What is referencing?

You are referencing every time you credit the sources you used in your paper. Referencing is a requirement in academic writing and you will be asked to present a list of all the works and authors cited in your paper.

It is essential that when you use other people’s work and ideas, either directly or paraphrased, you have to cite the source in the body of your essay (in-text citation) and in the list of references at the end of the work.

Please note that using people’s ideas in any academic work without crediting is considered a form of academic dishonesty (plagiarism) and treated as fraud, whether intentional or unintentional. When it comes to citing your sources, being clear and consistent will help you to avoid plagiarism.

Presenting someone else’s ideas is important for several reasons:

- By comparing and contrasting ideas, you can build and support your argument;
- Crediting sources helps to avoid plagiarism;
- Applying international standards will facilitate the dissemination of your essay;
- Referencing helps locate the source of your information for researchers.

APA referencing style

The American Psychological Association (APA) referencing style is the most widely used formatting and referencing style in the Social Sciences. This brief guide will present the most recurring citation types with practical examples for both in-text citations and references.

Resources

As a DCU student, you have multiple resources you can use to find, store, manage and present your references. First of all, lecturers of your department and library staff are willing to help you. Additionally, you can contact the Information Service with any question you might have. You can contact us at 01-884 2180 / info.library@dcu.ie (St Patrick’s Campus), or at 01-700 5418 / library@dcu.ie (Glasnevin Campus). You can also get in touch via Facebook or Twitter, or drop-in anytime during library opening hours.

There are many reference management software tools available to organise your references. DCU offers students and staff free access to Refworks, which can be used to import APA style references to generate reference lists. Refworks seminars are held regularly in the library - enquire at the Information Service for more information.

The APA Website has a comprehensive blog (http://blog.apastyle.org/) full of case by case examples and you can also look up the APA manual. We currently hold six copies of the latest edition (6th) available in the Library shelf.
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Common citation types with examples:

Books and book chapters
   Book with a single author
   Book with two authors
   Book with three to five authors
   Book with more than five authors
   Book with no author
   eBook
   Edited book / Anthology
   Chapter in an edited book / Anthology
   Introduction / Preface / Foreword

Periodicals (Print journals, e-Journals, newspapers, magazines, newsletters)
   Print journal article
   e-Journal article
   Newspaper article (Print or online)

Master’s theses and doctoral dissertations

Conferences, symposia and meetings

Website / Document on the Internet
   Blogs, newsgroups and forum entries
   Facebook / Twitter
   Image on the Internet

Personal communication (Interview, email, unpublished lecture)
**Official publication**
- Government agency and organisation publication
- Parliamentary and legal material
- EU publication (Legislation, policy, directives, regulation)
- Reports and press releases

**Dataset and statistics**
- Data from Central Statistics Office

**Audiovisual media**
- Film
- Radio or television programme
- Single episode from a television, radio or internet series
- Music recording
- Online video
- Podcast
- Performance / Play / Drama
In-text citation: general rules

The APA style is an example of Author-Date style; this means that every time an author is cited in your paper, you have to credit the work with an in-text citation. The in-text citation can be either a direct quote or reporting the ideas with your own words.

Quoting

Direct quotation always requires the following information: author, year and page number (or paragraph number) in parenthesis (brackets).

Short quotation (fewer than 40 words)
When the quote is short, incorporate the quote in the text and use double quotation marks.

Frith (2001) applied the “stranger reaction” (p.147) paradigm, comparing behaviour of different groups of children...

When the short quotation is at the end of a sentence, use the following format:

Another useful paradigm in developmental psychology is based on the “stranger reaction” (Frith, 2001, p. 146).

Long quotation (40 or more words)
Specific editing is required for long quotation. The long direct quote has to be presented in a double-spaced, indented block (with no quotation marks).

Other studies provide evidences of positive social responsiveness:

A rich paradigm in developmental psychology is based on the stranger reaction. The children diagnosed with autism between two and five years old were compared with non-autistic children of the same age. In view of the general belief of the inability of autistic children to form attachments, they were surprised to find no differences in the behaviour of both groups with strangers. (Frith, 2001, p. 146)

Quoting poems

For short quotes, where no more than three lines are quoted, do not indent but leave the quotation in the body of the text. Line breaks are marked with a slash (/).
The author uses powerful images in the opening lines: “Turning and turning in the widening gyre / the falcon cannot hear the falconer; / things fall apart;” (Yeats, 1920).

If you decide to introduce a long quote (more than three lines), indent maintaining the original punctuation. No quotation marks are required.

The poem describes places familiar to the Irish reader:

From Dalkey Island
to the North wall,
to the blue distance seizing its perimeter,
its old divisions are deep within it.
And in me also.
And always will be (Boland, 1996).

Quoting plays

For short quotes, apply the same rule as the general direct quote: incorporate the quote in the text and use double quotation marks. Always conclude the quote with the author’s name, year and act, scene and line numbers.

In an outburst of despair, the protagonist famously erupts: “Oh, full of scorpions is my mind, dear wife!” (Shakespeare, 1611, 3.2.38).

For longer quotes, or dialogues, indent the quotation and provide both characters’ names followed by a full stop and conclude with author’s name, year and act, scene and line numbers.

Rural life emerges from the lines of Dancing at Lughnasa:

Maggie. Did he get the hens?
Rose. I don’t think so.
Maggie. Was the door left open?
Rose. They’re all right. They’re safe.
Agnes. We’ll get another white rooster for you (Friel, 1990, 2.63-67).

Quoting the Bible and classical works

When you make a reference to the Bible, or other classical religious works (including ancient Greek and Roman works), provide the book, chapter and verse. The first time the work is cited, identify the version used.
Another advice found in the Bible: “do not envy the wicked, do not desire their company” (Proverbs, 22:24, New International Version).

Paraphrasing

You can decide to summarise a specific section/idea of a previous study. In this case, when you credit the original author, you only have to include the author’s surname and the year in parenthesis (author, year). You don’t have to include the exact page number as you re-wrote the section with your own words.

When the name of the author is used as part of your narrative just add the year after the surname in parenthesis:


When a work is referred to in the body of the paper, include the author’s surname and year in parenthesis:

Positive outcomes emerge utilising the principles of flow (Bryan, 2006).

For two or more sources in the same statement, use semi-colons to divide works:

Several cross-disciplinary studies addressed the issue (Purcell, 2010; Ryan, 2011).

Abbreviations

If a corporate author is cited multiple times in the body of the text, APA style suggests abbreviating to facilitate the reading. The first use in the text should introduce the corporate author: write out the name (British Broadcasting Corporation) followed by the acronym (BBC) that will be used in any subsequent citations. Note that if the corporate author is abbreviated the first time, for consistency it should be abbreviated throughout the paper.

Data available from the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI, 2009) highlights...
Using secondary sources (Secondary referencing)

It is always recommended to use the original source. If primary sources are not available, or if you have not read them, it is essential to correctly cite the secondary source. In the body of your text, name the primary source with year. Add “as cited in” followed by details of the secondary source. You must only include in your reference list the consulted source.

Smith (2003) as cited in Carey and Doyle (2006) has shown...

when notions of risk have become central to child protection practice (Smith, 2003, cited in Carey & Doyle, 2006).

References

The second part of the APA referencing style requires that you keep track of the full bibliographic details of the works you cite in your assignment. All sources should be listed in alphabetical order at the end of the essay in a section called References.

Please note that a reference list differs from a bibliography. A bibliography includes sources not cited in the paper, but acknowledged by the author as influential in the study. A clear and consistent reference list will be sufficient for most of your assignments, but you do need to double-check with your lecturer.

The most common formatting style for a reference list requires double-spacing with hanging indents for the second and subsequent lines of each source.


Which words should be italicised?

The APA guidelines are clear about this. You have to use italics for all titles of books, journals and videos but do not italicise article and chapter titles. Volume numbers have to be italicised but issue numbers do not.

Example of chapter in edited book:

Example of journal article:


**Which words should be capitalised?**

The same set of rules applies for capitalisation. Capitalise all major words in journal titles. For books, chapters, articles and web pages, capitalise only the first word of a title (and subtitle if present). You also need to capitalise the first word after a colon and proper nouns.

Example of capitalisation in journal article:


Example of capitalisation in book:


The following are the most common kind of references, grouped by types:

**Books and book chapters**

**Book with a single author**

In-text citation. Including when the author is a corporate body.
Bolton (2000) introduced the notion of matrix. The research introduced the notion of matrix (Bolton, 2000).

References.

Author, Initial(s). (Year). *Title of work*. Location: Publisher.


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**Book with two authors**

*In-text citation.*

As demonstrated by Bryan and Clegg (2006) in an influential study... An influential study (Bryan & Clegg, 2006) has shown the consequences of...

References.

Author#1, Initial(s), & Author#2, Initial(s). (Year). *Title of work*. Location: Publisher.


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**Book with three to five authors**

*In-text citation.* Cite all names in the first citation and in subsequent citations give only first author followed by “et al.”

Brown, Bull and Pendlebury (1997) agreed that the experiment... The experiment was repeated in another study (Brown, Bull & Pendlebury, 1997).

Subsequent citations of same source:

It is useful to refer again to the research conducted by Brown et al. (1997) as it is demonstrated in the aforementioned study (Brown et al., 1997).
References.

Author#1, Initial(s)., Author#2, Initial(s)., & Author#3, Initial(s). (Year). Title of work. Location: Publisher.


(Book to Contents)

Book with more than five authors

In-text citation. Give the name of the first author followed by “et al.” and year for the first and all other citations.

Stein et al. (2008) stated...
As found in relevant research (Stein et al., 2008).

References. Give the first 7 authors in the order of appearance. When 8 authors or more, include the first 6 names, insert three ellipsis points, and add the last name.

Author#1, Initial(s)., Author#2, Initial(s)., Author#3, Initial(s)., Author#4, Initial(s)., Author#5, Initial(s)., Author#6, Initial(s)., ... Author#9, Initial(s)., (Year). Title of work. Location: Publisher.


(Book to Contents)

Book with no author

This might occur for dictionary entries and encyclopaedias. Move the title to the author position, followed by date of publication. Apply the same rule for any other source without author. If no date is available, add (n.d.).

In-text citation. Capitalise all major words. Italicise the title of books, periodicals, brochures and reports. Use double quotation marks for title of articles, chapters and web pages.
The *Academic Press Dictionary of Science and Technology* (1992) defines acoustics as...

Another definition of acoustics (*Academic Press Dictionary of Science and Technology*, 1992) focuses on...

**References.**

Entry. (Year). In *Title of dictionary*. Location: Publisher.


**eBook**

For an eBook available on database, add the URL, or when available, the digital object identifier (DOI) at the end of the reference.

**In-text citation.** Refer to the in-text citation for single, two, five or more than five authors.

In a precedent study Smith (2008) highlights...

As it was highlighted in a precedent research (Smith, 2008)...

**References.**

Author, Initial(s). (Year). *Title of eBook*. Retrieved from (URL)


**Edited book / Anthology**

**In-text citation.** Refer to the in-text citation for single, two, three or more authors.

Money and Schiffman (1966) stated that...

As defined in a preliminary research (Money & Schiffman, 1966).

**References.** Place editor’s name in author’s position, followed by (Ed.) or (Eds.)
Author, Initial(s)., & Author, Initial(s.). (Eds.). (Year). Title of Book. Location: Publisher.


Chapter in an edited book / Anthology

In-text citation. Refer to the in-text citation for single, two, three or more authors.

Foskett (1997) has considered fieldwork...
The value of fieldwork has been assessed in research (Foskett, 1997).

References. Note that chapter titles are not italicised, but book titles are. Introduce editor(s) with “In” and followed by Editor’s Initials and Editor’s surname.

Author, Initial(s). (Year). Title of the book chapter. In Initial(s). Editor’s surname (Ed.), Title of Book (pp. xx-xx). Location: Publisher.


Introduction / Preface / Foreword

In-text citation. Refer to the in-text citation for single, two, five or more than five authors.

Hakel (2001) highlighted the importance of performance in college...
The value of performance in college has been assessed in research (Hakel, 2001).

References.

Author, Initial(s). (Year). Introduction/Preface/Foreword. In Initial(s). Editor's surname (Ed.), Title of Book (pp. xx-xx). Location: Publisher.

Periodicals (Print journals, e-Journals, newspapers, magazines, newsletters)

Print journal article

*In-text citation.*

Murphy and Shuttleworth (1997) examine the effects of... Strong correlations have emerged in the study (Murphy & Shuttleworth, 1997)

*References.* Give the first seven authors in the order of appearance. If there are eight authors or more, include the first six names, insert three ellipsis points and add the last name.

Author#1, Initial(s)., & Author#2, Initial(s). (Year). Title of article. Title of Journal, Volume number(Issue number), Pages.


E-journal article

*In-text citation.*

Based on previous findings (Dahl-Michelsen & Solbraekke, 2014)... Dahl-Michelsen and Solbraekke (2014) argue that...

*References.* When available, always include digital object identifier (DOI). If the article is freely available, include the full URL. If the journal is only available via database, give the URL homepage of the database.
How to find a DOI? The DOI is typically located on the first page of the electronic journal article or it can be found on the database landing page for the article. It is a unique alphanumeric string assigned by a registration agency to identify content and provide a persistent link to the resource.

Author#1, Initial(s)., & Author#2, Initial(s). (Year). Title of article. *Title of Journal*, Volume number(Issue number), Pages. doi:xxx/xxxxx.xxxx.xxx

Author#1, Initial(s)., & Author#2, Initial(s). (Year). Title of article. *Title of Journal*, Volume number(Issue number), Pages. Retrieved from http://database


Newspaper article (Print or online)

*In-text citation.*

Finley (2014) analyses price fluctuation of equity holdings. Equity holdings can influence price fluctuation (Finley, 2014).

*References.* For article retrieved online, give full URL if available; alternatively give the home page if the article is only available by search.


Master’s Theses and Doctoral Dissertations

*In-text citation.*

Meehan (2007) investigates how poets are influenced by local communities. Another approach (Meehan, 2007) looks at the relationship between...

*References.* For a DCU doctoral dissertation or master’s thesis:


For a thesis found on a database / institutional repository (i.e. Doras, DCU Online Research Access Services).


**Conferences, symposia and meetings**

*In-text citation.*

Noak (2009) argues that school health education state policy... Another approach (Noak, 2009) suggests that state policy...

*References.* In dealing with proceedings, the general distinction is whether the outcome is formally published or not. Sometimes the outcome of a conference can be published as a standalone book. In this case the reference format will be the book or chapter of a book.

Author, Initial(s). (Year). Title of the contribution. *Title of the conference/meeting* (pp.xx-xx). Location: Publisher.


If the proceedings are published periodically, use the journal article referencing format.

Author#1, Initial(s), & Author#2, Initial(s). (Year). Title of the contribution. *Proceedings of the Name of the Institution*, Volume, Pages xx-xx.


For an unpublished paper presentation or poster session:

Author, Initial(s). (Year, Month Day). *Title of the contribution.* Paper presented at the Name of the Conference, Location of the Conference.

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**Website / Document on the Internet**

According to the APA style manual, if you generally refer to an entire website, and not a single page/document, it is sufficient to include the URL in the text. No references needed. [See APA style blog]

*In-text citation.*

The DCU Library website has information about its research and information services ([http://www4.dcu.ie/library/index.shtml](http://www4.dcu.ie/library/index.shtml))

If you mention a specific document/page of the website (authored or not), you need to include the source in the reference list.

*In-text citation.*


**References.**

Author, Initial(s). (Date of publication when available; n.d. if not available). Title of article. *Title of website*. Retrieved from http://xxxx.xxx


Sometimes it can be difficult to identify the person responsible for the authorship of an entry. If no information is provided, just use the title of the website as corporate author.
In-text citation.

Hardness in the migrant camp near Calais is described in detail by the BBC (2016). A news report (BBC, 2016) addresses the crisis of Syrian refugees camping in Calais.

References.

Title of Website. (Date of publication when available; n.d. if not available). Title of article. Retrieved from http://xxxx.xxxx


Blogs, newsgroups and forum entries

For material that is subject to frequent change (i.e. blogs and personal pages, organisations’ websites, online dictionaries), add the retrieved date. If the author’s name is not available, provide the screen name. Blog entry titles are not italicised.

In-text citation.

Lupton (2015) argues that...
A common approach to protecting personal digital data (Lupton, 2015)

References.

Author, Initial(s). (Year, Month Day). Title of the entry. Title of the website/blog.

Facebook / Twitter

Include the author’s name as presented in the account and the full length tweet. Abbreviate the Facebook post if too long. Include [Twitter post] or [Facebook update] after the title.

In-text citation.

The Irish Food Board (2016) announced the production of extended market reports...
Extended market reports were recently announced (Irish Food Board, 2016).

References.

Author Screen Name. (Year, Month Day). Full post or truncated version if too long. [Facebook update/Twitter post]. Retrieved from http://xxxx.xxx

Irish Food Board. (2016, January 16). In 2016 we will produce sector and market reports for Chilled, Frozen, Value Added Meals & Gluten Free Bakery #BBSmallBiz. [Twitter post]. Retrieved from https://twitter.com/Bordbia/status/689400395282558976

Image on the Internet

If you intend to reproduce an image found online (chart, graph, picture, photograph, infographic, illustration, table, etc.) in your text, first you need to clarify the copyright status of the image. Some websites such as Flickr Commons (https://www.flickr.com/commons) or Pixabay (https://pixabay.com) offer a bank of images available as public domain. Other images are available to be freely used (Attribution License) with the only condition to credit the author. See Creative Commons webpage (http://creativecommons.org) for details.

The APA referencing style guide advises to label the images as numbered figures (i.e. Figure 1, Figure 2 etc.) and add a caption with title, copyright statement and a description of the image.

In-text citation. For images republished online, add both original date and date of online publication. If neither is available add “n.d.”
In the image presented (Glucksman Library, 1986/2010) it is depicted...

Caption.

Figure 1. Unidentified pianist and clarinettist (Glucksman Library, 1986/2010)

References.

Author, Initial(s). (Year). *Title of the image* [image] (Year, Month Day). Retrieved Month Day, Year, from http://xxx.xxxx


https://www.flickr.com/photos/ul_digital_library/9269252308/in/albu
m-72157634603228191/

Note: If author is not available, move the title to the author position, followed by date of publication or n.d. if date unknown or not available.

References.

*Title of the image* [image] (Year, Month Day). Retrieved Month Day, Year, from

http://xxxx.xxxx

Personal communication (Interview, email, unpublished lecture)

APA style suggests to prioritise published sources over personal communications. If you decide to use this type of sources, you don’t need to provide a reference list entry as no recoverable data is publicly available. Despite what the APA manual says, if agreed with the lecturer, include the entry in the references. Either way, in the body of the text, always include “personal communication”.

In-text citation.

O’Sullivan (personal communication, September, 4, 2015) stated that...

References.

Name of the person interviewed, initials. (Year, Month, Day). Personal interview.


Official publication

When you use any official document published by Government, a government department, national or international organisation, and no specific author is mentioned, the organisation should be given as corporate author.

Government agency and organisation publication

In-text citation.

The Department of Education and Skills (2015) reported that...

As shown in the report (Department of Education and Skills, 2015).

References. If the material is retrieved online, add Retrieved from http://xxx.xxx
Corporate Author. (Year). *Title* (Series or reference number). Retrieved from http://www.xxx.xxx


**References.** If the material is available in print, add Place of publication and Publisher.

Corporate Author. (Year). *Title* (Series or reference number). Place: Publisher.


**Parliamentary and legal material**

*In-text citation.*

Legislation (Social Welfare Act, 2010) addressing the issue...

**References.**

Title, source or section number if available, (Year). Retrieved from http://xxxx

EU publication (Legislation, policy, directive, regulation)

The European Union publishes primary legislation and secondary legislation, such as directives and regulations. In references, add legislation type and number in brackets after the title (i.e. Regulation 1288/2013).

In-text citation.

A transnational partnership regulated the issue with the Union programme for education, training, youth and sport (2013).

A recent transnational regulation addressed the issue (Union programme for education, training, youth and sport, 2013).

References.

European Union, Name of the EU agency. (Year). Title of publication. (Legislation type i.e. Regulation/Policy/Directive and Number of Legislation).

Retrieved from http://xxxx.xxxx


Reports and press releases

In-text citation.

This study (Byrne et al., 2006) highlights that...
Byrne et al. (2006) encourage a better understanding...

References. If the material is available in print, add Place of Publication and Publisher.


When the organisation is the corporate author, use the following template for a print report:

Corporate author. (Year). *Title of report* (Report No. xxx). Location: Publisher


For reports retrieved online, with identified author(s):


For report retrieved online authored by a corporate body:


**Dataset and statistics**

*In-text citation.*

The Higher Education Authority (2006) provides the number of the full-time student population by gender and age.

A comprehensive research grouped the full-time student by gender and age (Higher Education Authority, 2006).

**References.** Name of the dataset is italicised.

Corporate author (or author(s) of the report in the format Author, Initial(s). if available). (Year). *Title of dataset.* Retrieved from (name of database when available) URL


**Data from Central Statistics Office**

*In-text citation.*

According to the Central Statistics Office (2011), the level of education attainment...
This report (Central Statistics Office, 2011) presents the level of education attainment...
References.


Audiovisual media

This category includes films, radio or television programmes and music recordings. Information needed for the citation can be found in the opening and closing credits of the film or programme. For additional information, the APA blog recommends to use the IMBD website (www.imbd.com).

Film

Note that primary contributors such as producer and director are listed in the author’s position and followed by their role in parenthesis (Producer) and (Director). For films, director is given as in-text citation but in references first author will be the producer.

*In-text citation*. Use the director’s surname and year when you cite a film in the body of your text, but use the producer’s surname as main author in the references.

The film (Jordan, 1996) opens with...

References.

Producer, initial(s). (Producer), & Director, initial(s). (Director). (Year). *Title of film*. Country of origin: Studio.

Radio or television programme

In-text citation.

The topic was introduced in the national radio (Donnelly, 2014)...

References.

Author, Initial(s) (Producer) & Author, Initial(s) (Presenter). (Date of Broadcast). Programme title [Program Type]. Location: Network or Studio.


Single episode from a television, radio or internet series.

For an episode from a television or radio series, use the book chapter format. Give script writer and director in the author position and producer in the editor position. Provide URL if available online (web series or episode retrieved online).

In-text citation.

The author's life is the subject of a television series episode (Yentob, 2008)...

References.

Writer, Initial(s). (Writer) & Director, Initial(s). (Director). (Year). Title of the episode [Television series episode]. In Initial(s). Producer's surname (Producer), Title of the programme (Series number). Place: Broadcaster.

**Music recording**

*In-text citation.*

Example of traditional African songs played to children (Kidjo, 2003)...

**References.**

Writer, Initial(s). (Year). Title of song. [Recorded by Artist, if different from writer]. On *Title of album* [CD, record, cassette, MP3, etc.] Location: Label.


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**Online video**

When available, include title and URL in references. If the author’s name is not available, provide the screen name.

*In-text citation.*

Other video-artists were inspired by the subject (Sekine, 2015)...

**References.**

Author, Initial(s). [or Screen name] (Year, Month Day of publication). *Title of video* [Video file]. Retrieved from http://xxxx.xxxx


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**Podcast**

*In-text citation.*
The perspective of local historians of the battle of Clontarf (Lennon, 2014)...

References.


Performance / Play / Drama

In-text citation. See Direct quote from a play page if you intend to use the exact words of the play. Use director’s name when referring to the performance in the body of text.

The performance (Comyn, 2015) celebrates the 25th anniversary of the play.

References.

Director, Initial(s) (Director). (Year, Month Day). Title of the performance. By Author of the Play. Place: Name of the Theatre.