

APA – STYLE ONLINE CITATION

HELP! How Do I Cite Online Sources in APA????

The variety of material available on the Web, and the variety of ways in which it is structured and presented, can present challenges for creating usable and useful references. Regardless of format, however, authors using and citing Internet sources should observe the following two guidelines:

1. Direct readers as closely as possible to the information being cited; whenever possible, reference specific documents rather than home or menu pages.
2. Provide addresses that work.

Documents available via the Internet include articles from periodicals (e.g., newspaper, newsletter, or journal); they may stand on their own (e.g., research paper, government report, online book or brochure); or they may have a quintessentially Web-based format (e.g., Web page, newsgroup).

At a minimum, a reference of an Internet source should provide a document title or description, a date (either the date of publication/update or the date of retrieval if the content is changeable or a pre-print, in-press, or in-publication version), and an address (in Internet terms, either a uniform resource locator [URL] or a digital object identifier number [doi]). Whenever possible, identify the authors of a document as well.

The URL is the most critical element: If it doesn't work, readers won't be able to find the cited material, and the credibility of your paper or argument will suffer. The most common reason URLs fail is that they are transcribed or typed incorrectly; the second most common reason is that the document they point to has been moved or deleted.

(Excerpted from: *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, Fifth Edition)

Because electronic media change rapidly, APA will update its web page regularly as there are additions, changes, or clarifications to APA style. Be sure to check it out regularly at the following address:

<http://www.apastyle.org/elecref.html>

The *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* has also been supplemented by the *APA Style Guide to Electronic References* (APA, 2007) which provides new and updated formats for citing sources such as published and in-press electronic journals, electronic books, dissertations and theses, abstracts, bibliographies, curriculum and course material, book reviews and journal article commentaries, reference materials (e.g. encyclopedias, dictionaries, etc.), raw data, computer software, gray literature (e.g. annual reports, fact sheets, presentation slides, press releases, policy briefs, etc.), newspapers, podcasts, general Web site articles, and online community posts (e.g. forms, mailing lists, and blog posts).

This supplement can be found by entering the keywords "APA Electronic References" in the keyword box at the University of Washington Libraries Catalog Web site at the following address:

<http://catalog.lib.washington.edu/search~/>

Following is a selection of the most commonly cited electronic materials. For additional information, consult both the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th ed.) and the *APA Style Guide to Electronic References*, as some citations may require use of both citation guides.

In Text Citation

In text citation for electronic media follows the same rules as for other references; i.e., (TLC, 2009). For quotations use page number when available. Otherwise, it may be appropriate to include paragraph indicators when paragraphs are clearly numbered, e.g. (TLC, 2009, ¶ 4), or section indicators when paragraphs are not numbered, e.g. (TLC, 2009, Conclusion section, para. 1).

Reference List

Follow the same rules as reference lists for non-electronic media. Use a hanging indent style for each reference. Add retrieval information at the end. (Retrieval date not required if content is considered stable, or unlikely to change, such as a journal article, newspaper, or book. Retrieval date *is* required for all other sources.)

a. Electronic copy of a journal article based on a print source *with* DOI (digital object identifier)

Bunny, B. (2008). Strange directions: Missing the left at Albuquerque. *Journal of the Directionally Challenged*, 17, 24-37. doi: 10.1234/jdc-2008.17-bunny

b. Electronic copy of a journal article based on a print source retrieved from publisher's Web site or stable URL

Chipmunk, A., Chipmunk, T., & Chipmunk, S. (2001). The role of positive reinforcement in behavior modification: That's nuts to you!. *Journal of Seasonal Gatherers*, 3, 57-63. Retrieved from <http://jsg.org/articles.html>

c. Electronic copy of a journal article based on a print source retrieved from database

Coyote, W. E. & Fudd, E. (2000). The long-term psychological effects of disappointment: We never get our man and now we're mad. *Journal of Applied Psychology*, 78, 443-449. Retrieved from PsychARTICLES database.

d. Multipage document created by private organization, no date

Greater Gotham City Urban Renewal Coalition, Task Force on Housing Issues. (n.d.). *A study of community development of Gotham City's abandoned warehouse district*. Retrieved February 14, 2001, from <http://www.gcurbrenew.org>

e. Document available on university program or department Web site

Owl, B. (1999). *Aerodynamics of balloons and low-level flight: A honey retrieval primer*. Retrieved May 5, 2001, from Thousand Acre University, The Pooh A. Bear Institute of Honey Technologies Web site: <http://www.iht.thousandacre.edu/publications/papers/balloons.html>

f. Daily newspaper article, electronic version available by search

Pig, P. (2001, April 1). Tazmanian devil creates stir over speculation of world's end. *Toon Town Times*. Retrieved from <http://www.tttimes.com>

g. Entire book available online

Duck, D. (2001, April 1). *Life in the shadow of a mouse*. Available from <http://www.mousehousebooks.com/duckstory>

h. Fact sheet

ACME Corporation. (2009, April 1). *Methods for improving accuracy of dropped anvils and grand pianos* [Fact sheet]. Retrieved from http://www.acmecorp.com/pubs/research_briefs/2009/ACME_RB13908.pdf

i. In-class PowerPoint presentation available on BlackBoard

Cat, S. (2007). *Overcoming stuttering* [PowerPoint slides]. Retrieved from Acme Looniversity BlackBoard Web site: <http://bb.acme.looniversity.edu/>

j. Presentation slides found online

Goof, G. (2001, April 1). *Clumsy is as clumsy does* [PowerPoint slides]. Retrieved from <http://www.mousehouse.edu/publications/index.html>

k. Weblog post

Mouse, M. (2006, June 12). Re: How to handle being famous. Message posted to <http://cartooncharatersblogs.com/fame/>