

Citing Electronic Sources - MLA Style

This guide provides examples of MLA formatting for selected electronic sources (e.g., online journals, articles from library databases, web sites, web pages, email, etc.) For examples of more sources, see the *Citing Electronic Publications* section in the latest edition of the **MLA Handbook for Writers** (REF LB2369 .G53 2003) or check out other online style guides at www.usfca.edu/library/documentingsources.html

Some guidelines:

- *Follow the general guidelines for print materials.*
- *If no author's name is given, begin the entry with the title of the document.*
- *The exact URL of the document should be cited. However, if the URL is long and complicated, give the URL of the site's search page.*
- *If a document does not have a specific URL, give the URL of the site's home page.*
- *See the official MLA site at http://www.mla.org/style_faq4 for more help.*

1. Document from an Internet Site

General format

Author. "Title of the document" (in quotes). Title of the site (underlined). Date of the electronic publication or the latest update. The name of any institution or organization that sponsors the site. Date of access. URL.

Examples

Zeki, Smir. "Artistic Creativity and the Brain." Science 6 July 2001: 51-52. Science Magazine. 2002. American Association of the Advancement of Science. 24 Sept. 2002
<<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/293/5527/51>>.

If no author's name is given, begin the entry with the title of the document.

"City Profile: San Francisco." CNN.com. 2002. Cable News Network. 14 May 2002
<<http://www.cnn.com/TRAVEL/atevo/city/SanFrancisco/intro.html>>.

If the URL is long and complicated, give the URL of the site's search page.

"Selected Seventeenth-Century Events." Romantic Chronology. Ed. Laura Mandell and Alan Liu. 1999. University of California, Santa Barbara. 22 June 2002
<<http://english.ucsb.edu:591:rchrono/>>.

2. An Entire Internet Site

Title of the site, (underlined). Name of the editor of the site (if given). Electronic publication information. Date of electronic publication or of the latest update. Name of any sponsoring institution or organization. Date of access. URL.

Victorian Women Writers Project. Ed. Perry Willett. May 2000. Indiana University. 26 June 2004
<<http://www.indiana.edu/~letrs/vwwp/>>.

If you can't include all of this information, cite what's available.

CNN.com. 2002. Cable News Network. 5 Dec. 2003 <<http://www.cnn.com/>>.

3. Personal Home Page

General format

Name of person who created page. Title of the site (underlined) or, if there is no title, with the description **Home page**. Date of the last updated, if given. Date of access. URL.

Example

Lancashire, Ian. Home page. 28 Mar. 2002. 5 Dec. 2003
<<http://www.chass.utoronto.ca:8080/~ian/>>.

4. Home Page for a Course

General format

Instructor's name. Title of the course. Description of source, such as **Course Home Page**. Dates of the course. Name of the department and institution. Date of access. URL.

Example

James, Andrea. Written Communication II. Course home page. Aug. 2004 – Dec. 2004.
Communication Studies, University of San Francisco. 10 Dec. 2004
<<http://blackboard.usfca.edu>>.

5. Online Book found in *Ignacio*, the library's online catalog

General format

Author. Title (underlined). Place, Publisher. Date. Pages used (if you are using only part of the book). Online publisher. Name of library providing access. Date of access. URL.

Example

McFredies, Paul. The Complete Idiot's Guide to Creating a Web Page. 4th ed. Indianapolis: QUE, 2000. 20-40. netLibrary. University of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA. 15 April 2000
<<http://www.netLibrary.com/>>.

6. Online Book found on the Web

General format

Author (if given). If only an editor, compiler, or translator is identified, cite that person's name followed by the appropriate abbreviation (ed., comp., trans.) Title of the work (underlined). Name of the editor, compiler, or translator of the book. Publication information for the original print version, if available (e.g., city of publication, name of publisher, year of publication.) Electronic

publication information (e.g., title of the Internet site), underlined. Editor of site. Date of the electronic publication. Name of any sponsoring institution. Date of access and URL for the book.

Examples

Austen, Jane. Pride and Prejudice. Ed. Henry Churchyard. Jane Austen Information Page. Republic of Pemberley. 5 Dec. 2003 <<http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/preideprej.html>>.

Nesbit, E[dith]. Ballads and Lyrics of Socialism. London, 1908. Victorian Women Writers Project. Ed. Perry Willett. May 2000. Indiana U. 26 June 2002 <<http://www.indiana.edu/~letrs/vwwp/nesbit/ballsoc.html>>.

7. Part of an Online Book

Emerson, Ralph Waldo. "Self-Reliance." Essays: First Series. 1841. 12 Feb. 1997 <<ftp://ftp.books.com/ebooks/NonFiction/Philosophy/Emerson/history.txt>>.

8. Online Government Publication

Follow same format as a printed government document, but conclude with information appropriate to the electronic source.

Snyder, Howard N. United States. Dept. of Justice. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Law Enforcement and Juvenile Crime. Dec. 2001. 29 June 2002 <<http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/ojjdp/191031.pdf>>.

9. Full-Text ERIC Document

Murphy, Anthony P., and Ralph K. Coppola. "GLOBE: A Science/Education Partnership Program" (Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL, March 24-28, 1997). ERIC Document ED414155. University of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA. 20 Apr. 2004 <www.eric.ed.gov>.

10. Poem

Nesbit, E[dith]. "Marching Song." Ballads and Lyrics of Socialism. London, 1908. Victorian Women Writers Project. Ed. Perry Willett. May 2000. Indiana U. 26 June 2002 <<http://www.indiana.edu/~letrs/vwwp/nesbit/ballsoc.html#p9>>.

11. Article in an Online Magazine, Journal or Newspaper

General format

Author. "Title of the work or material" (in quotation marks). Name of the periodical (underlined). Volume number, issue number, date of publication, number range or total number of pages. Date of access and URL.

Example

Butler, Darrell L., and Martin Selbom. "Barriers to Adopting Technology for Teaching and Learning." Educause Quarterly 25.2 (2002): 22-28. Educause. 3 Aug 2003 <<http://www.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/eqm0223.pdf>>.

12. Full-text Article from a Library Database or Subscription Service, such as InfoTrac or ProQuest.

If the URL of the article is long or complicated, give the URL of the database or site's search page.

General format

Author. "Title of the work" (in quotation marks, if available.) Name of the periodical (underlined.) Volume number, issue number, date of publication, number range or total number of pages. Name of the database used (underlined), if known. Name of the service. Name of the library (with a city, a state abbreviation, or both if useful); and the date of access. URL of the database's search page.

Examples

Smith, Robert C. "Migrant Membership as an Instituted Process: Transnationalization, the State and the Extra-territorial Conduct of Mexican Politics." International Migration Review 37.2 (Summer 2003): 297-344. InfoTrac Onefile. University of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA. 12 Dec. 2004 <<http://0-infotrac.galegroup.com.usflib.lib.usfca.edu/>>.

Light, James F. "The Religion of Death in *A Farewell to Arms*," in The Merrill Studies in "A Farewell to Arms" Ed. John Graham. Charles E. Merrill Publishing Company, 1971, 39-45. Literature Resource Center. University of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA. 5 Dec. 2003 <http://0-galenet.galegroup.com.usflib.lib.usfca.edu>.

13. Article from an online encyclopedia

"Einstein, Albert." Encyclopaedia Britannica Online. 1999. Encyclopedia Britannica. University of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA. 27 April 2005 <<http://0-www.search.eb.com.ignacio.usfca.edu/>>.

14. Essays in the *Opposing Viewpoints* database

A full-text viewpoint essay found in *Opposing Viewpoints* is actually an article from reference book that was originally published in a journal or magazine. The source citation given for the essay in the database is NOT in correct MLA format, however, the information you need to cite correctly is provided.

You will need to include information about the reference book, the journal/magazine, and the database.

Example

Marks, Alexandra. "An Act of Self-Defense." Battered Women. Ed. Lane Volpe. Greehaven, 2004. Rpt. of "One Woman's Story About Domestic Abuse and Justice." Christian Science

Monitor. 27 Jan. 2003: 4. Oposing Viewpoints Resource Center. 2004. Gale Group. 24 Feb. 2005 <<http://0-galenet.galegroup.com.ignacio.usfca.edu:80/servlet/OVRC>>

Rpt. of stands for reprint of.

15. Email

General format

The name of the writer. "Title of the message" taken from the subject line and enclosed in quotation marks. **Email to** [person's name]. Date of the message.

Examples

Boyle, Anthony T. "Re: Utopia." Email to John Foster. 20 Aug. 2003.

E-mail to you

Jones, Andrew. "Re: Modernist Literature." E-mail to the author. 12 Dec. 2000.

Sources consulted:

MLA Official Page http://www.mla.org/style_faq4

Bedford St. Martin's Citation Styles Online! <http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/online/cite5.html>

Purdue University's OWL http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_mla.html

Community College of Allegheny County Library <http://www.ccac.edu/library/citations/mlaEx07.html>