
Quick Answers—References

Websites

For a passing reference to a website in text, the URL is sufficient; no reference list entry is needed.

Gussie Fink-Nottle has set up a discussion forum for newt fanciers (<http://gfnfng.livejournal.com/>).

However, when you are citing a particular document or piece of information from a website, include both a reference list entry and an in-text citation. The key to creating the reference list entry is to determine the type of content on the web page. Basically, provide the following four pieces of information:

Author, A. (date). Title of document [Format description]. Retrieved from <http://xxxxxxx>

The in-text citation includes the author and date (Author, date), as with any other APA Style citation.

[Back to top of page \(#top\)](#)

More information

Publication Manual (6th ed., section 6.32, pp. 189–192; Chapter 7, Examples 29, 30, 54, 55, and 76, pp. 198–215)

From the APA Style website:

- [How do you reference a web page that lists no author? \(/learn/faqs/web-page-no-author.aspx\)](#)
- [How do you cite website material that has no author, no year, and no page numbers? \(/learn/faqs/cite-website-material.aspx\)](#)

From the APA Style Blog:

- [How to Cite Something You Found on a Website in APA Style \(http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2010/11/how-to-cite-something-you-found-on-a-website-in-apa-style.html\)](#)
- [How to Cite Multiple Pages From the Same Website \(http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2014/11/how-to-cite-multiple-pages-from-the-same-website.html\)](#)
- [When to Include Retrieval Dates for Online Sources \(http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2014/08/when-to-include-retrieval-dates-for-online-sources.html\)](#)

In-Text Citations

In-text citations consist of the surname(s) of the author(s) and the year of publication.

- If there is no author, use the title (or a short form of the title, if it is lengthy) and the year. Titles that are italicized in the reference list are italicized in text; titles that are not italicized in the reference list appear in quotation marks.
- If there is no date, use “n.d.” (without quotation marks) instead.

[Back to top of page \(#top\)](#)

More information

Publication Manual (6th ed., sections 6.01–6.21, pp. 169–179)

From the APA Style website:

- [How do you cite two or more references within the same parentheses? \(/learn/faqs/references-in-parentheses.aspx\)](#)

From the APA Style Blog:

- [Writing In-Text Citations in APA Style \(http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2011/01/writing-in-text-citations-in-apa-style.html\)](#)
- [Happy Holiday Citing: Citation of Classical Works \(http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2009/12/happy-holiday-citing-citation-of-classical-works.html\)](#)
- [The Proper Use of Et Al. in APA Style \(http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2011/11/the-proper-use-of-et-al-in-apa-style.html\)](#)
- [Rising Citation Trick \(http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2014/03/rising-citation-trick.html\)](#)
- [Comparing MLA and APA: Citing Resources \(http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2014/05/comparing-mla-and-apa-citing-resources.html\)](#)
- [How to Cite Part of a Work \(http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2013/11/how-to-cite-part-of-a-work.html\)](#)

E-Books

The reference list entry for an e-book includes the author, date, title, and source (URL (<http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/urls/>) or DOI (<http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/digital-object-identifier-doi/>)). For a chapter in an e-book, include the chapter title and page numbers (if available).

Whole e-book:

Author, A. (date). *Title of book*. Retrieved from <http://xxxxxxx>

Author, A. (date). *Title of book*. doi:xxxxxxxxxx

Chapter in an e-book:

Author, A. (date). Title of chapter. In E. Editor (Ed.), *Title of book* (pp. xx–xx). Retrieved from <http://xxxxxxx>

Author, A. (date). Title of chapter. In E. Editor (Ed.), *Title of book* (pp. xx–xx). doi:xxxxxxxxxx

More information

Publication Manual (6th ed., section 7.02, pp. 202–205)

From the APA Style Blog:

- [How Do You Cite an E-Book \(e.g., Kindle Book\)?](http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2011/06/how-do-you-cite-an-e-book.html) (<http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2011/06/how-do-you-cite-an-e-book.html>)
- [Books and Book Chapters: What to Cite](http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2011/02/books-and-book-chapters-what-to-cite.html) (<http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2011/02/books-and-book-chapters-what-to-cite.html>)

Interviews

The citation of interviews depends on the nature of the interview.

- **Third-party interviews:** If the interview is in a form that is recoverable (e.g., a recording, transcript, published Q&A), use the reference format appropriate for the source in which the interview is available.
- **Informational interviews:** If you have interviewed someone for information about your topic and that person has agreed to be identified as a source, cite the source as a personal communication (in text only):

(G. Fink-Nottle, personal communication, April 5, 2011)

Personal communications do not have reference list entries because they cannot be retrieved.

- **Interviews of research participants:** No citation is needed for remarks made by participants in the research on which you’re reporting. Do not cite these as personal communications; this would breach the participants’ guarantee of confidentiality.

More information

Publication Manual (6th ed., section 1.11, pp. 16–17; section 6.20, p. 179; section 7.10, Examples 69 and 70, p. 214)

From the APA Style Blog:

- [What Belongs in the Reference List?](http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2010/10/what-belongs-in-the-reference-list.html) (<http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2010/10/what-belongs-in-the-reference-list.html>)
- [APA Style for Citing Interviews](http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2009/10/apa-style-for-citing-interviews.html) (<http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2009/10/apa-style-for-citing-interviews.html>)
- [Can You Cite Personal Life Experience?](http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2011/04/can-you-cite-personal-life-experience.html) (<http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2011/04/can-you-cite-personal-life-experience.html>)

Facebook

Although the *Publication Manual* (6th ed.) does not include specific Facebook citation formats, you can adapt the basic reference format to fit.

More information

Publication Manual (6th ed., p. 193)

From the APA Style Blog:

- [How to Cite Social Media in APA Style \(Twitter, Facebook, and Google+\)](http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2013/10/how-to-cite-social-media-in-apa-style.html) (<http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2013/10/how-to-cite-social-media-in-apa-style.html>)

Twitter

Although the *Publication Manual* (6th ed.) does not include specific Twitter citation formats, you can adapt the basic reference format to fit.

More information

Publication Manual (6th ed., p. 193)

From the APA Style Blog:

- [How to Cite Social Media in APA Style \(Twitter, Facebook, and Google+\)](http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2013/10/how-to-cite-social-media-in-apa-style.html) (<http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2013/10/how-to-cite-social-media-in-apa-style.html>)

YouTube

Here’s the general format for creating a reference for a video found on YouTube and other video-posting websites:

- If both the real name of the person who posted the video and the screen name are known:

Author, A. A. [Screen name]. (year, month day). *Title of video* [Video file]. Retrieved from <http://xxxxxxx>

- If only the screen name of the person who posted the video is known:

Screen name. (year, month day). *Title of video* [Video file]. Retrieved from <http://xxxxxxx> The in-text citations include the author name outside of brackets (whichever that may be) and the date.

More information

From the APA Style Blog:

- [How to Create a Reference for a YouTube Video](http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2011/10/how-to-create-a-reference-for-a-youtube-video.html) (<http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2011/10/how-to-create-a-reference-for-a-youtube-video.html>)
- [Timestamps for Audiovisual Materials in APA Style](http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2014/01/timestamps-for-audiovisual-materials-in-apa-style.html) (<http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2014/01/timestamps-for-audiovisual-materials-in-apa-style.html>)

DOIs

A digital object identifier (DOI) is a unique string of letters, numbers, and symbols assigned to a published work to identify content and provide a persistent link to its location on the Internet. The DOI is typically located on the first page of an electronic document near the copyright notice and on the database landing page for the document. When DOIs are available, include them in the reference information. Place the DOI at the end of the reference, and don't add a period at the end of it. Here's an example:

Author, A. (year). Title of article. *Journal Title*, X, xxx–xxx. doi:xxxxxx

[Back to top of page \(#top\)](#)

More information

Publication Manual (6th ed., sections 6.31–6.32, pp. 187–192)

From the APA Style Blog:

- [A DOI Primer](http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2009/09/a-doi-primer.html) (<http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2009/09/a-doi-primer.html>)
- [How to Find a DOI](http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2009/12/how-to-find-a-doi.html) (<http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2009/12/how-to-find-a-doi.html>)
- [A DOI and URL Flowchart](http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2009/09/a-doi-and-url-flowchart.html) (<http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2009/09/a-doi-and-url-flowchart.html>)
- [DOIs and URLs: Special Focus Next Week](http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2009/09/dois-and-urls-special-focus-next-week.html) (<http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2009/09/dois-and-urls-special-focus-next-week.html>)

Bibliography Versus Reference List

In APA Style, include a reference list rather than a bibliography with your paper.

What's the difference? A *reference list* consists of all sources cited in the text of a paper, listed alphabetically by author's surname. A *bibliography*, however, may include resources that were consulted but not cited in the text as well as an annotated description of each one. Bibliographies may be organized chronologically, or by subject, rather than alphabetically.

If you have been given an assignment that asks for a bibliography, consult your instructor for more specifics about the required format.

[Back to top of page \(#top\)](#)

More information

Publication Manual (6th ed., sections 6.22–6.32, pp. 180–192)

From the APA Style Blog:

- [What's a Reference List For?](http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2011/02/whats-a-reference-list-for.html) (<http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2011/02/whats-a-reference-list-for.html>)
- [What Belongs in the Reference List?](http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2010/10/what-belongs-in-the-reference-list.html) (<http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2010/10/what-belongs-in-the-reference-list.html>)
- [Order in the Reference List! Or the Case of the Maddening Initials](http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2010/10/order-in-the-reference-list-or-the-case-of-the-maddening-initials.html) (<http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2010/10/order-in-the-reference-list-or-the-case-of-the-maddening-initials.html>)
- [Punctuating the Reference List Entry](http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2011/07/punctuating-the-reference-list-entry.html) (<http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2011/07/punctuating-the-reference-list-entry.html>)
- [Asking the Right Question: How can the Reader Find the Source?](http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2013/01/asking-the-right-question-how-can-the-reader-find-the-source.html) (<http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/2013/01/asking-the-right-question-how-can-the-reader-find-the-source.html>)

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On this page...

- [Websites](#)
- [In-Text Citations](#)
- [E-Books](#)
- [Interviews](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [YouTube](#)
- [DOIs](#)
- [Bibliography Vs. Reference List](#)

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