MLA Style Guide to Non-Print Resources
University of Mary Washington Libraries

The following examples illustrate how references to web pages, articles from library databases, and other electronic documents appear in a list of works cited. This guide is not comprehensive; researchers should also consult the *MLA Handbook* (8th edition, 2016).

Footnote or endnote examples are not included in this list. As the *MLA Handbook* points out on page 54, a component of MLA style “is the insertion in your text of a brief [usually parenthetical] reference that indicates the source you consulted. The in-text citation should direct the reader unambiguously to the entry in your works-cited list for the source. . . . A typical in-text citation is composed of the element that comes first in the entry in the works-cited list (usually the author’s name) and a page number.”

Using Paul Tolme’s article at the bottom of page 3 of this guide as an illustration, if your research paper included information from page 74 of his article “Wildlife Forensics,” you would document this source in your text with the citation “(Tolme 74).”

Note that the second and any subsequent lines of each entry are indented. This is called a *hanging indentation* (see page 112 of the *MLA Handbook*).

The following entries are single-spaced to save space (and pages if students want to copy this document). Professors, however, may prefer double-spaced citations, so check with them.

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Web Pages and Sections of Web Pages

A web page citation includes the author of the page (if given), the title (in italics), the publisher / sponsor (if given), the date the page was last modified (if given), the URL (recommended, though omit http:// or https://), and the date the website was accessed (recommended, though optional). According to the MLA Handbook, you can omit the publisher’s name for any website “whose title is essentially the same as the name of its publisher” (page 42). Note punctuation in citations; for example, periods follow authors’ names and commas follow websites’ titles. See also pages 48 and 110 of the MLA Handbook.


The following pairs of citations illustrate how to cite 1) a website and 2) a titled section from that website. Notice that the section titles are enclosed in quotation marks and are not italicized. (Note: The bracketed identifier at the end of each reference below is included just for illustrative purposes and it should not appear in citations.)


University of Mississippi English Department. The Mississippi Writers Page, University of Mississippi, 9 Nov. 2015, mwp.olemiss.edu/index.html. Accessed 13 Dec. 2016. [website]


Magazine and Journal Articles from Web Pages (Surface Web)

From the MLA Handbook: “The title of a periodical (journal, magazine, newspaper) is set in italics, and the title of an article in the periodical goes in quotation marks” (page 27). If the article is published anonymously, begin the citation with the title. For example, see the “Heroes: Lindbergh” citation below. Except for May, June, and July, abbreviate the names of months in citations (see page 95 of the MLA Handbook for a list of abbreviations).

The same rules that distinguish print magazine article citations from citations to journal articles (e.g., journal volume and issue numbers) apply to online articles in these respective publications. For example, see the volume and issue numbers in the Falconer and O’Neill journal citation below.


Magazine and Journal Articles from Limited-Access Databases

Database names are italicized in citations (for example, Humanities International Complete in the journal reference below and Academic Search Complete in the magazine citation). The same rules that distinguish print magazine article citations from citations to journal articles (such as journal volume and issue numbers) apply to online articles in these respective publications. It is recommended that URLs be included in citations, “but if your instructor prefers that you not include them, follow his or her directions” (MLA Handbook, page 48). Also, omit http:// or https:// (page 110).


Journal Articles and Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs)

From the MLA Handbook: “Articles in journals are often assigned DOIs, or digital object identifiers. A DOI will continue to lead to an object online even if the URL changes. . . . When possible, cite a DOI (preceded by doi:) instead of a URL” (page 110). The second citation is to an article available through the Project Muse database (the title of which is italicized). It is recommended that URLs be included in citations, “but if your instructor prefers that you not include them, follow his or her directions” (page 48). Also, omit http:// or https:// (page 110).


Newspaper Articles from Web Pages (Surface Web)

List the name of the newspaper as it appears on the masthead. If the city’s name is not part of the title, the city should be added in square brackets. It is not necessary to include cities of publication for prominent newspapers such as the Christian Science Monitor or the Wall Street Journal. (See the MLA Handbook, page 111.)

Except for May, June, and July, abbreviate the names of months in citations (see page 95 of the MLA Handbook for a list of abbreviations).

It is recommended that URLs be included in citations, “but if your instructor prefers that you not include them, follow his or her directions” (MLA Handbook, page 48). Also, omit http:// or https:// (page 110).


Newspaper Articles from Limited-Access Databases

List the name of the newspaper as it appears on the masthead. If the city’s name is not part of the title, the city should be added in square brackets. It is not necessary to include cities of publication for prominent newspapers such as the Christian Science Monitor or the Wall Street Journal. (See the MLA Handbook, page 111.)

Database names are italicized in citations (for example, Factiva and Newspaper Source Plus in the references below). It is recommended that URLs be included in citations, “but if your instructor prefers that you not include them, follow his or her directions” (MLA Handbook, page 48). Also, omit http:// or https:// (page 110).

Except for May, June, and July, abbreviate the names of months in citations (see page 95 of the MLA Handbook for a list of abbreviations).


Book Reviews from Web Pages (Surface Web)

Book reviews are not well covered in the 8th edition of the MLA Handbook. According to section 5.4.7 of the 7th edition, “If the review is titled but unsigned, begin the entry with the title of the review and alphabetize by that title.” If the review is both untitled and unsigned, begin the citation with Review of “and alphabetize under the title of the work reviewed.”

Except for May, June, and July, abbreviate the names of months in citations (see page 95 of the MLA Handbook, 8th edition, for a list of abbreviations).

It is recommended that URLs be included in citations, “but if your instructor prefers that you not include them, follow his or her directions” (MLA Handbook, 8th edition, page 48).

Signed, titled review in a newspaper:

Signed, untitled review in a journal (includes volume and issue numbers):


Unsigned, untitled review in a magazine (no volume or issue numbers):


Book Reviews from Limited-Access Databases

Database names are italicized in citations (for example, Humanities Full Text and Academic Search Complete in the references below). It is recommended that URLs be included in citations, “but if your instructor prefers that you not include them, follow his or her directions” (MLA Handbook, page 48). Also, omit http:// or https:// (page 110).

Except for May, June, and July, abbreviate the names of months in citations (see page 95 of the MLA Handbook for a list of abbreviations).

Signed, untitled review in a journal (includes volume and issue numbers):


Unsigned, untitled review in a magazine (no volume or issue numbers):


Signed, titled review in a newspaper:

Reprinted Works in Limited-Access Databases

Reprinted works are not well covered in the 8th edition of the MLA Handbook. The following references are based on information in section 5.5.6 of the 7th edition as well as updated facts gathered from the 8th edition. The first two are references to reprinted essays from books. The third is a citation to a reprinted journal article.

Database names are italicized in citations (for example, Gale Literary Sources in the references below). It is recommended that URLs be included in citations, “but if your instructor prefers that you not include them, follow his or her directions” (MLA Handbook, 8th edition, page 48). Also, omit http:// or https:// (page 110).

Except for May, June, and July, abbreviate the names of months in citations (see page 95 of the MLA Handbook, 8th edition, for a list of abbreviations).


Non-Periodical Sections of Limited-Access Databases

Some databases do not contain magazine and journal articles, but rather essays and other material on assorted topics. Database names are italicized in citations (for example, Issues & Controversies in American History in the reference below). It is recommended that URLs be included in citations, “but if your instructor prefers that you not include them, follow his or her directions” (MLA Handbook, page 48). Also, omit http:// or https:// (page 110).

Except for May, June, and July, abbreviate the names of months in citations (see page 95 of the MLA Handbook for a list of abbreviations).


Reference Works (e.g., Encyclopedias)


Works of Art

From the MLA Handbook: “A physical object that you experienced firsthand (not in a reproduction), such as a work of art in a museum or an artifact in an archive, is located in a place, commonly an institution. Give the name of the place and of its city (but omit the city if it is part of the place’s name)” (page 49).

Wood, Grant. American Gothic. 1930, Art Institute of Chicago.


The MLA Handbook also states that “when a source is untitled, provide a generic description of it, neither italicized nor enclosed in quotation marks, in place of a title. Capitalize the first word of the description and any proper nouns in it” (pages 28-29).


Movies and Television Programs

According to the MLA Handbook, films and television programs “are usually produced by many people playing various roles. If your discussion of such a work focuses on the contribution of a particular person—say the performance of an actor or the ideas of the screenwriter—begin the entry with his or her name, followed by a descriptive label” (page 24). In addition, when “documenting a work in film or television, you should generally cite the organization that had the primary overall responsibility for it” (page 41). Note: In the following two sets of references, a movie is cited first, then a television series.

Ford, John, director. *The Grapes of Wrath*. Twentieth Century Fox, 1940.


“If you are writing about a film or television series without focusing on an individual’s contribution, begin with the title. You can include information about the director and other key participants in the position of other contributors” (MLA Handbook, page 24).


Television Programs

According to the MLA Handbook, when citing a television program (or a film), include the contributors “most relevant to your project” (page 38). Also, when citing an episode of a television series, you can include just the year of its release if you are simply documenting the episode. “However, if you are discussing, say, the historical context in which the episode originally aired, you may want to supply the month and day along with the year” (page 43).

Except for May, June, and July, abbreviate the names of months in citations (see page 95 of the MLA Handbook for a list of abbreviations).


The MLA Handbook adds that “if you are exploring features of that episode found on the season’s DVD set, your entry will be about the discs and thus will include the date of their release” (p. 44).

Videos

From the MLA Handbook: “An entry for a video on a Web site includes the date when the video was posted there” (page 44). It is recommended that URLs be included in citations, “but if your instructor prefers that you not include them, follow his or her directions” (page 48). Also, omit http:// or https:// (page 110).


Compact Discs

See the MLA Handbook, pages 28 and 50. The first citation below is to an entire album, while the second is to a song on that album.


Lectures or Addresses


Transcripts

From the MLA Handbook: “If the source in an unexpected type of work, you may identify the type with a descriptive term. For instance, if you studied a radio broadcast by reading its transcript, the term Transcript will indicate that you did not listen to the broadcast” (page 52).


Blogs

**Ebooks**

*Database names are italicized in citations (for example, EBSCOhost eBook Collection in the first two citations below). Note abbreviation for University of Nebraska Press and Cambridge University Press (see page 95 of the MLA Handbook for a list of abbreviations). See also pages 34-35.*


**Interviews**

Popovich, Violet. Personal interview. 7 July 1932.


**Tweets and Emails**

*From the MLA Handbook: “Identify a short untitled message, such as a tweet, by reproducing its full text, without changes, in place of a title. Enclose the text in quotation marks. . . . When you document an email message, use its subject as the title. The subject is enclosed in quotation marks and its capitalization standardized” (page 29).*

Tweet:

@RefDeskOwl. “Good morning, #UMW! Hope you have an excellent #firstdayofschool!” *Twitter*, 29 Aug. 2016, 7:11 a.m., twitter.com/RefDeskOwl/status/770262551724716032.

Email:

Popovich, Violet. “Re: Chicago Cubs Baseball Game and Visit.” Received by Billy Jurges, 6 July 2002.
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Prepared by Jack Bales, jbales@umw.edu
Reference and Humanities Librarian
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