# MLA STYLE FOR CITING *ELECTRONIC* SOURCES

This guide illustrates the most frequently used citation types for electronic resources. Electronic sources can include electronic books, periodical articles, and professional and personal websites.  For other citations or style questions, refer to the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers,* 7th edition, available at the library reference desk.

- Use the heading Works Cited; center the heading on the top of the first page.
- List each entry alphabetically by the first word of each citation (skip *a*, *an*, or *the* if it is the first word).
- Double space within and between each citation entry (examples below are single spaced to save room).
- Use hanging indent if citation has more than one line.
- Keep publishing information minimal: ex: **UP** for University Press. Omit **Inc., Books,** etc.
- If page numbers are not contiguous, type in the first page no. and a plus sign, e.g., 16+.
- Use **N.p.** if no publisher or place of publication is found, use **n.d.** if no date is found and **n.pag.** if no page is found. If other numbering is used (such as section or paragraph numbering) cite the relevant numbers.
- The medium for electronic items is **Web.**
- Do not include the URL for sources from subscription databases.  For sources found directly on the web, include the URL as supplementary information only when the reader cannot locate the source without it or when your instructor requires it.

> *Research Tip:* As you proceed with your research, **print the first page** of any electronic source you will be citing in your paper. This printed copy will usually include the date of access and other information needed for the citation.

**Parenthetical Citation in Text**: If author's name is used within the sentence, cite only the numbering (but if no numbering, then there will be no citation). Abbreviate corporate authors in parenthetical citations, although it's better to include the long name in the text so your citation includes only page numbers.

| With Page Numbers | Without Page Numbers | With Paragraph Numbering | With Section Numbering |
|---|---|---|---|
| (Billitteri 385-408) (Neuharth A9) | (Dunbar) (Waldrep and Bellesiles) | (Chan, par. 41) (Moulthrop, pars. 39-53) | (Natl. Research Council, sec. 15) |

**The Works Cited List**: List each entry alphabetically by the first word of each citation (skip *a*, *an*, or *the* when it is the first word). When certain information is missing from the electronic source, it must be noted in the citation. If there is more than one author, give names in the same order as on the title page. **Note:** If there are more than three authors, you may name only the first and add et al ("and others"), for example, Edens, Walter, et al.

## *Citing an Online Book or Part of an Online Book that also appeared in Print:*

| Format | Author's Last Name, First Name [if given]. "Title of the Book Part." *Title of Book*. Publication information for original print version, i.e., Editor [if given], Place of publication: Name of publisher, Date of print publication, page number(s) [if applicable]. Information for the electronic version, i.e., *Title of the Subscription Service* or *Website*. Medium. Day Month year of access. |
|---|---|
| Chapter in an anthology on the web | Dunbar, Paul L. "A Death Song." *The Book of American Negro Poetry*. Ed. James W. Johnson. New York: Harcourt, 1922. N. pag. *Bartleby.com: Great Books Online*. 2002. Web. 10 Jan. 2011. |
| Book in a Subscription Database | Waldrep, Christopher, and Michael A. Bellesiles. *Documenting American Violence: A Sourcebook*. New York: Oxford UP, 2006. *NetLibrary*. Web. 13 Feb. 2011. |

## *Citing an Online Book or Part of an Online Book Available Only on the Web:*

| Format | Author or Editor's Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book* [in quotes if part of a book]. *Title of the Website*. Editor of website [if given]. Publisher or sponsor of site [or N.p. if not available], Date of electronic publication [or N.d. if not available]. Medium. Day Month year of access. |
|---|---|
| Book only on the Web | Powers, Robert. *War Stories: A Sailor Remembers the Vietnam War*. *Historical Text Archive*. Ed. Donald J. Mabry. N.p., 2006. Web. 25 Mar. 2011. |

## *Citing an Online Government Publication or Report:*

| Format | Government Name. Government Agency. *Title of Online Publication*. By Author's First Name and Last Name [if given]. Place of publication: Publisher name, Date of publication [if available]. Medium. Day Month year of access. |
|---|---|
| Corporate Author (Govt. Agency) | United States. Dept. of Justice. Natl. Inst. of Justice. *Prosecuting Gangs: A National Assessment*. By Claire Johnson, Barbara Webster, and Edward Connors. Feb. 1995. Web. 29 Apr. 2010. |
| | United States. Dept. of Justice. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. *Law Enforcement and Juvenile Crime*. Washington: GPO, 2001. Web. 29 May 2010. |

### Citing an Article in a Magazine or Newspaper from a Subscription Database:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Format** | Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." *Title of Periodical* Date: pages [or n. pag]. *Name of Database*. Medium. Day Month year of access. |
| **Magazine Article** | Neuharth, Al. "Why Smallest States Suffer Most in Iraq." *USA Today* 28 Mar. 2008: A9. *Gale Opposing Viewpoints in Context*. Web. 30 June 2010. |
| **Newspaper Article** | Stout, David, and Solomon Moore. "U.S. Won't Prosecute in States that Allow Medical Marijuana." *New York Times* 14 Sep. 2010: A1. *LexisNexis Academic.* Web. 14 July 2010. |

Note: A periodical article on the Web may not include page numbers. If possible, give the numbers or, when pagination is not continuous, use the first page number and a plus sign; if pagination is not available, use n. pag.

### Citing an Article in a Scholarly Journal from a Subscription Database:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Format** | Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." *Title of Periodical* volume number.issue number (year): pages [or n. pag]. *Name of Database*. Medium. Day Month year of access. |
| **Scholarly Journal Article** | Billitteri, Thomas J. "Cyberbullying." *CQ Researcher* 18.17 (2008): 385-408. *CQ Researcher*. Web. 7 Sept. 2010. |
| **Scholarly Journal Article with multiple authors** | Webster, Mort, Lisa Jakobovits, and James Norton. "Learning about Climate Change and Implications for Near-Term Policy." *Climatic Change* 89.1-2 (2008): 67-85. *Sciences Module, ProQuest*. Web. 23 Oct. 2010. |

### Citing an Article from an Online Periodical Directly from the Web (not via subscription database):

| | |
|---|---|
| **Format** | Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." *Title of Online Periodical*. [no period if volume number.issue number are available] volume number.issue number (year) OR Day Month year of Publication [for popular magazines or newspapers]: paragraphs [or pages or n. pag]. Medium. Day Month year of access. |
| **Newspaper Article** | "Climate Change May Kill Great Barrier Reef by 2050.*" International Herald Tribune*. 2 Feb. 2007: n. pag. Web. 21 Nov. 2010. |
| **Scholarly Journal** | Reidsma, Pytrik, and Frank Ewert. "Regional Farm Diversity Can Reduce Vulnerability of Food Production to Climate Change." *Ecology and Society* 13.1 (2008): 38. Web. 1 Dec. 2010. |

### Citing an Interview, Article, or Document from a Website:

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|---|---|
| **Format** | Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Document or Article Web page." *Title of Website*. Publisher or sponsor of site [or N.p. if not available], Day Month year of latest update [or n.d. if not available]. Medium. Day Month year of access. |
| **Document** | "The Constitution of Botswana." *Constitution Finder*. University of Richmond, 19 Sept. 2010. Web. 5 Nov. 2010. |
| **Article** | Martinez, Nadia, and Juan Montecino. "Bolivians Struggle for Democracy." *FPIF: Foreign Policy in Focus*. Institute for Policy Studies, 2009. Web. 23 Oct. 2010. |
| **Interview** | Rodriguez, Richard. "A View from the Melting Pot: An Interview with Richard Rodriguez." Interview by Scott London. *Scott London*. Scott London, 2008. Web. 3 June 2010. |

Note: Use this format (above) when the Title of the document, article, etc. is different than the Title of the website. If they are the same, use the format below. Also, if citing an interview, the name of the person interviewed comes first (see Rodriquez ).

### Citing a Website or Part of a Website:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Format** | Author's Last Name, First Name. *Title of the Website*. Publisher or sponsor of site [or N.p. if not available], Day Month year of latest update [or n.d. if not available]. Medium. Day Month year of access. |
| **Website** | Brandes, Jay. *Maya Angelou: A Bibliography of Literary Criticism*. N.p., 20 Aug. 1997. Web. 7 May 2010. |
| **Part of a Website** | Exploratorium: The Museum of Science, Art and Human Perception. *Global Climate Change Research Explorer.* National Science Foundation, 2002. Web. 27 Nov. 2010. |