



How to Cite Online Information

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Life Without Page Numbers: How to Cite Electronic Texts Within a Research Paper

Electronic documents generally do not have fixed page numbers or any kind of section numbering. For electronic documents, the page numbers of a printout should normally not be cited because the pagination may vary in different printouts.

The purpose of including page numbers in citations is to direct readers to a particular place in the cited document. This can be easily accomplished with electronic texts. Using the search feature of most web browsers, readers can search an entire document for the quoted material.

Follow the guidelines below when citing electronic texts:

MLA*

For any type of source, you must include information in your text that directs readers to the correct entry in the "Works Cited" list (see the *MLA Handbook*, sec. 5.2). If your source lacks numbering, you have to omit numbers from your parenthetical references. If your source includes fixed page numbers or section numbering (such as numbering of paragraphs), cite the relevant numbers. Give the appropriate abbreviation before the numbers: "(Moulthrop, pars. 19-20)." (*Pars.* is the abbreviation for *paragraphs*. Common abbreviations are listed in the *MLA Handbook*, sec. 6.4.)

APA**

Follow the author/date format described on pages 168–174 in the *Publication Manual*. For quotations, give page numbers (or paragraph numbers) if they are available. If page or paragraph numbers are not available (i.e., they are not visible to every reader), they can be omitted from the in-text citation.

Turabian

For footnotes and parenthetical references, use page or paragraph numbers if they are available. If the source does not contain fixed page or paragraph numbers, they can be omitted from the footnote and/or parenthetical reference. (See sec. 11.57 in the *Manual for Writers*.)

MLA Style of Citation

Information needed for “Works Cited” list:

- Name of author/editor (if given)
- Title of article (in quotation marks)
- Title of journal (underlined)
- Volume and issue numbers
- Year or date of publication (in parentheses)
- Number of pages or paragraphs (if given)
- Database name (underlined)
- Name of database provider (if necessary)
- Date information was accessed

Magazine Article:

Newman, Judith M. “Following the Yellow Brick Road.” Phi Delta Kappan 81.10 (June 2000): 774-9. WilsonSelect. FirstSearch. 16 Aug. 2000.

Newspaper Article:

Kuriloff, Peshe. “If John Dewey Were Alive Today, He’d Be a Webhead.” The Chronicle of Higher Education 28 Apr. 2000: A72. Lexis-Nexis Academic. 16 Aug. 2000.

Encyclopedia Article:

“Internet.” Encyclopedia Britannica Online. 16 Aug. 2000.

E-Book:

Keating, Anne B. and Joseph Hargitai. The Wired Professor. New York: New York UP, 1999. NetLibrary. 16 Aug. 2000.

Academic Journal:

Benyon, David, Debbie Stone, and Mark Woodroffe. “Experience with Developing Multimedia Courseware for the World Wide Web: the Need for Better Tools and Clear Pedagogy.” International Journal of Human-Computer Studies 47 (1997): 197-218. IDEAL Library. 16 Aug. 2000.

Web Page:

Distance Education at a Glance: Guide #1 Distance Education – An Overview. N.D. University of Idaho College of Engineering. 16 Aug. 2000 <<http://www.uidaho.edu/evo/dist1.html>>.

APA Style of Citation

Information needed for “References” list:

- Name of author/editor (if given)
- Date of publication or revision (in parentheses)
- Title of article
- Title of journal (underlined)
- Volume (underlined) and issue numbers (in parentheses)
- Number of pages or paragraphs (if given)
- Retrieval statement including date accessed, database provider (followed by the specific database name in parentheses) and any additional information needed to retrieve the particular item.

Magazine Article:

Newman, J. M. (2000). Following the yellow brick road. Phi delta kappan, 81(10), 774-9. Retrieved August 16, 2000, from FirstSearch (WilsonSelect).

Newspaper Article:

Kuriloff, P. (2000, April 28). If John Dewey were alive today, he'd be a webhead. The chronicle of higher education, pp. A72. Retrieved August 16, 2000, from Lexis-Nexis Academic.

Encyclopedia Article:

Internet. (n.d.). In Encyclopedia Britannica online. Retrieved August 16, 2000, from Encyclopedia Britannica Online.

E-Book:

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Academic Journal:

Benyon, D., Stone, D., & Woodroffe, M. (1997). Experience with developing multimedia courseware for the World Wide Web: The need for better tools and clear pedagogy. International journal of human-computer studies, 47, 197-218. Retrieved August 16, 2000, from IDEAL Library.

Web Page:

Distance education at a glance: Guide #1 distance education – an overview. (n.d.). University of Idaho College of Engineering. Retrieved August 16, 2000, from the World Wide Web:
<http://www.uidaho.edu/evo/dist1.html>

Turabian Style of Citation

Information needed for “Bibliography” list:

- Name of author/editor (if given)
- Title of article (in quotation marks)
- Title of journal (underlined)
- Volume and issue numbers
- Year or date of publication (in parentheses)
- Number of pages or paragraphs (if given)
- Publication medium (Database On-line.)
- Name of database provider and database name

Magazine Article:

Newman, Judith M. “Following the Yellow Brick Road.” Phi Delta Kappan, 81, no. 10 (2000): 774-9. Database on-line. Available from FirstSearch, WilsonSelect.

Newspaper Article:

Kuriloff, Peshe. “If John Dewey Were Alive Today, He’d Be a Webhead.” The Chronicle of Higher Education 28 April 2000, A72. Database on-line. Available from Lexis-Nexis Academic.

Encyclopedia Article:

“Internet.” Encyclopedia Britannica Online. Database on-line. Available from Encyclopedia Britannica Online.

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Web Page:

Distance Education at a Glance: Guide #1 Distance Education – An Overview. (n.d.). University of Idaho College of Engineering. Available from <http://www.uidaho.edu/evo/dist1.html>. Accessed 16 August 2000.

For additional information, consult the following citation manuals:

- *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 6th ed. (Turabian)
- *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 5th ed. (MLA)
- *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 4th ed. (APA)

* from *MLA Style, Documenting Sources from the World Wide Web*.

Retrieved August 24, 2000, from the World Wide Web:

<http://www.mla.org/style/sources.htm>

** from *Electronic Reference Formats Recommended by the American Psychological Association*. Retrieved August 24, 2000, from the World Wide Web: <http://www.apa.org/journals/webref.html>