



# Citing Internet Resources

The Internet provides many new and exciting resources for students engaged in research. Data is made available by, among others: educational institutions, government organizations, special interest groups, commercial concerns, and private individuals. Smith Library Center also subscribes to many database services that provide access to the electronic versions of journals, newspapers, and other print resources. The quality of online information ranges from excellent and authoritative to highly questionable. The nature of the data can be ephemeral. An Internet site that you select as a resource on one visit may be modified or have moved by the time that you complete your paper. Therefore, it is extremely important, as with any form of data you gather for a research paper, to properly document electronic resources in your bibliography. Choose one documentation style – as specified by your professor or your personal preference – and use it consistently in your bibliography.

## BASIC WEB CITATION

To get you started, here are examples of basic MLA and APA citation formats. Citations for digital resources follow the principles of conventional citations but with some unique elements. As with a conventional citation, not all documents require every field to be filled. Include the elements that are available for the source that you are citing. Note that citations are double-spaced.

### *MLA format*

#### *Basic form*

Author's last name, first name. "Title of part." Title of Source. Publication information for print version, if applicable. Title of the site. Date of posting or most recent update. Pagination or paragraphs, if available. Name of organization sponsoring the site. Date you accessed the site. <Site URL>.

#### *Example: document from an organization's site*

Hunter, Lori M. "Population Size: Trends and Environmental Implications." The Environmental Implications of Population Dynamics. 2001. RAND. 27 July 2001. <<http://www.rand.org/publications/MR/MR1191>>.

#### *Example: professional / personal site*

Professor Stephen Hawking's Website. 27 July 2001. <<http://www.hawking.org.uk/home/hindex.html>>.

### *APA format*

#### *Basic form*

Author's last name, initials. (Date of publication or last revision, or n.d. if no date). Title. *Title of Source*. Date you accessed the site, site name or sponsor. Retrieved date, from: <URL>

#### *Example: document from an organization's site*

Hunter, L. M. (2001). Population size: trends and environmental implications. *The Environmental implications of population dynamics* (chap. 2). Retrieved July 27, 2001, from the RAND Web site: <http://www.rand.org/publications/MR/MR1191>

#### *Example: professional/personal site*

*Professor Stephen Hawking's Website*. (n.d.). Retrieved July 27, 2001, from <http://www.hawking.org.uk/home/hindex.html>

## ONLINE DATABASE CITATION

The library offers access to the full text of periodical articles through many of its subscription database services. When you retrieve the text of an article from one of these services, you must provide different documentation in your bibliography than if you were to use the microfilm or print magazine, journal, or newspaper.

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### *MLA format*

#### *Basic form*

Author's last name, first name. "Article title." Journal title Volume number.Issue number (Date): pagination. Database name. Name of database service. Library where accessed. Date of access.

#### *Example*

Stikeman, Alexandra. "New Markets for Biotech." Technology Review 104.6 (July/August 2001): 29-30. Academic Search Premier. EBSCOhost. A. Frank Smith, Jr. Library Center. 6 August 2001.

### *APA format*

#### *Basic form*

Author. (Year). Article title. *Journal title*, *Volume number*(issue), pagination. Retrieved date, from Database name database.

#### *Example*

Stikeman, A. (2001). New markets for biotech. *Technology Review*, 104(6), 29-30. Retrieved August 6, 2001, from Academic Search Premier database.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

You may also find valuable information through Usenet groups, ftp sites, electronic mailing lists, telnet sites, gopher sites, and more. For the most **complete** and **detailed** information about citing electronic resources, try one of the titles listed here. Copies of these citation guides are available in the Reference section on the first floor of the library or from the Reserve collection at the Circulation desk.

Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for writers of research papers*. 5th edition. Reference and Reserve 808.02 G35mh 1999

*Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*. 5th edition. Reference and Reserve 808.066 P96 2001

Walker, Janice R. *The Columbia guide to online style*. Reference 808.027 W152c

Visit one of these sites for more examples using the different citation styles.

APAStyle.org

<http://www.apastyle.org/elecsource.html>

Columbia guide to online style

[http://www.columbia.edu/cu/cup/cgos/idx\\_basic.html](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/cup/cgos/idx_basic.html)

MLA Style

<http://www.mla.org> (Select *Frequently Asked Questions about MLA Style* then select *How do I document sources from the World Wide Web in my works-cited list?*)

Purdue University Online Writing Lab (OWL)

[http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r\\_mla.html](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_mla.html)  
[http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r\\_ap.html](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_ap.html)