

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 than 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

Periodicals (§10.1)

Peer reviewed journal articles

Author list Publication date Article title

MacIntyre, S., Romero, J. R., Silsbe, G. M., & Emery, B. M. (2014). Stratification and horizontal exchange in Lake Victoria, East Africa. *Limnology and Oceanography*, 59(6), 1805-1838. <https://doi.org/10.4319/lo.2014.59.6.1805>

Article title Journal title Pages Electronic location information

Periodical volume in italics and issue in parenthesis. Issue number is optional, but very good to have.

Popular magazines

Article title Page

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

Magazine title

Author list Publication date

Since these two articles were viewed physically, you do not need to find electronic location information

Newspaper articles

Article title Newspaper title

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

Pages: Since there is no volume number "pp." must be included to indicate multiple pages. Use "p." for one page. For more information see §9.50

Periodicals, both peer-reviewed and not, all have very similar citation styles.
You cannot tell which is peer reviewed from the citation information!

Books, Book Sections & Chapters (§10.2 & §10.3)

Chapter or section author list Publication date Chapter or section title Book author or editor list. For editor(s) include "(Ed.)" or "(Eds.)"

Platt Bradbury, J. (1999) Continental diatoms as indicators of long-term environmental change. In Stoermer, E. F., & Smol, J. P. (Eds.), *The diatoms: Applications for the environmental and earth sciences* (pp. 169-182). Cambridge University Press.

Book title Chapter or section pages Publisher

If you are citing an entire book, omit items with a grey background

If there is an edition number it would be placed here, in round brackets, not in italics. If citing part of a book edition info goes in with the page numbers.

If these items were obtained electronically, add electronic location information at the end (Books: §10.2.20 & §10.2.22, §10.3.38, & §10.3.40 Reports: §10.4)

Government & technical reports (§10.4)

Author list Publication date Report title

Gough, W. A. (1991, November). *Lateral and isopycnal mixing of passive and active tracers in an ocean general circulation model*. (C²GRC Report No. 91-18). McGill University Centre for Climate and Global change research.

Report number (not always known) Publisher

Websites (\$7.11)	<p>Author list User or channel name Title Parent Website Electronic location information</p> <p>Tenenbaum, L. F. [Laura] (2016, February 19). <i>The real ice sheets of Antarctica</i> [Blog post]. NASA Climate. http://climate.nasa.gov/blog/2396</p> <p>Electronic location information Online posting date Format. Omit for a normal webpage. Examples: [Forum comment], [Blog comment], etc.</p> <p>Author list Title Parent Website</p> <p>University of Toronto Libraries (n.d.). <i>How can I tell if an article is peer reviewed?</i> University of Toronto. https://oneseach.library.utoronto.ca/faq/how-can-i-tell-if-article-peer-reviewed</p> <p>Electronic location information</p>
	<p>Dataset creator Publication date Data set title Data set description</p> <p>National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (2012). <i>Annual climatological summary</i> [meteorological data set]. National Centers for Environmental Information. https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cdo-web/datasets</p> <p>Name of producer Electronic location information</p> <p>Name of parent website would go here. However, if the parent website's name is the same as either the producer or the dataset creator (as it is here), it will be omitted.</p>
Audiovisual (\$10.12)	<p>Physical formats</p> <p>Creator list (producers, authors, directors, etc.) Publication or airing date</p> <p>Primitive Entertainment, National Film Board of Canada (Producers), & McMahon, K. (Director) (2010). <i>Waterlife: Five Great Lakes, one last chance</i> [DVD]. National Film Board of Canada.</p> <p>Video title Format examples: [DVD], [Motion Picture] for popular films, [TV series episode] Company that produced the physical item</p>
	<p>Online and streamed video formats</p> <p>Creator list (producers, authors, directors, etc.) User or channel name Online posting date</p> <p>Cham, J. & PHD Comics (Producers) [Piled Higher and Deeper (PHD Comics)]. (2012, October 25). <i>Open Access Explained!</i> [Video]. YouTube. https://youtu.be/L5rVH1KGBCY</p> <p>Video title Parent Website Electronic location information</p> <p>Format examples: [Video], [Webinar], etc.</p>
Audio (\$10.13)	<p>Creator list Online posting date Title</p> <p>Howe, N. & Bundell, S. (Hosts). (2020, April 8). <i>Podcast: A plastic-recycling enzyme, and supercooled molecules</i> [Audio podcast]. Nature. https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-01062-9</p> <p>Parent Website Electronic location information</p> <p>Format examples: [Album], [Audio podcast], [Song], etc.</p>

Photographer list. The photographer may be an organization or one or more individuals.

Date taken. If you cannot determine the exact date use “[ca. 2015]” or if there is no date “(n.d.)”

Photograph title. If you cannot determine the title use “[Untitled photograph of...]” replacing ... with a description

Format. Examples include [Photograph], [Screenshot], [Still taken from video], etc.

Tuszynski, J. (Photographer) (2015, April). *Kodak No. 1A Autographic Camera from my collection* [Photograph]. Wikimedia Commons. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kodak_No._1A_Autographic_Camera_-_1.JPG

Parent website

Electronic location information

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.

Cartographer list. The cartographer may be an organization or one or more individuals.

Publication date

Map title

Map edition or series number (does not always exist)

Canada Centre for Mapping (Cartographer). (1996). *Bute inlet: British Columbia Colombie-Britannique* (3rd ed.) [Topographical map]. Natural Resources Canada.

Map type. Examples include [geological map], [demographic map], [road map], etc.

Publisher

For dynamic maps such as Google maps see §10.14.100

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).

References

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

