

MLA - book

MLA (Modern Language Association) is an author-page number style, based on listing core elements of your source in a particular order. It has the flexibility to reference a wide variety of source materials. A summary of this approach is available at [Purdue OWL](#), and a practice template is available at [style.mla.org \(practice template \)](#).

Works Cited

Add a 'Works Cited' list at the end of your essay, citing all sources used in the body of your writing.

For a numbered edition, place the abbreviation after the book title, eg '2nd ed.' This part should not be italicised. Use 'Rev. ed.' for revised editions and 'Abr. ed.' for abridged editions.

Note: reference the source as an [e-book](#) if it was accessed online.

Note: Publisher's names appear in full as they appear on the title or copyright pages e.g., Harper Collins Publishers. An exception to this is:

Omit abbreviations like Co., Inc., Corp., and Ltd.

Only use U and P when it is a university press e.g., Cambridge University Press would become Cambridge UP.

One author

Format (Electronic)

Author. *Title of Book* . Edition, Publisher, year of publication. *Name of Database* , doi:Digital Object Identifier.

Author. *Title of Book* . Edition, Publisher, year of publication. *Name of Database* , [dx.doi.org/10.xxxxxxx](#).

Author. *Title of Book* . Edition, Publisher, year of publication. *Name of Database* , URL.

Format (Print)

Author. *Title of Book* . Edition, Publisher, year of publication.

Examples

Whitworth, Michael H. *Reading Modernist Poetry* . Wiley-Blackwell, 2010. *Wiley Online Library* , dx.doi.org/10.1002/9781444320756.

Arkininstall, Christine. *Spanish Female Writers and the Freethinking Press, 1879-1926* . University of Toronto Press, 2014. *JSTOR* , jstor.org/stable/10.3138/j.ctt6wrg3p.

Whitman, Walt. *Leaves of Grass* . Vol. 20, Thayer and Eldridge, 1860. *Project Gutenberg Literary Archive Foundation* , gutenberg.org/ebooks/1322.

Leggott, Michele J. *Heartland* . Auckland UP, 2014.

Rietbergen, Peter. *Europe: A Cultural History*. 3rd rev. and augmented ed., Routledge, 2014.

Two authors

Reverse the order of the first author's name. Place a comma preceding an 'and' before the second author's name.

Format (Electronic)

Author One, and Author Two. *Title of Book* . Edition, Publisher, year of publication. doi:Digital Object Identifier

Author One, and Author Two. *Title of Book* . Edition, Publisher, year of publication. *Name of Database* , URL.

Author One, and Author Two. *Title of Book* . Edition, Publisher, year of publication. *Name of Database* , dx.doi.org/10.xxxxxxx.

Format (Print)

Author One, and Author Two. *Title of Book* . Edition, Publisher, year of publication.

Examples

Cooper, Cary L., and Philip Dewe. *Stress: A Brief History*. Blackwell, 2004. doi:10.1002/9780470774755.

Myles, Robert, and Caroline Blyth. *Sexuality, Ideology and the Bible: Antipodean Engagements* . Sheffield Phoenix P, 2015.

Peat, John, and Justin Lockyer. *Geography on the Edge: Geography for NCEA Level One* . 2nd rev. ed., Nelson Cengage Learning, 2010.

Three or more authors

Include only the first author's name, followed by 'et al.'

Format (Electronic)

Author One, et al. *Title of Book* . Edition, Publisher, year of publication. *Name of Database* , doi:Digital Object Identifier.

Author One, et al. *Title of Book* . Edition, Publisher, year of publication. *Name of Database* , dx.doi.org/10.xxxxxxx.

Author One, et al. *Title of Book* . Edition, Publisher, year of publication. *Name of Database* , URL.

Format (Print)

Author One, et al. *Title of Book* . Edition, Publisher, year of publication.

Example

Nigh, Kelli, et al. *Teaching from the Thinking Heart: Practice of Holistic Education* , 2014. <https://www.ebscohost.com/ebooks>.

Brozo, William G., et al. *Wham!: Teaching with Graphic Novels Across the Curriculum* . Teachers College P, 2014.

Unknown or corporate author

Start with the name of the organisation (if known), including introductory articles, eg 'A', 'The', or 'An' (ignore articles when ordering the Works Cited list alphabetically). Avoid duplicate information - if the organisation is both the author and publisher, omit the name of the organisation at the beginning and just start with the title.

Format (Electronic)

Name of Organisation. *Title of Book* . Edition, Publisher, year of publication. *Name of Database* , doi:Digital Object Identifier.

Name of Organisation. *Title of Book* . Edition, Publisher, year of publication. *Name of Database* , dx.doi.org/10.xxxxxxx.

Name of Organisation. *Title of Book* . Edition, Publisher, year of publication. *Name of Database* , URL.

Title of Book . Edition, Name of Organisation, year of publication. *Name of Database* , doi:Digital Object Identifier.

Title of Book . Edition, Name of Organisation, year of publication. *Name of Database* , dx.doi.org/10.xxxxxxx.

Title of Book . Edition, Name of Organisation, year of publication. *Name of Database* , URL.

Format (Print)

Name of Organisation. *Title of Book* . Edition, Publisher, year of publication.

Title of Book . Edition, Name of Organisation, year of publication.

Examples

World Bank Group. *Doing Business 2016: Measuring Regulatory Quality and Efficiency*. 13th ed., World Bank, 2016. doi:10.1596/978-1-4648-0667-4

Global Plan for Insecticide Resistance Management in Malaria Vectors . World Health Organization, 2012. www.who.int/malaria/publications/atoz/gpirm/en/.

Using the Dictionary of New Zealand Biography: A Guide for Teachers . Learning Media, New Zealand Ministry of Education, 1991.

MLA Handbook , 8th ed., The Modern Language Association of America, 2016.

Edited book

Place the editor's name where the author would normally appear, followed by 'editor' or 'editors'. Note: this should not be confused with referencing a chapter/section within an edited book.

Format (Electronic)

Editor, editor. *Title of Book* . Edition, Publisher, year of publication. *Name of Database* , doi:Digital Object Identifier.

Editor, editor. *Title of Book* . Edition, Publisher, year of publication. *Name of Database* , dx.doi.org/10.xxxxxxx.

Editor, editor. *Title of Book* . Edition, Publisher, year of publication. *Name of Database* , URL.

Format (Print)

Editor, editor. *Title of Book* . Edition, Publisher, year of publication.

Examples

Adler, Gerhard and R. F. C. Hull., editors. *Collected Works of C.G. Jung*. Princeton UP, 2014 . www.jstor.org/

Glavovic, Bruce C., et al., editors. *Climate Change and the Coast: Building Resilient Communities* . CRC Press, 2015.

Chapter/section

Use this format to reference a work in an anthology or collection where chapters or sections are written by different authors. If there is no author, e.g., a reference work, start with the chapter title. Include the page numbers which span the work.

Format (Electronic)

Author. "Title of Chapter." *Title of Book* , edited by Editor, edition, Publisher, year of publication, pp. page numbers. *Name of Database* , doi:Digital Object Identifier.

Author. "Title of Chapter." *Title of Book* , edited by Editor, edition, Publisher, year of publication, pp. page numbers. *Name of Database* , dx.doi.org/10.xxxxxxx.

Author. "Title of Chapter." *Title of Book* , edited by Editor, edition, Publisher, year of publication, pp. page numbers. *Name of Database* , URL.

Format (Print)

Author. "Title of Chapter." *Title of Book* , edited by Editor, edition, Publisher, year of publication, pp. page numbers.

Examples

Takao, Yasuo. "Women in Grassroots Politics: From Voters to Politicians." *Reinventing Japan: From Merchant Nation to Civic Nation*, edited by Yasuo Takao. Palgrave Macmillan, 2007, *SpringerLink* , doi: 10.1057/9780230609310_8.

Ovid. "Orpheus and Eurydice." *Metamorphoses, Volume II: Books 9-15*. Translated by Frank Justus Miller. Revised by G. P. Goold. Loeb Classical Library 43. Harvard University Press, 1916. *Loeb Classical Library* , https://www-loebclassics-com.ezproxy.auckland.ac.nz/view/ovid-metamorphoses/1916/pb_LCL043.65.xml

Kincaid, Jamaica. "Girl." *The Vintage Book of Contemporary American Short Stories*, edited by Tobias Wolff, Vintage, 1994, pp. 306-307.

Graw, Isabelle. "The Value of Liveliness: Painting as an Index of Agency in the New Economy." *Painting Beyond Itself: The Medium in the Post-Medium Condition*, edited by Isabelle Graw and Ewa Lajer-Burcharth, Sternberg Press, 2016, pp. 79-101.

Andrews, Julia F., and Kuiyi Shen. "The Modern Woodcut Movement." *A Century in Crisis: Modernity and Tradition in the Art of Twentieth-Century China*, edited by Julia F. Andrews et al., Guggenheim Museum, 1998, pp. 213-227.

"Amnesia." *Illustrated Dictionary of Medical and Health Sciences*. 2nd ed., Crosby-Williams, 2009, p. 24.

[An example 'Works Cited' list](#)

See also: [translated work](#), [multiple works by the same author](#), [one source cited in another](#), [similar information from multiple works](#), [abbreviations](#).

In-text citation

Cite the source when paraphrasing another person's ideas or words. Either add parenthesised author and page number following the cited material, or if you name the author in the structure of your text, just add the page number at the end of your sentence. When citing material from the same author in the same paragraph, only the page number is needed, as long as the work cannot be confused with other citations.

One author

- ... it was the case as shown in a recent study (Smith 125). His other finding was that pass rates increased (128).
- In a recent study, Smith showed that this was indeed the case (125). His other finding was that pass rates increased (128).

Two authors

- A recent study showed that this process is cyclic (Peat and Lockyer 38). Another finding was that there was a period of stability (40).
- In a recent study, Peat and Lockyer showed that this process is cyclic (38). Another finding was that there was a period of stability (40).

Three or more authors

When the work has three or more authors, either cite all names as they appear on the title page, or only the first author, followed by et al.

- A recent study showed that testosterone levels of male rats declined (Smith et al. 78). Another finding was that the rats became less aggressive (92).
- In a recent study, Smith et al. showed that testosterone levels of male rats declined (78). Another finding was that the rats became less aggressive (92).

Unknown or corporate author

Use the italicised book title or the name of the organisation. You may shorten the title if it appears within parentheses, otherwise, if it is mentioned in the structure of your sentence, write the title out in full.

- The NCER suggested NZ could develop international capabilities in students and become a world-leader in the field (*Using the Dictionary* 21).
- In *Using the Dictionary of New Zealand Biography* , the NCER suggested NZ could develop international capabilities in students and become a world-leader in the field (21).

Multiple volumes/editions

If you are citing a work from multiple volumes, include the volume number that you are citing. If you are citing the entire volume, use vol. without page numbers.

- ... it was the case as shown in a recent study (Smith 2: 1203).
- Smith showed this to be the case in a recent study (2: 1203).
- Breakthroughs in artificial intelligence were possible due to the Bronberg Algorithm (Brown, vol. 2).

If the work has multiple editions, the reader might have a copy of a different edition. In this case, more explicit numbering will guide the reader to the correct section. This might take the form of sections (sec.), chapter (ch.), part (pt.) or paragraph (par.). See also [abbreviations](#).

- ... it was the case in a recent study (Brown 79; par. 5).
- ... it was the case in Smith's recent study (121; pars. 18-19).
- ... it was the case in his latest novel (149; Kirkbride ch. 9).
- ... it was the case in Mason's 1998 report (3; sec. 4).

[An example document](#)

See also: [more on paraphrasing ...](#)

Quoting

Direct quotes require quotation marks and page numbers.

- Research suggests that "students perform better when rested" (Smith 56).
- Smith observed that "students perform better when rested" (56).

See also: [more on quoting, including long quotes ...](#)

This material is based on:

[*MLA Handbook*](#). 8th ed. Modern Language Association of America, 2016.

"MLA Works Cited: Books." *Purdue Online Writing Lab*. Purdue University, 2016. owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/06.

For further information please consult the manual directly.