Quick Reference: MLA Citations

In Text Citations

Author's name used in a signal phrase or as a parenthetical.

Example 1: According to Jensen, Cage used chance operations initially to organize the pre-composed charts for his composition Music for Changes in 1951 (97).

Example 2: Chance operations allowed Cage to introduce random events into a controlled system (Jensen 97).

Two to three authors used in signal phrase or as a parenthetical. If there are three authors used in a parenthetical citation separate them with commas.

Example 1: As Havens and Ghaemi state "the kind of depression...patients experience is not simply recurrent major depressive episodes, separated by periods of euthymia, but...chronic, unremitting depression..."(138).

Example 2: "It is our view that many bipolar may not have clinical depression viewed as endogenous disease entity, but rather they may be suffering from clinical "despair," as defined
by existential philosophers Soren Kierkegaard and Karl Jaspers" (Havens and Ghaemi 138).

Multiple authors used in signal phrase or as a parenthetical.

Example 1: In the course of their research, Lazarinis et al., have found that the increased demand for non-English web documents is creating major issues for search engines (230).

Example 2: "Search engines crawl the Web and fetch documents which are then indexed and included in their databases" (Lazarinis et al. 231).

Government agency or Corporation as an author for an in-text citation.

Example 1: Agoraphobia according to the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) is an intense fear of being trapped in inescapable situations that ultimately leads to the avoidance of situations where this may occur (n.p.).

Example 2: The onset of Agoraphobia occurs around the age of twenty and strikes around 1.8 million adults (National Institute of Mental Health).

For an unknown author use the complete title as a signal phrase or use a shortened or abbreviated form of the title for the parenthetical. Remember book titles are italicized while article titles are placed in quotation marks.

Example 1: According to the article, "Lab-Grown Meat a Reality, But Who Will Eat It?" the idea for lab grown meat has been around for centuries and has been used in science fiction novels as well (n.p.).

Example 2: Biologist Vladamir Mironov has been producing "shmeat" in formless sheets for years (Lab-Grown Meat n.p.).
Entries should be alphabetized by authors last name. Unauthored entries should be alphabetized by the first significant title word.

Formatting Entries

Author's and editor's names are always inverted. List the last name first, followed by a comma, then their first name and a period after them. For editor(s), the abbreviation ed(s). should be placed after the editor's name followed by a period.

Example 1: Beckett, Samuel.

Example 2: Bloom, Harold, ed.

If there are more than 3 authors/editors, you can list the first author followed by a comma and add "et al" for the remaining contributors and place a period after "al." or you can list each individual author as they appear on the title page, inverting only the first author's name.

Example 3: Dewey, John, et al.

Example 4: Dewey, John, Morton Subudnick, Julian Beck and Ethel Merman.

Book titles should always be italicized and followed by a period. All nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs and subordinating conjunctions (e.g. after, if, that, until and when) should be capitalized. The following are not capitalized: articles (unless they are the first word in the title), prepositions and coordinating conjunctions (and, but, for or so) as well as the infinitive to.


The titles of articles from periodicals should be in quotations and follow the same capitalization rules as books (Ex. 5).

Example 6: "John Cage, Chance Operations, and the Chaos Game: Cage and the I Ching."

Periodical titles should be always italicized and any articles preceding the title should be omitted.


The Plain Dealer=Plain Dealer

The Journal of Cognitive Dissonance Theory=Journal of Cognitive Dissonance Theory

Entries for academic journals should include the volume, issue
number, publication year in parentheses followed by a colon and the page numbers for the complete article not just the pages used for the research project.


Magazine entries that are published weekly or bi-weekly should include the complete date (e.g., day, abbreviated month and year). Monthly or bi-monthly publications should include the abbreviated month or months followed by the year. In each instance, a colon should follow the year and conclude with the page numbers.


Entries for newspapers should contain the complete date (e.g., day, abbreviated month and year) followed by a comma then the specific edition if there is one. The date or edition (if there is one) should be followed by a colon then the page number. If the article appears on more than one page then the number should be followed by +, e.g. C5+.


All entries should identify the medium of publication, e.g. print, web, dvd, etc.


Entries for web based resources should contain the following additions: site publisher; if the publisher is unknown use n.p.(no publisher), date of publication; if no date is available, use n.d. (no date), and date of access (day, month and year).


Entries for resources retrieved from databases should contain the title of database in italics, medium of publication (Web), and finally the date of access (day, month and year).

Entries for sources retrieved from blogs should be formatted as follows:

Editor, screen name, author, or compiler name (if available). “Posting Title.” Name of Site. Version number (if available). Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (sponsor or publisher). Medium of publication. Date of access.


The Atlantic, 16 Apr 2009 08:41 am. Web.


MLA Citation Examples

Books


EBooks/Electronic Books


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Articles

Magazine


Academic Journal


Hirschberger, Gilad, et al. "Attachment, Marital Satisfaction, and Divorce During the First Fifteen Years of Parenthood."


Newspaper


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Web Sites

"John Cage." *Epic Poetry Center at SUNY Buffalo*. EPC@Buffalo,

Interviews

Blogs

Visual Art
MLA Web Resources

**MLA Update 2009**
(http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/15/) The latest updates from MLA compiled by the Owl at Purdue University.

**MLA Style Guide with 3rd Edition Updates**
(http://library.csus.edu/guides/rogenmoserd/general/mla.html) from Sacramento State University.

**MLA Flash Tutorial**
(http://library.hunter.cuny.edu/tutorials/mla/mla_tutorial.html) from Hunter Library at CUNY is an excellent resource that explains the MLA style including the updates in the 3rd edition.

Questions or comments, contact: 
**Michael Billings, Reference Librarian**