WRITING CENTER

National Library of Medicine (NLM)
Citation Guide

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GENERAL GUIDELINES

There are no specific guidelines for how NLM papers should be formatted. The NLM system only gives guidance on citing sources, both in-text and in a **References** page. Check with your instructor for specifics on how they wish your paper to be formatted.

IN-TEXT CITATIONS

- In-text citations are abbreviated forms of the full citations on the References page.
- NLM allows for three different systems for in-text citations. Whichever method you choose, be consistent throughout your paper.

CITATION-SEQUENCE SYSTEM

- Numbers are used in place of citation information in-text
- The numbers correspond to full references found on the References page at the end of the paper
- References are listed in order of appearance within the paper, rather than alphabetically on the References page

  Examples: IN-TEXT CITATION: The review board approved the use of the experimental treatment on the patient[1]. Though it had not been in testing long, they felt confident this new treatment would be useful[2].

  REFERENCE PAGE CITATION: 1. Zimmerman AC….

  2. Bailey RT….

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CITATION-NAME SYSTEM
- Numbers are used in place of citation information in-text
- The numbers correspond to full references found on the References page at the end of the paper
- References are listed alphabetically on the References page, rather than by order of appearance in the paper

> **Examples:** IN-TEXT CITATION: The review board approved the use of the experimental treatment on the patient[2]. Though it had not been in testing long, they felt confident this new treatment would be useful[1].
>
> REFERENCE PAGE CITATION:
> 1. Bailey RT….
> 2. Zimmerman AC….

NAME-YEAR SYSTEM
- The author's last name and year of publication are enclosed in parenthesis to indicate in-text citations
- References on the References page are listed in order by author and then by year

> **Examples:** IN-TEXT CITATION: The review board approved the use of the experimental treatment on the patient (Zimmerman 2016). Though it had not been in testing long, they felt confident this new treatment would be useful (Bailey 2018).
>
> REFERENCE PAGE CITATION:
> 1. Bailey RT….
> 2. Zimmerman AC….

THE REFERENCES PAGE
- The References page is the last section of the paper and begins on a new page
- Follow the References page guidelines associated with whatever system you used for in-text citations
- Check with your instructor for all other formatting guidelines

THE REFERENCES PAGE: EXAMPLES

Below are examples of the most common items you may cite in a paper. For more specific details on other items you may need to cite or for more information about what is listed below, access *Citing Medicine: The NLM Style Guide for Authors, Editors, and Publishers.*

PRINTED AND ONLINE JOURNAL ARTICLES

- List the author(s) of an article, separated by a comma, in the following manner: last name, then first and middle initial (if available). After the initials of the last author listed, finish with a period
- List the full article title and an abbreviated journal title where the article was found
  - If the article is online, indicate in brackets that the journal was found on the [Internet]. Finish with a period
- Indicate the year of publication, followed by the month and date (if available)
  - If the article is online, indicate in brackets the date of citation [cited year month abbreviation date]. Finish with a semicolon
- List the volume and then issue number in parenthesis immediately after the semicolon (no space). Finish with a colon
- List the page number range immediately after the colon (no space)
- If the article is online, include the words **Available from:** followed by the website URL where the article can be found

Printed Article Format and Example

Author AB, Author CD. Article Title and Abbreviated Journal Title. Year of Publication; Volume(Issue):xx - xxx

Benny BV, Nagpal AS, Singh P, Smuck M. Vascular causes of radiculopathy: a literature review. Spine J. 2011 Jan;11(1):73-85.

Online Article Example

Author AB, Author CD. Article Title and Abbreviated Journal Title [Internet]. Year of Publication [cited year month date];Volume(Issue):xx – xxx. Available from: website URL

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PRINTED AND ONLINE BOOKS

- List the author(s) of the book, separated by a comma, in the following manner: last name, then first and middle initial (if available). After the initials of the last author listed, finish with a period
  - If there is no author, list the name of the editor in a similar manner
- List the full book title
  - If the book is online, indicate in brackets the book was found on the [Internet]. Finish with a period
- List the edition of the book, abbreviating edition as **ed.**
- Indicate the place of publication, then a colon, then the publisher. Finish with a semicolon
- List the year of publication
  - If the book is online, indicate in brackets the date of citation [cited year month abbreviation date]. Finish with a period
- List the page number range, followed by a **p,** and then a period
- If the book is online, include the words **Available from:** followed by the website URL where the book can be found

Printed Book Format and Example

Author AB, Author CD. Book Title. Edition Number ed. Place of Publication: Publisher; Year of Publication. xx – xxx p.

Kendall FP, McCreary EK, Provance PG, Rodgers MM, Romani WA. Muscles: testing and function with posture and pain. 5th ed. Baltimore (MD): Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2005. 480 p.

Online Book Format

Author AB, Author CD. Book Title [Internet]. Edition Number ed. Place of Publication: Publisher; Year of Publication [cited year month date]. xx – xxx p. Available from: website URL

WEBSITES

- List the author(s) of the site, separated by a comma, in the following manner: last name, then first and middle initial (if available). After the initials of the last author listed, finish with a period
- List the title of the website, then indicate in brackets that the information was found on the [Internet], finish with a period
- Indicate the place of publication, then a colon, then the publisher and finish with a semicolon
- List the date of publication in the format of year month abbreviation date (no commas)
- Indicate in brackets the date which the website was last updated, followed by a semicolon and then the date of citation, finish with a period
  - Both the date of update and date of citation should be within the same set of brackets
  - The format of the dates should be year month abbreviation date (no commas)
- Include the words **Available from:** followed by the website URL

Website Format and Example

Author AB, Author CD. Website Title [Internet]. Place of Publication: Publisher; Year of Publication [updated date; cited date]. Available from: website URL

American Medical Association [Internet]. Chicago: The Association; c1995-2002 [updated 2001 Aug 23; cited 2002 Aug 12]. AMA Office of Group Practice Liaison; [about 2 screens]. Available from: http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/1736.html