CITATION GUIDE

APA Style

INTRODUCTION

American Psychological Association (APA) style is most commonly used to cite sources within the social and behavioral sciences. When using APA format, briefly identify sources you used in the text of your paper, and then provide complete reference data to the sources in a list of “References” at the end of the paper.

For additional information and examples, consult the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th ed. (available at the Reference Desk on Level 3 of the Main Library), via the APA website <http://www.apastyle.org>, or Ask a Librarian.

IN-TEXT CITATIONS

Generally, an in-text citation includes the author’s last name, date of publication, and page number of the information used.

Short Quotations
If you are directly quoting from a work, include the author, year of publication, and the page number for the reference. For example:

According to Jones (1998), “Students often had difficulty using APA style” (p. 199). OR
Jones (1998) found “students often had difficulty using APA style” (p. 199). OR
She stated, “Students often had difficulty using APA style,” but she did not offer an explanation as to why (Jones, 1998, p. 199).

Long Quotations
Place long direct quotations in a block. Omit quotation marks. For example:

Jones’s (1998) study found the following:

Students often had difficulty using APA style, especially when it was their first time citing sources. This difficulty could be attributed to the fact that many students failed to purchase a style manual or to ask their teacher for help. (p. 199)

Summary or Paraphrase
If you are summarizing or paraphrasing an idea from another work, make reference to the author and year of publication in your in-text reference. It is optional to include the page number. For example:

According to Jones (1998), APA style is a difficult citation format for first-time learners. OR
APA style is a difficult citation format for first-time learners (Jones, 1998, p. 199).

REFERENCES

The list of “References” provides the information necessary for a reader to locate and retrieve each source you used in the research and preparation of your paper.

BOOKS (APA 7.02)

Last, F. M. (Year Published). Title of book. Location: Publisher.

[A Book by One Author]

[A Book by Two Authors]

[A Book by Three to Seven Authors]

[An Edited Book]

[An Book Chapter]

[An eBook]

Note: Capitalize only the first letter of a book title, the first letter of a subtitle, and any proper nouns. Omit Publishers, Co., and Inc. in the name of the publisher, but retain the words Books and Press. Use “n.d.” if no publication date is given.
PERIODICAL ARTICLES (APA 7.01 and 6.31-6.32)
The examples listed below include both print and online periodical articles. When citing an online article with a Digital Object Identifier (DOI), include the DOI at the end of the citation. When DOI is used in the citation, it is not necessary to include URL. In cases when an article does not have a DOI, provide the home page URL of the journal/magazine publisher.

[A Magazine Article]
Last, F. M. (Year, Month Day). Title of article. Title of Magazine, Volume(Issue), Page(s). DOI


[A Scholarly Journal Article]
Last, F. M., & Last, F. M. (Year). Title of article. Title of Journal, Volume(Issue), Pages(s). DOI


Note: Capitalize all major words in magazine or journal titles.

[A Newspaper Article]
Last, F. M. (Year, Month Day). Title of article. Title of Newspaper, Page(s).


Note: Precede page numbers for newspaper articles with “p.” or “pp.” If an article begins on page 81, continues on 83, and runs on to pages 85-87, give all page numbers, e.g., pp. 81, 83, 85-87.

ELECTRONIC SOURCES (APA 6.31 - 6.32)

[Web Page]
Last, F. M. (Date of publication). Title of document. Retrieved from URL


[Online Video]
Last, F. M. (Producer). (Date of broadcast). Title of broadcast [Television broadcast]. City of origin: Studio or distributor.


[A Music Recording]

Songwriter (Copyright year). Title of song [Recorded by artist]. On Title of album [Medium of recording]. Location: Label.

[A Scholarly Journal Article]
Last, F. M., & Last, F. M. (Year). Title of article. Title of Journal, Volume(Issue), Pages(s). DOI


For further assistance, please visit the Information Desk or call 3411-7363 (Main Library), 3411-2714 (CML) or 3411-3170 (SMCL). The HKBU Library’s homepage is <http://library.hkbu.edu.hk/>.