

APA Style Guide to Electronic References

Sometimes it can be not only confusing but difficult to reference an electronic source correctly. In 2009, the American Psychological Association (APA) revised and updated a new 6th edition manual by providing examples and changes in referencing electronic type media. Writers should keep in mind that they should add as much electronic retrieval information as needed so that others can locate the source that has been cited. There are a couple of changes that should be noted:

- For journal articles, always include the journal issue number (if available) along with the volume number, regardless of whether the journal is paginated separately by issue or continuously by volume.
- No retrieval date is necessary for information that is not going to be changed or updated in the future, such as a journal article or book.
- When a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) is available, include the DOI instead of the URL in the reference. (A DOI is a unique, alphanumeric string assigned by a registration agency to identify content and provide a persistent link to its location on the Internet.

****For Friends University students enrolled in any general education English courses (Composition I, Composition II, or Masterpieces I or II) should include:**

- the retrieval date if the information you are citing is likely to be changed or updated
- the name of the database used, but it is not necessary to include the database URL.

1. Journal article with DOI assigned:

Johnson, S. (2009). Integrating therapy modes in the treatment of head traumas. *American*

Journal of Psychiatry, 81(3), 384-391. doi:10.1097/004-8431.43.492

- This is the final published version of this article being referenced, so there is no need to include the retrieval date.
- The article was retrieved from the PsychARTICLES database. Since you have the DOI, it functions as both a unique identifier of the content (taking the place of the database name) and a link to the content (taking the place of a URL).

2. Journal article with no DOI assigned:

Shaw, T. E., & Smithson, W. C. (2008). The use of self-esteem to gauge differences between

parental love and adult perceived happiness. *Topics in Clinical Psychology*, 21(3), 22-29.

Retrieved from <http://www.topicsinclinicalpsychology.com>

- There is no DOI assigned, so give the URL of the journal home page.
- No retrieval date is necessary because this is the final version of the article being referenced.

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Adam, K. (2005, May). Affirmative action and popular perceptions: The case of South Africa. *Society*, 37(2).

Retrieved from Proquest Central database.

Terrance, M., Castlerook, T., & Colbeck, L. (2007, September). Racial and ethnic diversity in the classroom.

Journal of Higher Education, 72. Retrieved from Blue Skyways database (Infotrac).

- Once again no retrieval date is necessary because this is the final version of the article.
- Remember the English department requires that Gen. Ed. classes note the database where the article was found.

3. Chapter from an electronic book:

Warner, J. L. (1941). Alcoholism and the effect on the brain. In M. Norwood & S. Jolliffe (Eds.), *Current*

treatment for nervous and mental illnesses (Vol. 4, pp. 188-195). Retrieved from PsycBOOKS

database.

- The database name is included in the reference to help readers find their electronic version of the book because it is probably very difficult to find it in print.

4. Abstract as original source:

Morris, M. J. (2006). Health benefits for mentally ill inmates for prison (NCJ No. 291947) [Abstract].

Retrieved from National Criminal Justice Reference Service abstracts database.

- If a publication number is assigned, include it in parentheses after the title of the report.

5. Lecture notes:

Smith, J. A. (2008). Lecture 8: Recruitment of students for campus training [PowerPoint slides]. Retrieved

March 9, 2008, from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health OpenCourseWare Website:

<http://ocw.jhsph.edu/courses/TraininglecturesforContinuingEducation/lecture8.cfm>

6. Book review:

Cramner, J., & Stillford, N. (2007). How is the brain enriched? [Review of the book *Enriching the brain: How*

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do we get the most out of our learners?, by E. Jonson]. *PsycCRITIQUES*, 29(3), Article 4. Retrieved from <http://www.apa.org/psyccritiques/>

7. Online magazine article

Barclay, E. (2009, July). Research vs. science: Psychologists defend the importance of research. *Monitor on Psychology*, 23(5). Retrieved from <http://www.apa.org/monitor/>

8. Online reference work:

Notram, M. (2007). Behaviorism. In N. Stiles (Ed.), *The Stanford encyclopedia of philosophy*. Retrieved January 19, 2010, from <http://plato.stanford.edu>

- If an entry has no byline, place the title in the author position.
- The date of the most recent change or update may not be clear, so include the retrieval date.
- Give the home or index page URL for reference works.

9. Online handbook:

Organization plans for small businesses. (2009). In E. Smith, R. O. Dellwood, & J. L. Morris (Eds.), *Small business success in the corporate world*. Retrieved April 9, 2010, from <http://www.bussuccess.com>

10. Fact sheet:

RAND Corporation. (2007). *Making the necessary steps to improving health care in America*. [Fact sheet]. Retrieved from http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/2007/121.pdf

- A description of the work is included in square brackets to aid in document identification and retrieval.

11. Print or online brochure:

Starbucks Coffee Company. (2005). *You, Starbucks, and nutrition* [Brochure]. Seattle, WA: Author.

Kansas Board of Regents. (2008). *A guide to picking a Kansas college* [Brochure]. Retrieved from <http://www.ksboardregents.gov/pubs/consumerbrochure.pdf>

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12. Presentation slides:

Duke University, Institute of Technology Learning. (2007). *Educating others in the new millennium* [PowerPoint slides]. Retrieved from <http://duke.edu/publications/index.html>

13. Technical or research report:

Calloway, N., Whitehall, H., & Porter, M. (2006). *The future of literacy in our country: Findings from the 2005 Assessment of Adult Literacy* (Report No. NCES 2006-491). Retrieved from National Center for Education Statistics website: <http://nces.ed.gov/pub2006/491.pdf>

- If the report number is given, insert it in parentheses after the title, as shown (p. 20).

14. White paper:

Miller, R., & Stanford, F. (2007). *Developing creative computer science graduates for an increasingly competitive market* [White paper]. Retrieved from Columbia University College of Computing: <http://www.columbia.edu/pdfs/whitepaper.pdf>

- A white paper is a short document that presents an organization's philosophy, position, or policy on a particular issue.

15. Newsletter article:

Martin, K. (2008, Winter). Testing the waters for health coverage. *Connect Care: Newsletter of the University of Kansas School of Medicine*, 4(2). Retrieved from <http://hsc.ku.edu/medicine/documents/winter08>

- Use the complete publication date given on the article.
- Some online newsletters are unpaginated, so no page numbers can be given in the reference.
- In an Internet periodical, volume and issue numbers often are not relevant. If they are not used, the name of the periodical is all that can be provided in the reference.

16. Newsletter article, no author

Federal government initiates anti-gang programs. (2008, November/December). *OJJDP News @ a Glance*. Retrieved from http://www.ncjrs.gov/html/ojdp/news_at_glance/9939/topstory.html

- Alphabetize works with no author by the first significant word in the title (in this case "Federal").
- In text, use a short title if it is a lengthy title ("Federal Government," 2008).

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17. Newspaper article:

Hathoway, P. (2007, March 23). Changing forces in the business world. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <http://www.nytimes.com>

Miller, W. (2008, April 9). Scientists study sleeping disorders. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from Lexis-Nexis database (Academic Universe).

- **In-text citation:** Miller (2008) found in several studies that sleeping disorders are common among women over the age of 50 (para. 39).

18. Television feature, podcast:

Kerner, J. A. (Producer/Director). (2007). *The BTK Trial for Murder* [Motion Picture]. In C. Stang (Executive Producer), *American murderers*. Podcast retrieved from WGBH: http://www.pbs.org/amemur/mss/podcast_pb.xml

19. Article on Web site with no date:

Broggleman, V. (n.d.). Think like a marketer to get students to eat healthy. *MSNBC*. Retrieved January 9, 2008, from <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/20204504>

- When the date of publication is not available, include the retrieval date.

20. Message posted to a newsgroup, online forum, or discussion group:

Smithwood, D. (2010, January 29). Reflecting on student interaction [Msg. 2]. Message posted to <news://groups.google.com/group/sci.psychology.interaction/>

- If the author's full name is available, list the last name first followed by initials. If only a screen name is available, use the screen name.
- Provide the exact date of the posting.
- Follow the date with the subject line of the message (also referred to as the "thread"); do not italicize it. Provide any identifier for the message in brackets after the title.
- Provide the address for the archived version of the message.

21. Video Weblog post:

Harold, P. (2009, November 9). How to operate on your own dog [Video file]. Video posted to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bje93KLPOTZ>
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22. CQ Researcher article:

Ketchem, K. (2007, March 14). School violence. *C. Q. Researcher*, 14(8). 199-224. Retrieved from C. Q.

Researcher Online: <http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2007051301>

- Include the name of the database along with the accession number in the reference to aid readers in finding the electronic version because it may difficult to find in print.
- Make sure that you print out the PDF version so that you won't have to count paragraphs for the in-text citation.
- **In-text citation:** According to the McEnulty National Public Violence Report, in 2005 school violence in middle schools increased 47% (Ketchem, 2007, p. 201).

23. Opposing Viewpoint article from online database:

Bandow, D. (2008). Antiterrorism measures threaten civil liberties. In A. E. Sadler & P. A. Winters (Eds.),

Opposing viewpoints: Urban terrorism. Retrieved from Opposing Viewpoints in Context database.

- No retrieval date is necessary because this is a book found on this particular database.
- You must note the name of the database to fulfill the English department requirement.
- Remember that you give the first initial and then the last name for any editors in an anthology.
- **In-text citation:** Bandow agrees that certain measures must be taken to protect Americans in the workforce (2008, para. 19).

Citations in Text of Electronic Material

The following excerpts are from the 6th edition of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (2010, p. 171-172). To cite a direct quote give the author, year, and page number in parentheses. Because many electronic sources do not provide page numbers, cite the paragraph number instead.

Smith and Johnson (2010) suggest the need for a new “political perspective on the current health care policy pushed by the current administration” (para. 9).

When paraphrasing a source, you are encouraged to provide a page or paragraph number, especially if it would help the reader locate the relevant passage (see Section 6.04, p. 171). Always refer to the APA Manual as the source to answer your questions. Stop by the Writing Resource Center—we'll be glad to help! We also have a more detailed handout that explains the rules for in-text citations.