

University of Alberta Library

APA Citation Style QuickGuide

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guides.library.ualberta.ca/citing

This guide is based on the 7th edition (2020) of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. For further explanation and more examples, please consult the APA Manual, which is available in [print](#), and the [APA Style website](#).

Components of APA style

APA style includes in-text citations throughout your work and a reference list at the end of your work, which provides full details about your cited sources.

Reference list entries should be organized alphabetically and formatted with a hanging indent. They usually include the following elements (see APA Manual sec. 9.4 & [Website](#)):

Author	Who is responsible for this work?	E.g., Writer, editor, artist, director.
Date	When was this work published?	E.g., Year of publication for a book, date of update for a webpage.
Title	What is this work called?	E.g., Article title, book title, report title.
Source	Where can you find the work?	E.g., Publisher of a book, volume and issue of an article, DOI or URL of an online work.

In-text citations make brief reference to the complete citations in your reference list (see sec. 8.10).

- An in-text citation includes the author's surname and the year of publication. E.g., (Smith, 2019)
- You may place an in-text citation in parentheses at the end of a sentence or incorporate it into the text as part of your sentence (see sec. 8.11 & [Website](#)).
- Include page numbers only when you are quoting or referring to specific passages. E.g., (Smith, 2019, p. 22) (see sec. 8.13).

Using DOIs and URLs (see secs. 9.34-9.36 & [Website](#))

A DOI (digital object identifier) is a unique string of letters and numbers that refers to a specific article, ebook, or other online work. DOIs usually can be found on the first page of a work or on the information page about the work. You can also visit crossref.org to look up a DOI. Follow these rules for including DOIs and URLs in references:

- If a work has a DOI, include it in the reference, even if you used the print version. Do not include a URL.
- If an online work has no DOI:
 - If the work is on a website, include a URL directly to the work. You may use a URL shortening service for long links (see sec. 9.36).
 - If the work is within a library database, do not provide a URL.

How to Format Author Names (see secs. 8.14, 8.17, 9.8, & 9.12)

Author type	Beginning of reference list entry	In-text citation (parenthetical)	In-text citation (in your sentence)
1 author	Moore, T. R. (2014).	(Moore, 2014)	Moore (2014)
2 authors	Hubball, H., & West, D. (2013).	(Hubball & West, 2013)	Hubball and West (2013)
3-20 authors*	Wolsink, I., Den Hartog, D. D., Belschak, F. D., & Oosterwijk, S. (2019).	(Wolsink et al., 2019)	Wolsink et al. (2019)
Organization	American Psychological Association. (1985).	(American Psychological Association [APA], 1985)**	American Psychological Association (APA, 1985)**
No author	<i>Narcissistic personality disorder</i> . (2019).***	(<i>Narcissistic Personality Disorder</i> , 2019)	<i>Narcissistic Personality Disorder</i> (2019)

* For a work with more than 20 authors, include the first 19 authors' names followed by an ellipsis, then add the final author's name, as in [the example given here](#).

** If you abbreviate an organization's name, include the full name and abbreviation the first time you cite it. After that, only include the abbreviated name. E.g., (APA, 1985)

*** For a work with no author, put the title in the author position (see secs. 8.14 & 9.12).

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Source (in APA Manual)	Reference list entry	In-text citation (parenthetical)	In-text citation (in sentence)
Journal article with a DOI (See sec. 10.1 #1)	Mousseau, M. (2003). The nexus of market society, liberal preferences, and democratic peace: Interdisciplinary theory and evidence. <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> , 47(4), 483–510. https://doi.org/10.1046/j.0020-8833.2003.00276.x	(Mousseau, 2003)	Mousseau (2003)
Journal article on a website, with no DOI (See sec. 10.1 #2)	Bruce, N., & Lamb, L. (2019). The case of a home grown high-tech sector in a small Canadian city. <i>Journal of Rural and Community Development</i> , 14(3), 61–73. https://journals.brandonu.ca/jrcd/article/view/1653/388	(Bruce & Lamb, 2019, p. 64)	Bruce and Lamb (2019) ... (p. 64).
Journal article print or in a library database, with no DOI (See sec. 10.1 #3)	Hubball, H., & West, D. (2008). Silence and authentic reflection strategies: Holistic learning in an outdoor education program. <i>Physical & Health Education Journal</i> , 74(2), 12–14.	(Hubball & West, 2013)	Hubball and West (2013)
Journal article with article number (See sec. 10.1 #6)	Wolsink, I., Den Hartog, D. D., Belschak, F. D., & Oosterwijk, S. (2019). Do you feel like being proactive today? Trait-proactivity moderates affective causes and consequences of proactive behavior. <i>PLoS ONE</i> , 14(8), Article e0220172. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0220172	(Wolsink et al., 2019)	Wolsink et al. (2019)
Journal article advance online publication (See sec. 10.1 #7)	Fairley, M., Humphreys, K., & Joyce, V. R. (2021). Cost-effectiveness of treatments for opioid use disorder. <i>JAMA Psychiatry</i> . Advance online publication. https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2021.0247	(Fairley et al., 2021)	Fairley et al. (2021)
Magazine article on a website (See sec. 10.1 #15)	Brownell, C. (2019, October 1). Where all the weed went. <i>Macleans</i> . https://archive.macleans.ca/article/2019/10/1/where-all-the-weed-went	(Brownell, 2019)	Brownell (2019)
Magazine article print or in a library database, with no DOI (See sec. 10.1 #15)	Moyer, M. W. (2019, June). Vaccines reimaged. <i>Scientific American</i> , 320(6), 54–61. NOTE: Some magazines have volumes and issues, while others do not. If there is a volume and/or issue, include it in the reference.	(Moyer, 2019)	Moyer (2019)
Newspaper article on a website (See sec. 10.1 #16)	Heil, E. (2019, October 22). The pizza box hasn't evolved in decades, but now Pizza Hut is trying out a new round design. <i>The Washington Post</i> . https://wapo.st/35WJxUk	(Heil, 2019)	Heil (2019)
Newspaper article print or in a library database (See sec. 10.1 #16)	Hughes, L. (2006, October 26). Blue-box blues. <i>The Globe and Mail</i> , p. A20.	(Hughes, 2006)	Hughes (2006)

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Source (in APA Manual)	Reference list entry	In-text citation (parenthetical)	In-text citation (in sentence)
Authored book with a DOI (See sec. 10.2 #20)	Gibson, R. (2020). <i>Desire in the age of robots and AI: An investigation in science fiction and fact</i> . Palgrave Macmillan. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-24017-2	(Gibson, 2020)	Gibson (2020)
Authored book print or in a library database, with no DOI (See sec. 10.2 #21)	Meikle, G. (2016). <i>Social media: Communication, sharing and visibility</i> . Routledge.	(Meikle, 2016)	Meikle (2016)
Ebook on a website, with no DOI (See sec. 10.2 #22)	Marks, D. F., Murray, M., & Estacio, E. V. (2018). <i>Health psychology: Theory, research and practice</i> (5th ed.). https://amazon.ca/Health-Psychology-Theory-Research-Practice-ebook/dp/B0785M2VS9	(Marks et al., 2018)	Marks et al. (2018)
Book, specific edition with a DOI (See sec. 10.2 #31)	Cohen, D. (2017). <i>How the child's mind develops</i> (3rd ed.). Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315201375	(Cohen, 2017)	Cohen (2017)
Edited book print or in a library database, with no DOI (See sec. 10.2 #25)	Shulman, D., & Stroumsa, G. G. (Eds.). (1999). <i>Dream cultures: Explorations in the comparative history of dreaming</i> . Oxford University Press.	(Shulman & Stroumsa, 1999)	Shulman and Stroumsa (1999)
Chapter in an edited book with a DOI (See sec. 10.3 #38)	Ward, L. M., & Harrison, K. (2005). The impact of media use on girls' beliefs about gender roles, their bodies, and sexual relationships: A research synthesis. In E. Cole & J. Henderson (Eds.), <i>Featuring females: Feminist analyses of media</i> (pp. 3–23). American Psychological Association. https://doi.org/10.1037/11213-001	(Ward & Harrison, 2005, pp. 4–5)	Ward and Harrison (2005) ... (pp. 4–5)
Chapter in an edited book print or in a library database, with no DOI (See sec. 10.3 #39; see sec. 9.8 for directions on hyphenated first names)	Li, W.-Y. (1999). Dreams of interpretation in early Chinese historical and philosophical writings. In D. Shulman & G. G. Stroumsa (Eds.), <i>Dream cultures: Explorations in the comparative history of dreaming</i> (pp. 17–42). Oxford University Press.	(Li, 1999)	Li (1999)
Encyclopedia or dictionary entry with editor but no author, print or in a library database, with no DOI (See secs. 8.14, 9.12, & 10.3 #47)	Population control. (2008). In W. A. Darity, Jr. (Ed.), <i>International encyclopedia of the social sciences</i> (2nd ed., Vol. 6, pp. 377–378). Gale. NOTE: If the entry has both an author and a book editor, cite it like a chapter in an edited book (see previous examples).	("Population Control," 2008)	"Population Control" (2008)

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Source (in APA Manual)	Reference list entry	In-text citation (parenthetical)	In-text citation (in sentence)
Encyclopedia or dictionary entry with author, on a website, with no DOI (See sec. 8.28 & 10.3 #48)	Brown, D. J., & Lawton, S. B. (2013, December 16). Charter schools. In <i>The Canadian encyclopedia</i> . https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/charter-schools	(Brown & Lawton, 2013, para. 4) NOTE: To quote a source with no page numbers, give a section heading or paragraph number instead.	Brown and Lawton (2013) ... (para. 4)
Government or organization report with group author, on a website (See sec. 10.4 #50 & #54)	Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. (2015). <i>Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to action</i> . https://ehprnh2mwo3.exactdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf	First citation: (Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada [TRC], 2015) Subsequent citations: (TRC, 2015)	First citation: Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC, 2015) Subsequent citations: TRC (2015)
Government or organization report with individual author, on a website (See sec. 10.4 #51)	MacLaurin, B., Trocmé, N., Fallon, B., Pitman, L., & McCormack, M. (2003). <i>Northwest Territories incidence study of reported child abuse and neglect, NWTIS-2003: Major findings</i> . University of Calgary. https://cwrp.ca/sites/default/files/publications/NWTIS2003_en_0.pdf	(MacLaurin et al., 2003)	MacLaurin et al. (2003)
Canadian statute (See sec. 11.5 #8, APA Manual, & sec. 2.1, <i>Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation</i>)	Privacy Act, RSC 1985, c P-21 (1985). https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/P-21/index.html	(Privacy Act, 1985)	Privacy Act (1985)
Dissertation or thesis in a library database (See sec. 10.6 #65)	Leonard, W. H. (2018). <i>Living in an unreal world: Fake news, social identity theory, and media literacy</i> (Publication No. 10976562) [Master's thesis, University of Alabama]. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global.	(Leonard, 2018)	Leonard (2018)
Film or video (See sec. 10.12 #84)	Mangold, J. (Director). (1999). <i>Girl, interrupted</i> [Film]. Columbia Pictures. NOTE: If you watched a particular version of the film, you may specify that as part of the format. E.g., [Film; three-disc special edition].	(Mangold, 1999)	Mangold (1999)
TV episode (See sec. 9.29 & 10.12 #87)	Shelton, L. (Director), Schur, M. (Writer), & Law, A. (Writer). (2017, September 21). What's my motivation (Season 1, Episode 11) [TV series episode]. In M. Schur, D. Miner, M. Sackett, & D. Goddard, (Executive Producers), <i>The good place</i> . Fremulon; 3 Arts Entertainment; Universal Television.	(Shelton et al., 2017)	Shelton (2017)
Streaming video (See sec. 10.12 #90)	CBN News. (2015, August 24). <i>Slowing down Alzheimer's one exercise at a time</i> [Video]. Youtube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iTYYAgcqljE NOTE: For retrieval purposes, the uploader is considered the author even if they did not create the work.	(CBN News, 2015)	CBN News (2015)

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Source (in APA Manual)	Reference list entry	In-text citation (parenthetical)	In-text citation (in sentence)
Slides or lecture notes on eClass or a website (See sec. 10.14 #102)	Jones, S. (2019, January 22). <i>An introduction to the limbic system</i> [PowerPoint Slides]. eClass. https://eclass.srv.ualberta.ca/ NOTE: If the slides or notes are on a site that requires a login (e.g., eClass), provide a URL to the login page. If not, provide a URL directly to the slides or notes.	(Jones, 2019)	Jones (2019)
Webpage with personal author (See sec. 10.16 #112)	Moore, T. R. (2018, April 11). <i>Diabetes mellitus and pregnancy</i> . Medscape. http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/127547-overview	(Moore, 2018)	Moore (2018)
Webpage with group author (See sec. 10.16 #111)	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2019, September 5). <i>Anxiety and depression in children</i> . https://www.cdc.gov/childrensmentalhealth/depression.html NOTE: When the author and the title of the website are the same, omit the website title.	First citation: (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2014) Subsequent citations: (CDC, 2014)	First citation: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, 2014) Subsequent citations: CDC (2014)
Webpage with no date with group author (See sec. 9.16, 9.17, & 10.16 #114)	Pfizer. (n.d.). <i>Ongoing vaccine research at Pfizer</i> . Retrieved October 28, 2019, from https://www.pfizer.com/science/vaccines/research	(Pfizer, n.d.)	Pfizer (n.d.)
Webpage with no known author (See secs. 8.14, 9.12, & 10.16 #112)	<i>Narcissistic personality disorder</i> . (2019, February 7). Psychology Today. https://www.psychologytoday.com/ca/conditions/narcissistic-personality-disorder	(<i>Narcissistic Personality Disorder</i> , 2019)	<i>Narcissistic Personality Disorder</i> (2019)
Photograph or image (See sec. 10.14)	American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. (n.d.). <i>Anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) tear</i> [diagram]. OrthoInfo. Retrieved April 16, 2021, from https://orthoinfo.aaos.org/globalassets/figures/a00325f04_resize.jpg NOTE: If the image has no author, start the reference with the title. If no title is provided, include only a description of the content in square brackets (e.g., [diagram of ACL tear]).	First citation: (American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons [AAOS], n.d.) Subsequent citations: (AAOS, n.d.)	First citation: American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS, n.d.) Subsequent citations: AAOS (n.d.)
Social media post (See sec. 10.15 #103)	Obama, B. [@POTUS44]. (2015, June 26). <i>Today is a big step in our march toward equality. Gay and lesbian couples now have the right to marry</i> [Tweet]. Twitter. https://twitter.com/POTUS44/status/614435467120001024 NOTE: Begin the reference with the user's real name, if known, followed by the screen name in square brackets. In place of a title, provide the content of the post, up to the first 20 words.	(Obama, 2015)	Obama (2015)
Personal communications (See sec. 8.9)	NOTE: Personal communications are works that cannot be recovered by readers. They include emails, letters, personal interviews, phone conversations, unrecorded lectures, and more. Personal communications are cited only in the text and not in your reference list.	(J.T. Smith, personal communication, September 24, 2019)	J.T. Smith (personal communication, September 24, 2019)

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Sample Reference List

References

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