

Citing Sources: MLA Style

This guide contains examples of MLA bibliographic formats for commonly used sources. For complete and authoritative information consult the printed *MLA Style Manual*. You must attribute direct quotations and other people's ideas within the body of your paper. Failure to do so might lead to charges of plagiarism.

- ♦ If you are unsure of what to cite, a good rule of thumb is to cite it, or ask your instructor.

Keep in mind the following rules when formatting your bibliography:

- ♦ The bibliography should be arranged alphabetically by author, or, if author is not present, by title.
- ♦ Use hanging indents of 5 spaces.
- ♦ All entries must include a medium (print, electronic, recording etc.) note. See the *Style Manual* for a full listing of mediums.
- ♦ Web resources must include a date of access in the citation.
- ♦ Check with your instructor to see if URLs are required for web resources. If not, use URLs for any resource that can not be found using a simple web search
- ♦ Use double spacing, unless your professor instructs otherwise.
- ♦ Be sure to use the proper punctuation.

BOOKS

Basic format: Author. *Title*. Publisher city: Publisher, year. Medium.

Wilson, David Sloan. *Evolution for Everyone: How Darwin's Theory Can Change the Way We Think About Our Lives*. New York : Delacorte Press, 2007. Print.

ONLINE BOOK:

Dickins, Charles. *A Tale of Two Cities*. New York: Hurd and Houghton, 1869. *Google Book Search*. Web. 19 May 2009.

CHAPTER IN AN EDITED BOOK:

Chapter author. "Chapter title." *Book title*. Editor first name last name. Publisher city: Publisher, year. Pages. Medium.

Thompson, Cathy. "The Oreo Cookie: Black on the Outside, White on the Inside." *Becoming American, Becoming Ethnic : College Students Explore their Roots*. Ed. Thomas Dublin. Philadelphia, P.A.: Temple University Press, 1996. 152-175. Print.

TRANSLATED BOOK:

Marquez, Gabriel. *Love in the Time of Cholera*. Trans. Edith Grossman. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1988. Print.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

PRINT:

Basic Format: Author. "Title." *Journal Title* vol.no (year): pages. Format.

Bix, Herbet, P. "War Crimes Law and American Wars in 20th Century Asia." *Hitotsubashi Journal of Social Studies*. 33.1 (2001):119-132. Print.

FROM A FULL-TEXT DATABASE:

Author. "Title." *Journal Title*. Volume number. Issue number. (Year). Pages. *Database name*. Medium. Date of Access. <URL provided, if necessary / >.

Gates, Leslie. "Theorizing Business Power in the Semiperiphery: Mexico 1970-2000." *Theory and Society*. 38.1 (2009): 57-95. *SpringerLink Contemporary*. Web. 19 May 2009.
<<http://www.springerlink.com/>>.

FROM A WEB-BASED SOURCE:

Author. "Title." *Journal Title* Volume number. Issue number (years): page numbers, if applicable*:
Web. Date accessed. <URL, if necessary />.
*if page numbers are not available, use abbreviation n.pag. to indicate "no pagination."

Kinney, Kelly. "Online Communities, Self-Silencing, and Lost Rhetorical Spaces." *Kairos: A Journal for Teachers of Writing in Webbed Environments* 6.1 (2001): n.pag. Web. 19 May 2009

MAGAZINE ARTICLES:

Basic format: Author. "Title." *Magazine title*. Day Month Year: pages. Medium.

Hewitt, Bill, Diane Herbst, and Caroline Howard. "A Survivor – And Hero." *People*. 20 April 2009: 76+. Print.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:

Basic Format: Author. "Title." *Newspaper name* day month year, edition information: pages.
Medium.

Applebome, Peter. "Seeking Higher Education at Lower Prices." *New York Times* 25 Oct. 2008, New York ed. : A4. Print.

For magazine and newspaper articles from a FULL-TEXT DATABASE or a WEB-BASED SOURCE, use the format shown above, but change the "medium" and include database name, date accessed, and URL (if necessary) as shown in the JOURNAL ARTICLE examples above.

WEB SITE

Basic Format: Author or Corporation. *Title (see below)*. Version or edition used. Publisher or sponsor.*. Date of creation or update day month year **. Web. Date of access day month year. <URL if necessary />.

If are citing the overall web site, place the title in italics. If you are using a specific page from a larger site, place the title in regular font, inside quotes.

*if not available, use N.p.

**if not available, use n.d.

Binghamton University Libraries. 19 May 2009. N.p. Web. 18 May 2009.

Bouman, Kate. "Citation Help." Binghamton University Libraries. 24 Feb. 2009. Web. 18 May 2009.
<<http://library.binghamton.edu/search/citing.html> />.

For further help, see :

- ♦ *MLA Style Manual* (Ref Desk PN147 G44 2008) or the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (Ref Desk LB2369 .G53 2009)
- ♦ The Libraries' web guide, Citing Sources (<http://library.lib.binghamton.edu/search/citing.html>)
- ♦ Using Refworks (<http://library.binghamton.edu/instruct/refworkshelp.html>) to help create your citations and keep track of your sources.