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American Psychological Association (APA) 6th edition style examples

APA style is an author-date citation style. It was developed mainly for use in psychology, but has also been adopted by other disciplines.

There are two major components to the APA author-date style – the in-text author-date citation at the appropriate place within the text of the document, e.g. (Smith, 2010), and the detailed reference list at the end of the document. All in-text citations must have a corresponding reference list entry, and the converse applies for reference list entries.

Use the following instructions and examples as guide for your own referencing using the APA style. This guide is based on more detailed information in:

- American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington D.C.: Author.

In text citing: General notes

- Insert an in-text citation:
    - When your work has been influenced by someone else's work, for example:
        - When you directly quote someone else's work
        - When you paraphrase someone else's work

- The in-text citation consists of:
    - author surname(s) (in the order that they appear on the actual publication), followed by the year of publication of the source that you are citing.
    - Include page or paragraph numbers for direct quotes, and for paraphrasing where appropriate

- The in-text citation is placed immediately after the text which refers to the source being cited

- If quoting or citing a source which is cited within another, secondary reference, mention the source with the secondary reference details: e.g. Smith (as cited in Jones, 2010). Only the secondary reference should be included in the reference list.

Reference list: General notes

- Begin your reference list on a new page and title it 'References.' Centre the title on the page.

- **Double-space** your reference list and have a **hanging indent**

    a hanging indent is where the first line of each reference is fully left justified while subsequent lines are indented to the right. The width of the hanging indent should be 5-7 spaces or 1.25 cm. Hanging indents and double spacing are set by the word processors

- All of the references in the reference list must also be cited in the text.
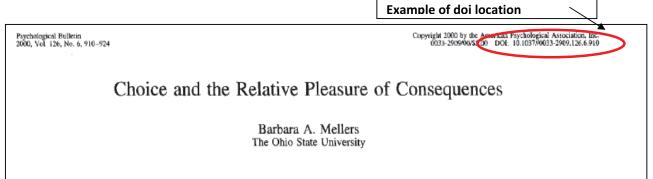
- All references cited in text must also be included in the reference list (exceptions are unpublished items such as correspondence).

- List the references in alphabetical order by author surname/family name.

- Where there are two articles with the same authors and date, order the references alphabetically by article title and add a letter suffix to the year of publication (e.g. 2003a, 2003b…).

- Provide organisation names in full, unless they are obviously recognisable as abbreviations (e.g. APA for American Psychological Association).

- Do not add full stops to URLs (e.g. http://www.lib.monash.edu.au/)

- Check the reference details against the actual source – you are indicating that you have read a source when you cite it.

- Be consistent with your referencing style across the document.

Author layout guidance

Where a publication has:	List authors in the reference list as:
one author	Author, A. A.
two authors	Author, A. A., & Author B. B.
three to seven authors	Author, A. A., Author, B. B., Author, C. C., Author, D. D., Author, E. E., Author, F. F., & Author, G. G.
eight or more authors – list first six authors, add three ellipses and the last author	Author, A. A., Author, B. B., Author, C. C., Author, D. D., Author, E. E., Author, F. F.,…Author, Z. Z.
no author	Transfer the title to the author space
a group author	Spell the name out

Digital Object Identification (doi) and URLs:

- The digital object identifier (doi) is a unique identifier, and should be provided in the reference where it is available. This alphanumeric string is usually located on the first page with other referencing elements in both print and electronic articles. If no doi is available for an electronic article, provide the URL information in the reference.

- Some other resources, such as books, may also have dois, which should be used where available.

Example of doi location

Psychological Bulletin
2000, Vol. 126, No. 6, 910–924

Copyright 2000 by the American Psychological Association, Inc.
0033-2909/00/$5.00   DOI: 10.1037//0033-2909.126.6.910

Choice and the Relative Pleasure of Consequences

Barbara A. Mellers
The Ohio State University

In text citations

Example	In-text citation
Single author	...This was seen in an Australian study (Conger, 1979). OR Conger (1979) has argued that... OR In 1979, Conger conducted a study which showed that…
Two authors	...(Davidson & Harrington, 2002). OR Davidson and Harrington (2002)...
Three to five authors	*Cite all names and publication year the first time, thereafter only the first name followed by et al.* *The first time cited:* ...(Brown, Smith, & Jones, 1990). Brown, Smith, and Jones (1990)... *thereafter:* ...(Brown et al., 1990). Brown et al. (1990)...
Six or more authors	*Cite only the surname of the first author followed by et al. and the year from the first citation.* *Provide all six author names (followed by et al. if more authors) in the reference list.* .... (Jones et al., 2003). Jones et al. (2003)...
Different authors: same surname	*Add initials to the authors names to distinguish them* P.R. Smith (1923) to distinguish from S. Smith (1945) ... (Jones & S.A. Brown, 1961) to distinguish from (W.O. Brown & Smith, 1985).
Multiple authors: ambiguous citations	*If a multiple (3+) author citation abbreviated with et al. looks the same as another in text citation similarly shortened, add enough surnames to make a distinction.* ...(Brown, Smith, et al., 1998) to distinguish from (Brown, Taylor, et al., 1998).
Multiple works: by same author	*When cited together give the author's surname once followed by the years of each publication, which are separated by a comma.* ... (Stairs, 1992, 1993). Stairs (1992, 1993)...
Multiple works by same author **AND** same year	*If there is more than one reference by an author in the same year, suffixes (a, b, c, etc.) are added to the year.* *Allocation of the suffixes is determined by the order of the references in the reference list.* *Suffixes are also included in the reference list, and these references are listed alphabetically by title.* *If cited together, list by suffix as shown below.* Stairs (1992b)... later in the text ... (Stairs, 1992a). ...(Stairs, 1992a, 1992b).
If author name is given as 'anonymous'	*Use Anonymous as the author's name.* ... (Anonymous, 1997).

Unknown author	*Give the first few words of the title.* *If the title is from an article or a chapter use double quotation marks. If the title is from a periodical, book brochure or report then use italics.* ...the worst election loss in the party's history ("This is the end," 1968).
Corporate or group of authors	*If organization is recognized by abbreviation, cite the first time as follows:* ... (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare [AIHW], 2005) thereafter ... (AIHW, 2005). *If abbreviation not widely known, give the name in full every time:* ... (Australian Research Council, 1996).
Multiple references	*List the citations in alphabetical order and separate with semicolons.* ... (Burst, 1995; Turner & Hooch, 1982; Zane, 1976).
Citing specific parts of a source	*For a direct quote the page number(s) must be given.* *Indicate page, chapter, figure, table, etc. as specifically as possible. Use accepted abbreviations, i.e.* p. *for page,* para. *for paragraph..* As one writer put it "the darkest days were still ahead" (Weston, 1988, p. 45). Weston (1988) argued that "the darkest days were still ahead" (p. 45). This theory was put forward by Smith (2005, chap. 7)
Quote from an electronic source	*Where page numbers are not provided use paragraph numbers.* ...(Sturt, 2001, para. 2)
Personal communication: for email and other 'unrecoverable' data	*Personal communications are not included in the reference list.* ... (R. Smith, personal communication, January 28, 2002). R. Smith (personal communication, January 28, 2002)...
Citation of a secondary source (i.e. a source referred to in another publication)	*In the reference list you ONLY include the details of the source you actually read - not the original source.* *In the example below, the original source would be Farrow (1968), which you saw cited in a paper by Ward and Decan (1988).* ... (Farrow, 1968, as cited in Ward & Decan, 1988). Farrow (1968, as cited in Ward & Decan, 1988) ... Ward and Decan (1988) cited Farrow (1968) as finding...

Reference List

Scholarly Articles

Type of article	Reference list example
Where a doi is available	Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (year of publication). Title of article. *Journal Title,* *volume number*(issue number), page-page. doi:xxxx
Single author	Mellers, B. A. (2000). Choice and the relative pleasure of consequences. *Psychological Bulletin, 126*(6), 910-924. doi: 10.1037//0033-2909.126.6.910
Two to seven authors	Bechara, A., Damasio, H., & Damasio A. R. (2000). Emotion, decision making and the orbitofrontal cortex. *Cerebral Cortex, 10*(3), 295-307. doi:10.1093/cercor/10.3.295
More than eight authors	Wolchik, S. A., West, S. G., Sandler, I. N., Tein, J., Coatsworth, D., Lengua, L., …Griffin, W. A. (2000). An experimental evaluation of theory-based mother and mother-child programs for children of divorce. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 68*(5), 843-856. doi:10.1037//0022-006X.68.5.843
Where no doi is available for an online article Provide the URL of the journal homepage.	Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (year of publication). Title of article. *Journal Title,* *volume number*(issue number), page-page. Retrieved from URL Trankle, S. A., & Haw, J. (2009). Predicting Australian health behaviour from health beliefs. *Electronic Journal of Applied Psychology, 5*(2), 9-17. Retrieved from http://ojs.lib.swin.edu.au/index.php/ejap/
Where no doi is available for a print article	Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (year of publication). Title of article. *Journal Title,* *volume number*(issue number), page-page. Crowden, A. (2008). Professional boundaries and the ethics of dual and multiple overlapping relationships in psychotherapy. *Monash Bioethics Review, 27*(4), 10-27.

Magazine Articles

Type of article	Reference list example
Online	Author, A. A. (year, month of publication). Title of article. *Magazine Title, volume number*(issue number), page-page. Retrieved from URL Novotney, A. (2010, January). Integrated care is nothing new for these psychologists. *Monitor on Psychology, 41*(1). Retrieved from www.apa.org/monitor
Print	Author, A. A. (year, month of publication). Title of article. *Magazine Title, volume number*(issue number), page-page. Wilson, D. S., & Wilson, E. O. (2007, November 3). Survival of the selfless. *NewScientist, 196*(2628), 42-46.

Newspaper Articles

Type of article	Reference list example
Online	Author, A. A. (year, month date of publication). Title of article. *Newspaper Title.* Retrieved from URL Gadher, D. (2007, September 2). Leap in gambling addiction forecast. *The Sunday Times.* Retrieved from http://www.timesonline.co.uk
Print	Author, A. A. (year, month date of publication). Title of article. *Newspaper Title,* pp. page-page. Packham, B. (2010, January 18). Bullies to show concern: schools to try Euro method that lets thugs off the hook. *Herald-Sun.* pp. 6.

Books and Book Chapters

Editions: No edition information is required for first editions.

Publication location: Publisher locations in the U.S.A. should include the city and the abbreviated version of the state (e.g. NY for New York); elsewhere in the world, include the city and country. Where more than one location is provided, use the first location listed.

Type of book	Reference list example
Print book	Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (year of publication). *Title of book.* Location of publication: Publisher. Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (year of publication). *Title of book* (edition). Location of publication: Publisher. Mook, D. (2004). *Classic experiments in psychology.* Westport, CT: Greenwood.

Edited book Use the author rules as listed above. Where there is an editor instead of an author, follow the author rules, but also include the abbreviation 'Ed.' or 'Eds.' in parentheses following the editor names: e.g. Editor, A. A., & Editor, B. B. (Eds.).	Editor, A. A., & Editor, B. B. (Eds.). (year of publication). *Title of book* (edition). Location of publication: Publisher. Williams, J. M. (Ed.). (2006). *Applied sport psychology: personal growth to peak performance* (5th ed.). Boston: McGraw-Hill. Lee-Chai, A. Y., & Bargh, J. A. (Eds.). (2001). *The use and abuse of power: Multiple perspectives on the causes of corruption*. New York: Psychology Press.
Electronic book The URL provided should be the website of the main publisher or provider. If you accessed the e-book via the catalogue, check the catalogue record to find the publisher or provider (where the full text is available from). Tip: conduct a web search – provide a URL that your readers will be able to find the book from, e.g. via psycBOOKS: http://www.apa.org/pubs/databases/psycbooks/index.aspx Googlebooks: http://www.google.com.au/	Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (year of publication). *Title of book* (edition). Retrieved from URL OR Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (year of publication). *Title of book* (edition). doi:xxxx Editor, A. A., & Editor, B. B. (Eds.). (year of publication). *Title of book* (edition). Retrieved from URL OR Editor, A. A., & Editor, B. B. (Eds.). (year of publication). *Title of book* (edition). doi:xxxx Bennett, P. (2006). *Abnormal and clinical psychology: an introductory textbook* (2nd ed.). Retrieved from http://www.eblib.com/ Marlatt, G. A., & Witkiewitz, K. (Eds.). (2009). *Addictive behaviors: new readings on etiology, prevention, and treatment*. Retrieved from http://www.apa.org/pubs/databases/psycbooks/index.aspx
Chapter in a print book	Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (year of publication). Title of chapter. In A. Editor & B. Editor (Eds.), *Title of book* (pp. xxx-xxx). Location of publication: Publisher. Ramsey, J. K., & McGrew, W. C. (2005). Object play in great apes: studies in nature and captivity. In A. D. Pellegrini & P. K. Smith (Eds.), *The nature of play: Great apes and humans* (pp. 89-112). New York, NY: Guilford Press.

Chapter in an electronic book	Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (year of publication). Title of chapter. In A. Editor & B. Editor (Eds.), *Title of book* (pp. xxx-xxx). Retrieved from URL
	OR
	Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (year of publication). Title of chapter. In A. Editor & B. Editor (Eds.), *Title of book* (pp. xxx-xxx). doi:xxxx
	Branch, S., Ramsay, S., & Barker, M. (2008). The bullied boss: a conceptual exploration of upwards bullying. In A. Glendon, B. M. Thompson, & B. Myors (Eds.), *Advances in organisational psychology* (pp. 93-112). Retrieved from http://www.informit.com.au/humanities.html

Generic webpage

Notes:

- Use n.d. (no date) where no publication date is available.
- Where no author is available, transfer the organisation behind the website, or the title, to the author space.

Type of resource	Reference list example
Generic webpage	Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (Year of publication). *Title of work.* Retrieved from URL
Webpage: association as author	Australian Psychological Society. (2010). *Bushfire resources: Psychological preparedness and recovery.* Retrieved from http://www.psychology.org.au/bushfires/

Other resources

Type of resource	Reference list example
Audiovisual (videos, DVDs, music recordings)	Producer, A. A. (Producer), & Director, B. B. (Director). (Year of publication). *Title of work* [type of material]. Location: Publisher/ Studio/ Label. Cohen, A., Starbuck, S., Roberts, S., Schreuders, T., & Heron, Z. (Producers & Directors) (2001). *Brain story* [videorecording]. U.K.: BBC.

Blog entry and online discussion boards and lists	Author, A. A. (Year, Month Day). Title of post [description of form]. Retrieved from http://www.xxxx Peele, S. (2010, January 10). The most important psychology article of the 21st century: the U.S. isn't discovering how mental illness works, it's spreading it worldwide [Web log post]. Retrieved from http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/addiction-in-society/201001/the-most-important-psychology-article-the-21st-century
Conference Proceedings (unpublished) For published conference proceedings: Use book chapter format for one-off publications. Cite regular publications as per scholarly journal articles.	Paper presentation or poster session: Presenter, A. A. (Year, Month). *Title of paper or poster.* Paper or poster session presented at the meeting of Organisation Name, Location. Jodell, F., Russell, F., Tepper, K., Todd, P. & Zahora, T. (2009, September). *Joined at the hip: partnerships between librarians and learning skills advisers.* Poster session presented at the International Congress of Medical Librarianship, Brisbane.
Lecture notes	Author, A. A. (Year of publication). *Title of notes.* Unpublished manuscript, unit code, Monash University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. McGrath, B. (2007). *Lecture 7: Arrays and matrices* [PowerPoint slides]. Unpublished manuscript, ENG1060, Monash University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. McGrath, B. (2007). *Lecture 7: Arrays and matrices* [PowerPoint slides]. Retrieved from ENG1060, Monash University Studies Online: http://muso.monash.edu.au
Podcast/ vodcast	Producer, A. A. (Producer). (Year, Month Day). *Title of podcast.* [Audio podcast]. Retrieved from http://xxxx Png, V. & Dharmarajah, J. (Presenters). (2008, October/ November). *Effective PowerPoint presentations.* [Audio podcast]. Retrieved from http://mpa.monash.edu.au/compass_online/podcast-index.html

| Technical report | Author, A. A. (Year of publication). *Title of work* (Report No. xxx). Location: Publisher.

Tayama, T. (2006). *Velocity influence on detection and prediction of changes in color and motion direction* (Report No. 38, 1-20). Sapporo, Japan: Psychology Department, Hokkaido University.

Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. (2008). *The road home: a national approach to reducing homelessness.* Retrieved from http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/housing/progserv/homelessness/whitepaper/Documents/default.htm |
|---|---|
| Thesis | Author, A. A. (Year of publication). *Title of thesis or dissertation* (Doctoral dissertation or master's thesis). Retrieved from Name of database. (Accession or Order no.)

Bozeman, A. Jr. (2007). *Age of onset as predictor of cognitive performance in children with seizure disorders.* (Doctoral dissertation). Retrieved from Proquest Dissertations and Theses. (UMI 3259752)

Author, A. A. (Year of publication). *Title of thesis or dissertation* (Unpublished Doctoral dissertation or master's thesis). Name of Institution, Location.

Imber, A. (2003). *Applicant reactions to graduate recruitment and selection.* (Unpublished Doctoral dissertation.) Monash University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. |