APA Style 7th Edition: Citing and Creating Reference Lists

The 7th edition of American Psychological Association (APA) citation and reference style is fully defined in the *Publication* manual of the American Psychological Association: The official guide to APA style (7th ed., 2020), mainly in chapters 8, 9, and 10. In cases where this summary conflicts with the official guide, use the official guide. All section and page references are to this book. In this guide "section" is abbreviated with the symbol "§" (this abbreviation is APA style for legal references)

American Psychological Association (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). American Psychological Association.

Copies are available at the PLACEHOLDER FOR TEXT NAME OF Library (PERMANENT LINK TEXT PLACEHOLDER) at the PLACEHOLDER TEXT FOR LOCATION (call number: PLACEHOLDER).

In text citations

Only the most common situations are covered here. It is strongly recommended that you read the full details in chapter 8 of the publication manual. Outside this section, in-text references are not in APA style.

In general all works cited in the body of the paper, tables, appendices, etc. must be in in the reference list.

In-text APA style citation include author and date. The date in the in-text citation includes only the year, even if the reference list has more information.

Citations take two forms: parenthetical and narrative. According to the APA (2020), narrative citations have the information incorporated into the paper's text. For parenthetical citation, the information is included in parenthesis (APA, 2020).

If citing a specific portion of the text, include the parts in the in-text citation (APA, 2020, section 8.3).

For direct quotations of less that 40 words "incorporate it into the text and enclose it within double quotation marks." (APA, 2020, section 8.13)

Table 1: Basic In-text Citation (adapted from APA, 2020 Table 8.1)

Author Type	Parenthetical	Narrative
One author	(Garcia, 2020)	Garcia (2020)
Two authors	(Smith & Jones, 2007)	Smith and Jones (2007)
Three or more authors	(Liu et. al., 2012)	Liu et. al. (2012)
Group author with abbreviation		
1st citation (if abbreviation has not yet been defined)	(Canadian Space Agency [CSA], 1990)	Canadian Space Agency (CSA, 1990)
Subsequent citation	(CSA, 1990)	CSA (1990)
Group author without abbreviation	(McGill University, 2020)	McGill University (2020)

General notes on reference list components

For dealing with missing information, see Table 9.1. Creators, §9.7-9.12 (authors, editors, photographers, etc.)

- To identify special roles (editor, photographer, etc), see §9.10.
- List in the order they are credited in the reference source. (More than twenty authors, see §9.8.)

- Family name (surname), followed by initials for other names
- Write organization name in full ("National Aeronautics and Space Administration" **not** just "NASA")

Dates, §9.13-9.17

- For most sources, give the year in brackets, eg. (2015).
- For newspapers, blog posts, streaming video, etc., give the date as (year, month) or (year, month day), eg. (1867, July 1)
- If the date is unclear, use [ca. year] or [ca. year, month day].
- If there is no date, use (n.d.).

Titles, §9.18-9.22

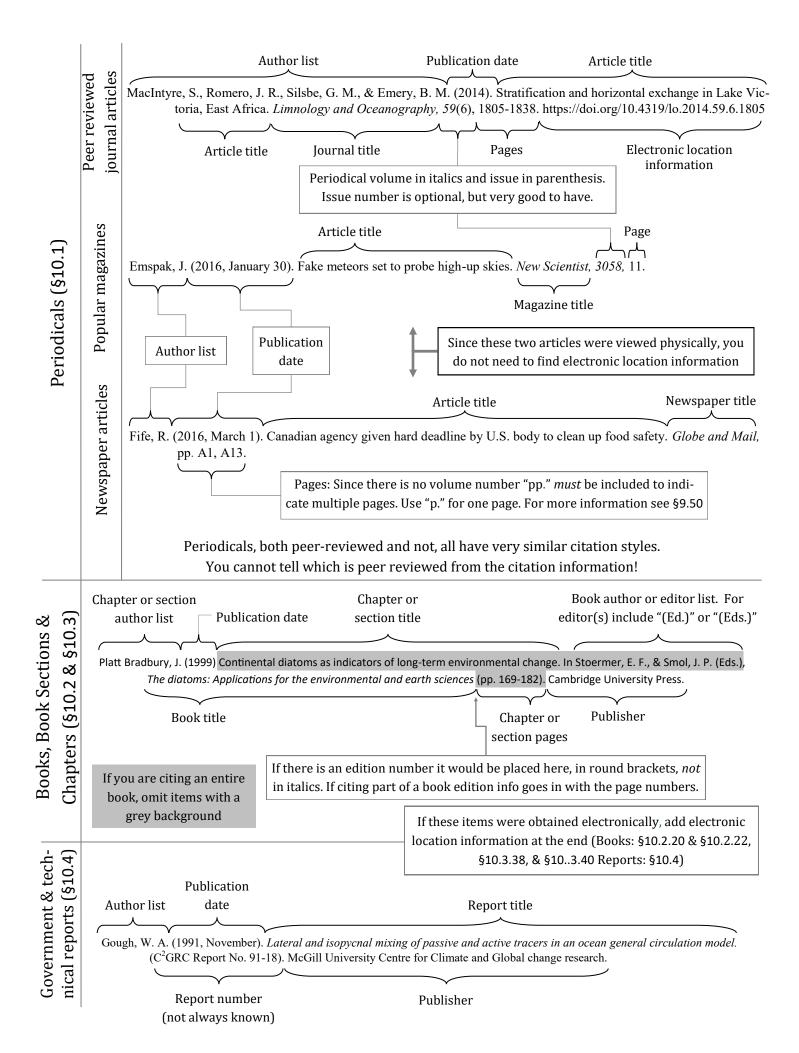
- Article or chapter titles capitalize 1st word of title and subtitle, and any proper nouns.
- Periodical titles
 – use upper and lower case letters, write in italics.
- Book and other titles capitalize as in article and chapter titles, write in italics.

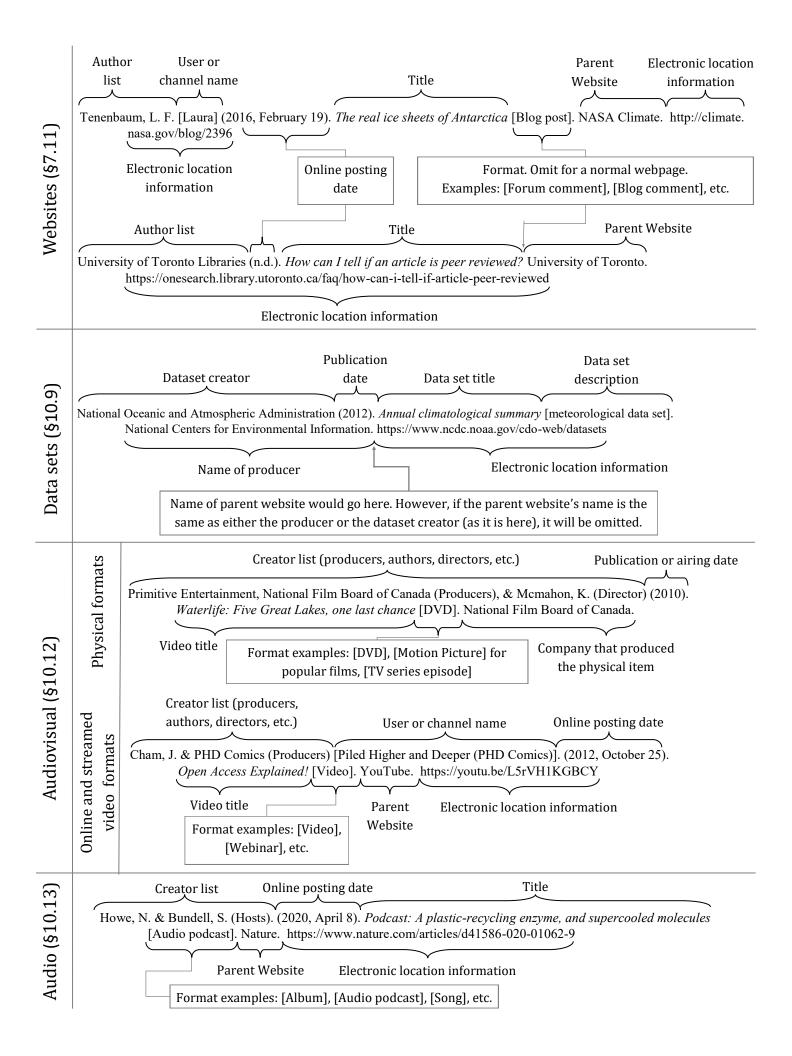
Electronic location information §9.33-9.36

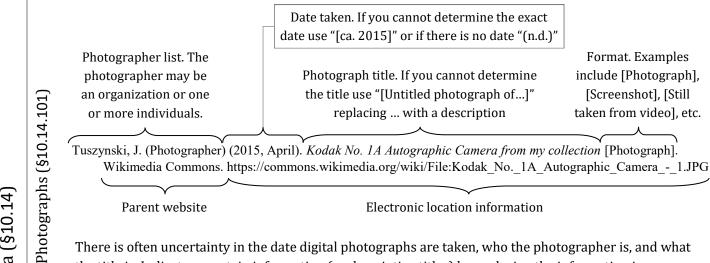
- Use the Digital Object Identifier (DOI) if available. DOIs are often in the form "https://doi.org/10.xxxx/y" "doi" may be capitalized. "xxxx" will generally be numerals and periods, and "y" will be several numbers, letters, and punctuation.
- When a DOI is not available, use the actual web address, and indicate the name of the overall website (the "parent website") "Parent website. http://www.xyz" §9.33
- Do not put a period after web addresses or DOIs, as the period may interfere with ease of retrieval at a later date.

Additional online resources

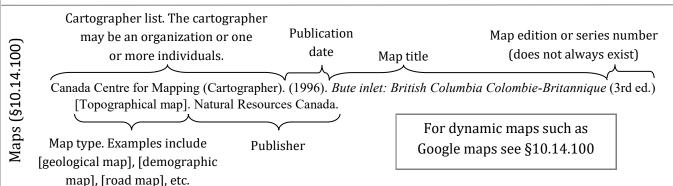
- The APA's APA Style Home https://apastyle.apa.org
 - PLACEHOLDER FOR LOCAL LIBRARY'S SUBJECT GUIDE ON APA
- The University of Alberta Library's *APA style citation*: http://guides.library.ualberta.ca/apa-citation-style
- Purdue OWL's APA formatting and style guide: https:// owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/ apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html







There is often uncertainty in the date digital photographs are taken, who the photographer is, and what the title is. Indicate uncertain information (or descriptive titles) by enclosing the information in square brackets []. If the photograph came from a site that has user names include the photographer's real name followed by their user name in square brackets. If only the user name is known use this in square brackets in place of the name. For more information on uncertain dates and authorship, see Table 9.1.



Pulling it all together

Reference list formatting

In general all works cited in the body of the paper, tables, appendices, etc. must be in in the reference list (for exceptions see §8.4).

The Title of reference section is centered

Indentation is "hanging" style - the first line of each reference is not indented, but all subsequent ones are. To change the indenting in Microsoft office, use the "paragraph" tools.

The reference list is alphabetized by the first listed author.

The reference list is normally double spaced.

For more examples of reference formatting or for formats not mentioned here, see chapter 10 (or chapter 11 for citing legal references).

Canadian Coast Guard (2015, September 25). Federal and territorial partners come together to save lives. http://www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/e41591

References

Emspak, J. (2016, January 30). Fake meteors set to probe high-up skies. New Scientist, 3058, 11.

Fife, R. (2016, March 1). Canadian agency given hard deadline by U.S. body to clean up food safety. The Globe and Mail, pp A1, A13.

Tenenbaum, L. F. (2016, February 19). The real ice sheets of Antarctica [Blog post]. NASA Climate. http://climate.nasa.gov/blog/2396

