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The American Psychological Association's Rules for the "References" Page

Learning citation rules can be hard. While the below examples do not cover every problem, they provide a sense of how to use the APA's rules to develop a proper citation.

If you want to use the actual book that describes these rules, there are copies located behind the reference desk at **Ref BF 76.7 .P83 2001**.

A good website that explains the APA rules is:

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_apa.html

The below forms describe the basic parts of APA citations. The examples are based on *The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 5th ed. (2001).

Books:

Author, A. A., Jr., Writer, B. B., & Researcher, C. C. (2003). *Title of work*.
Location: Publisher.

Examples:

Australian Bureau of Statistics. (1991). *Estimated resident population by age and sex in statistical local areas, New South Wales: June 1990* (No. 3209.1)
Canberra, Australian Capital Territory: Author.

Mitchell, T. R., & Larson, J. R., Jr. (1987). *People in organizations: An introduction to organizational behavior* (3rd ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.

Parts of Books:

Author, A. A., Jr., & Writer, B. B. (2003). Title of chapter. In A. Editor, B. Editor, & C. Editor (Eds.), *Title of book* (pp. page #-page #). Location: Publisher.

Example:

Macoby, E. E. (1983). Socialization in the the family. In P. Mussen (Series Ed.) & E. Hetherington (Vol. Ed.), *Handbook of psychology: Vol. 4. Socialization, personality, and social development* (4th ed., pp. 1-101). New York: Wiley.

Periodical Articles:

Author, A. A., Jr., Writer, B. B., & Researcher, C. C. (2003). Title of article. *Title of Periodical*, vol. #, page #-page #.

Examples:

Klimoski, R. & Palmer, S. (1993). The ADA and the hiring process in organizations. *Consulting Psychology Journal: Practice and Research*, 45(2), 10-36.

Saywitz, K. J., Mannarino, A. P., Berliner, L., & Cohen, J. A. (2000). Treatment for abused children and adolescents. *American Psychologist*, 55, 1040-1049.

Online Periodical Articles:

Author, A. A., Jr., Writer, B. B., & Researcher, C. C. (2003). Title of article. *Title of Periodical*, Vol. #, page #-page #. Retrieved month day, year, from source.

Examples:

From a periodical database:

VandenBos, G., Knapp, S., & Doe, J. (2001). Role of reference elements in the selection of resources by psychology undergraduates [Electronic version]. *Journal of Bibliographic Research*, 5, 117-123.

From an Internet-only journal:

Crow, T. J. (2000). Did *Homo sapiens* speciate on the y chromosome? *Psychology*, 11. Retrieved March 25, 2001, from <ftp://ftp.princeton.edu/harnad/Psycology/2000.volume.11/psyc.00.11.001.language-sex-chromosomes.1.crow>

Documents on the Internet:

Author, A. A., Jr., Writer, B. B., & Researcher, C. C. (2003). *Title of work*. Retrieved month day, year, from source.

Example:

Benton Foundation. (1998, July 7). Barriers to closing the gap. In *Losing ground bit by bit: Low-income communities in the information age* (chap. 2). Retrieved August 18, 2001, from <http://www.benton.org/Library/Low-Income/two.html>

Notes:

Authors:

Note how the authors are listed last name first, and then followed by the author's initials. After the initials, put their suffixes, if any (Jr., III, etc.).

List up to six authors on the bibliographic citation. If there are more than six authors, put "et al." after the sixth one.

Publication Dates:

List the publication date for the edition used. Don't list the printing number.

Titles:

Parts of books (such as an essay or chapter) are listed in normal typeface, while titles of complete works are italicized.

The first words of titles and subtitles are capitalized. Use lower-case letters for the rest of the words in a title, unless there are proper names included in it.

All nouns and adjectives of a periodical title are capitalized and italicized.

If the pages of a journal are continuous throughout the journal volume, you don't put the issue number in parentheses (). If the pages of each issue start at page 1, then list the issue number in parentheses ().

Web Addresses:

Note how there is no punctuation after the web address so that you aren't confused as to whether to include it in your Internet browser's address box.