Citations in the reference list

- References should be numbered according to the citation order in the text.
- Authors: List their last name and the initials of their first and middle names. Separate author names with commas. Do not use periods between initials. If there are one to six authors, list all authors. If there are seven or more authors, list the first three and then abbreviate with et al.
- Editors: Follow the same rules as authors for formatting and determining how many editors to list. After the list of editor names, include “ed.” (if one editor) or “eds.” (for two or more).
- Items without authors or editors: begin the citation with the title of the item.
- Title: List full article/ chapter title. Capitalize only first letter of first word, acronyms, and any proper nouns.
- Abbreviate journal names using [National Library of Medicine Abbreviations](#).
- Capitalize first letter of every word of Abbreviated Journal Name and Book Title.
- Italicize *Abbreviated Name of Journals* and *Book Title*.
- When citing electronic sources, always use the DOI if you have one. If not, use a URL if it is relevant. If you use a URL, you must include an accessed date. The URL is written after the accessed date in the citation.
- Do not include location of the publisher for books, reports, or databases or the location of the manufacturer for drugs, equipment and devices.
- When writing the citation, leave space after comma, full-stop and question mark (if the title ends with a question mark). Don’t leave space after hyphen, colon or semicolon.

EXAMPLES OF DIFFERENT FORMATS FOR CITATION IN LIST OF REFERENCES

JOURNAL ARTICLES & OTHER PERIODICALS	
One to six authors	Author AA, Author BB, Author CC. Title of article. <i>Abbreviated Journal Title</i> . Year;Volume(Issue):Page-Page. Wolf ZR. Nursing practice breakdowns: Good and bad nursing. <i>Medsurg Nursing</i> . 2012;21(1):16-36.
Seven or more authors	Author AA, Author BB, Author CC, et al. Title of article. <i>Abbreviated Journal Title</i> . Year;Volume (Issue):Page-Page. Bond AE, Eshah NF, Bani-Khalid M, et al. Who uses nursing theory? A univariate descriptive analysis of five years' research articles. <i>Scand J Caring Sci</i> .2011;25(2):404-409.
Electronic journal article	Author AA. Title of article. <i>Abbreviated Journal Title</i> . Year;Volume(Issue):Page-Page. Accessed date. URL. Davidson Baer E. Key ideas in nursing's first century. <i>Am J Nursing</i> . 2012;112(5):48-55. Accessed September 23, 2012. http://journals.lww.com/ajnonline/Abstract/2012/05000/Key_Ideas_in_Nursing_s_First_Century.27.aspx
Electronic journal article: DOI	Author AA, Author BB. Title of article. <i>Abbreviated Journal Title</i> . Year;Volume(Issue):Page-Page. doi:xx.xxxx/xxxxxxxxxxxxxx. Watts T. Initiating end-of-life care pathways: A discussion paper. <i>J Adv Nursing</i> . 2012;68(10):2359-2370. doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2648.2011.05924.x.
Newspaper or magazine article	Author AA. Title of article. <i>Title of Magazine or Newspaper</i> . Month Day, Year:Page-Page. Masoud T. The tyrant's brutal legacy. <i>Newsweek</i> . July 2, 2012:34-39
Electronic newspaper or magazine article	Author AA. Title of Article. <i>Title of Magazine or Newspaper</i> . Month Day, Year:Page-Page. Accessed date.URL. Galloway G. Liberals go on the attack after Harper says they stand for nothing. <i>The Globe and Mail</i> . September 19, 2012. Accessed September 19, 2012. http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/liberals-go-on-the-attack-after-harper-says-they-stand-for-nothing/article4554914/ .
REPORTS, CONFERENCE PAPERS, THESES & DISSERTATIONS, LECTURES & PRESENTATIONS	
Online report	Author AA. Title of Report. Accessed date.URL. International Monetary Fund. World economic outlook update. Accessed September 19, 2012. http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2012/update/02/ .
Conference paper or proceedings	Presenter AA. Title of paper or presentation. Paper or Poster presented at: ConferenceTitle; Month Day, Year; Location.Accessed date. URL. Cronin C. Memoing: An active tool in research. Poster presented at: RCN Annual International Nursing Research Conference; April 23, 2012. London, UK. Accessed September 23, 2012. http://www.rcn.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/445802/Research2012Mo01.pdf .
Thesis or dissertation	Author AA. <i>Title of Work</i> . [dissertation or master's thesis]. Location: Institution; Year:Page-Page. Taylor RL. <i>Downsizing the Dial: The Reinvention of Private Radio</i> . [PhD thesis]. Burnaby, BC: British Columbia Institute of Technology; 2008.
Course lecture	Professor AA. Title of Lecture. [class lecture or class lecture notes]. Location: Institution; Date.
Presentation (including power point)	Author or Presenter AA. Title of presentation. Presented at: Event; Month Day, Year; Location. Accessed date. URL. Pasternak B. Carvedilol vs metoprolol succinate and risk of mortality in patients with heart failure: national cohort study. Paper presented at: European Society of Cardiology Congress; August 31, 2014; Barcelona, Spain Nevidomskyte D, Meissner MH, Tran N, Murray S, Farrokhi E. Influence of gender on abdominal aortic aneurysm repair in the community. Poster presented at: Vascular Annual Meeting; June 5-7, 2014; Boston, MA.
ONLINE CONFERENCES, WEBINARS AND OTHER PRESENTATIONS	
Online conference	Morales M, Zhou X. Health practices of immigrant women: indigenous knowledge in an urban environment. Paper presented at: 78th Association for Information Science and Technology Annual Meeting; November 6-10, 2015; St Louis, MO. Accessed March 15, 2016. https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.5555/2857070.2857108
Videocast	Labor, Health and Human Services Subcommittee Hearing. National Institutes of Health: Investing in a Healthier Future. October 7, 2015. Accessed March 15, 2016. Videocast available at: http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/hearings/labor-hhs-subcommittee-hearing-national-institutes-of-health-investing-in-a-healthier-future
Teleconference	Volkow N, Botticelli M, Johnston LD, Miech RA. Monitoring the Future: Teleconference 2015. December 16, 2015. Accessed March 15, 2016. Transcript available at: https://www.drugabuse.gov/news-events/podcasts/2015/12/monitoring-future-teleconference-2015#content-area
Webinar	Gunn E, Kendall-Taylor J, Vandenburg B. Taking author instructions to the next level. Council of Science Editors webinar. September 10, 2015. Accessed March 15, 2016. http://www.councilscienceeditors.org/resource-library/past-presentationswebinars/past-webinars/2015-webinar-3-taking-author-instructions-to-the-next-level/
GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS	
Government report	Author AA. <i>Title of Report</i> . Location: Publisher; Date:Page-Page. Local Government Elections Task Force. <i>Report of the Local Government Elections Task Force</i> . Victoria, BC: Local Government Elections Task Force; 2010:21.
WEBPAGES	
Author	Author AA. Webpage title. Name of Website. Published or Updated date. Accessed date. URL.
Organization	Webpage title. Name of Website or Organization. Published or Updated date. Accessed date. URL. What nurses do. College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia. Published 2012. Accessed September 23, 2012. https://www.crnbc.ca/WhatNursesDo/Pages/Default.aspx .
None	Webpage title. Name of Website. Published or Updated date. Accessed date. URL.
PRE-PRINTS/ REPOSITORY	
Pre-prints	Preprints are another online method for publication in which a manuscript is uploaded by authors to a public server, without editing or formatting, and typically without peer review. A preprint may be a predecessor to publication in a peer-reviewed journal; it is citable. Author AA, Author BB. Article Title.xxXiv. Preprint posted online Month Day, Year. Accessed Month Day, Year. www.xx.xx Morozova O, Li ZR, Crawford FW. A model for COVID-19 transmission in Connecticut. medRxiv. Preprint posted online June 16, 2020. doi:10.1101/2020.06.12.20126391
Repository	Institutional Repositories collect, archive, and digitally disseminate the intellectual property output of an institution, and because of conflicting copyright with publishers, versions of articles within institutional repositories may be slightly different than the published version. Author AA, Author BB. Article Title. Institution. Month Day, Year. Accessed Month Day, Year. www.xx.xx Tseng V. Effect of noise reduction methods in the ICU on sleep quality. UC Irvine. June 8, 2016. Accessed August 17, 2016. http://escholarship.org/uc/item/190551hq
PATENTS AND PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS	
Patent	Inventor names, inventor; assignee company, assignee. Title of patent. Patent issue agency and number. Date patent was granted. Abram AZ, Fuchsuber L, inventors; Stiefel Research Australia, assignee. Foamable suspension gel. US Patent 8,158,109. April 17, 2012.
Personal communications	Phone calls, conversations and emails are only cited parenthetically in the text. Provide the name and highest academic degree of the author, type of communication, and date sent. Remove the name and day of communication if this will compromise patient anonymity. Tablets with this new coating cannot be crushed (Steven Smith, M.D., email communication, April 22, 2015). Many students work while in nursing school (Kelly Wilson, PhD, phone call, April 13, 2016). The patient admitted skipping morning doses (LAC+USC Medical Center pharmacist, Pharm D, conversation, April, 2012).

BOOKS	
Single author	Author AA or Editor AA. <i>Title of Book</i> . Edition number (only include if beyond first). Publisher name; year of publication:Page-Page. Saver, Cynthia. <i>Anatomy of Writing for Publication for Nurses</i> . Sigma Theta Tau International; 2011:31-33.
Two to six authors	Author AA, Author BB. <i>Title of Work</i> . Publisher; Year:Page-Page. Doane GH, Varcoe C. <i>Family Nursing as Relational Inquiry: Developing Health – Promoting Practice</i> . Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2005:25-28.
Seven or more authors	Author AA, Author BB, Author CC, et al. <i>Title of Work</i> . Publisher; Year:Page-Page. London ML, Ladewig PW, Ball JW, et al. <i>Maternal & Child Nursing Care</i> . Pearson Education; 2011:101-103.
Editor(s): no author(s)	Editor AA, ed. <i>Title of Work</i> . Publisher; Year:Page-Page. Gusek JJ, Figueroa LA, eds. <i>Mitigation of Metal Mining Influenced Water</i> . Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration; 2009:100-105.
Author(s) and editor(s)	Author AA. <i>Title of Work</i> . Editor AA, Editor BB, eds. Publisher; Year:Page-Page. Goodman LS, Brunton LL, Chabner B, Knollmann BC. <i>Goodman & Gilman's The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics</i> . Brunton LL, ed. McGraw-Hill; 2011:99.
Group as author	Group (Acronym if applicable). <i>Title of Work</i> . Location: Publisher; Year:Page-Page. WorldatWork. <i>The WorldatWork Handbook of Compensation, Benefits & Total Rewards: A Comprehensive Guide for HR Professionals</i> . John Wiley & Sons; 2007:72.
Chapter in book	Chapter Author AA. Title of chapter. In: Editor AA, ed. <i>Title of Work</i> . Publisher; Year:Page-Page. Grimsey E. An overview of the breast and breast cancer. In: Harmer V, ed. <i>Breast Cancer Nursing Care and Management</i> . 2nd ed. Wiley-Blackwell; 2011:35-42.
Electronic book	Author AA. <i>Title of Work</i> . Publisher; Year:Page-Page. Accessed date.URL. Reed PG, Shearer NB. <i>Nursing Knowledge and Theory Innovation: Advancing the Science of Practice</i> . Springer; 2011:45-47. Accessed September 18, 2012. http://0-lib.mylibrary.com.innopac.lib.bc.ca/Open.aspx?id=301779 .
Multiple editions	Author AA. <i>Title of Work</i> . Nth Ed. Publisher; Year:Page-Page. Nieswiadomy RM. <i>Foundation of Nursing Research</i> . 6th ed. Pearson; c2012:31-33.
Dictionary or encyclopedia	Entry Author AA. Title of entry. In: Editor AA, ed. <i>Title of Work</i> . Publisher; Year:Page-Page. Pesut DJ. Change agents and change agent strategies. In: Feldman HR, ed. <i>Nursing Leadership: A Concise Encyclopedia</i> . Springer; c2008:103-105.
Dictionary or encyclopedia: online	Entry Author AA. Title of entry. In: Editor AA, ed. <i>Title of Work</i> . Name of website. Accessed date.URL. Maceration. In: Koren H. <i>Illustrated Dictionary and Resource Dictionary of Environmental & Occupational Health</i> . CRCnetBASE Website. Accessed September 18, 2012. http://0-www.crcnetbase.com.innopac.lib.bc.ca/isbn/9781420032239 .
PACKAGE INSERTS AND DRUG MONOGRAPHS	
Package inserts and prescribing information	Name of drug. Type of material. Company Name; year of publication. To indicate online access, add the accessed date and URL. <i>Print</i> : Lamasil. Package insert. Sandoz Pharmaceuticals Corporation; 1993. <i>Online</i> : Lovenox. Prescribing information. sanofi-aventis U.S. LLC. Accessed April 15, 2020. http://products.sanofi.us/Lovenox/Lovenox.pdf
Print drug monographs	Author AA. Title of monograph being cited. Editor AA, ed. <i>Title of book</i> . Edition (if beyond first). Publisher name; year of publication. Lisinopril. McEvoy GK, ed. <i>AHFS drug information 2014</i> . American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, Inc.; 2014.
Online drug monographs	Title of monograph. Title of book of monographs. Title of compendia where book is found (only include if different than book title). Published date. Updated date. Accessed date. URL Lisinopril. AHFS DI (Adult and Pediatric). Lexicomp. Updated March 11, 2016. Accessed May 11, 2016. http://online.lexi.com/lco/action/doc/retrieve/docid/complete_ashp/414040
SOCIAL MEDIA	
Facebook	Mayo Clinic Sports Medicine Facebook page. #RotatorCuff tears are among the most common shoulder injuries, particularly in individuals who engage in activities that require repetitive arm motions. Discover the possible treatment options for a torn rotator cuff: https://mayoclinic.in/2H6AR3P . Accessed March 4, 2019. https://www.facebook.com/mayoclinicsportsmedicine
Blog	Gray T. Advice after mischief is like medicine after death. AMA Style Insider blog. February 11, 2019. Accessed March 10, 2019. https://amastyleinsider.com/2019/02/11/advice-after-mischief-is-like-medicine-after-death/
YouTube	Khan Academy health and medicine YouTube page. Accessed February 10, 2016. https://www.youtube.com/user/khanacademymedicine
Twitter	@AMAManual. Double negatives can be used to express a positive, but this yields a weaker affirmative than the simpler positive and may be confusing. "Our results are not inconsistent with the prior hypothesis." "That won't do you no good." And the classic: "I can't get no satisfaction." March 7, 2019. Accessed March 10, 2019. https://twitter.com/AMAManual/status/1103678998327017483
VIDEO	
DVD	References may include citation of audio or video recordings, streaming videos, or DVDs. The form for such references is as follows: Moyers B. On Our Own Terms: Moyers on Dying. DVD. Thirteen/WNET; 2000. https://billmoyers.com/series/on-our-own-terms-moyers-on-dying/
Streaming video	Stern S. Chronic Aortic Regurgitation.[streaming video]. McGraw Hill. Published November 12, 2018. Accessed October 23, 2019. http://accessmedicine.mhmedical.com
SOFTWARE PACKAGES/ DATASETS	
Software packages	Use the following format to cite software. Software need not always be cited in the reference list; for example, it may be cited in the text if it is mentioned in the Statistical Analysis subsection of the Methods section. Epi Info. Version 7.1.5. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2015. Accessed March 14, 2016. http://www.cdc.gov/epiinfo Stata 14. Version 14. StataCorp; 2015. Accessed March 14, 2016. http://www.stata.com/ <i>In text citation</i> : All analyses were conducted using SAS version 9.4 (SAS Institute Inc).
Datasets	When citing data from a repository, cite the original source for the data. The data package or data set should be cited in the original publication to link the publication and the data. Cutter AD, Gray JC. Data from: Ephemeral ecological speciation and the latitudinal biodiversity gradient. Dryad Digital Repository. Deposited August 17, 2016. doi:10.5061/dryad.734v9 Francuzik W. Data from: Skin microbiome in atopic dermatitis: 16S gene sequence data. figshare. 2016. doi:10.6084/m9.figshare.4028943

REFERENCES

- Fischer L, Frank P. References. In: *AMA Manual of Style*. 11th Ed. Oxford University Press; 2020:59-112.
- AMA Citation Style Guide. British Columbia Institute of Technology Library Services. Accessed September 30, 2021. https://www.bc.ca/files/library/pdf/bcit-ama_citation_guide.pdf
- AMA Citation Style 11th Edition Guide. East Carolina University Libraries. Accessed September 30, 2021. <https://libguides.ecu.edu/c.php?g=1145002&p=8356653>
- Reference Style Guide: AMA Manual of Style (11th edition, 2020). University of Southern California Library. Accessed September 30, 2021. https://libguides.usc.edu/ld.php?content_id=54130825