

APA Citation Style QuickGuide

University of Alberta Library

This guide is based on the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th edition, 2020). For more information and examples please see the [APA Manual](#) (print) and the [APA Style website](#).

Components of APA style

APA style includes in-text citations throughout the text and a reference list at the end, which provides full details about the cited sources.

Reference List Entries (*APA Manual* sec. 9.4 & [website](#))

Reference list entries should be organized alphabetically and formatted with a hanging indent. They usually include the following elements:

- **Author** (e.g., writer, editor, artist, director)
- **Date** (e.g., year of publication for a book, date of update for a webpage)
- **Title** (e.g., article title, book title, report title)
- **Source** (e.g., publisher of a book, volume and issue of an article, DOI or URL of an online work)

In-Text Citations

In-text citations make brief reference to the complete citations in your reference list (*APA Manual*, sec. 8.10).

- An in-text citation includes the author's family name and the year of publication. E.g., **(Cohen, 2017)**
- You may place an in-text citation in parentheses at the end of a sentence or incorporate the author's name into the text of your sentence as a narrative citation (*APA Manual*, sec. 8.11 & [website](#)). For example:
 - Parenthetical: **(Cohen, 2017)**
 - Narrative: **Cohen (2017) found that...**
- Include page numbers only when you are quoting or referring to specific passages. E.g., **(Cohen, 2017, p. 22)** (*APA Manual*, sec. 8.13).

Using DOIs and URLs (*APA Manual* secs. 9.34–9.36 & [website](#))

A DOI (digital object identifier) is a unique string of letters and numbers that refers to a specific article, ebook, or other online work. DOIs usually can be found on the first page of a work or on the information page about the work. You can also visit crossref.org to look up a DOI. Follow these rules for including DOIs and URLs in references:

- If a work has a DOI, include it in the reference, even if you used the print version. Do not include a URL.
- If an online work has no DOI:
 - If the work is on a website, include a URL directly to the work. You may use a URL shortening service for long links (see sec. 9.36).
 - If the work is within a library database, do not provide a URL.

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How to Format Author Names (see secs. 8.14, 8.17, 9.8, & 9.12)

Author type	Beginning of Reference List Entry	Parenthetical In-Text Citation	Narrative In-Text Citation
1 author	Moore, T. R. (2014).	(Moore, 2014)	Moore (2014)
2 authors	Hubball, H., & West, D. (2013).	(Hubball & West, 2013)	Hubball and West (2013)
3-20 authors*	Fairley, M., Humphreys, K., & Joyce, V. R. (2021).	(Fairley et al., 2021)	Fairley et al. (2021)
Organization	American Psychological Association. (1985).	(American Psychological Association [APA], 1985)**	American Psychological Association (APA, 1985)**
No author	<i>Narcissistic personality disorder</i> . (2019).***	(<i>Narcissistic Personality Disorder</i> , 2019)	<i>Narcissistic Personality Disorder</i> (2019)

* For a work with more than 20 authors, include the first 19 authors' names followed by an ellipsis, then add the final author's name, as in [an example from the APA Style Blog](#).

** If you abbreviate an organization's name, include the full name and abbreviation the first time you cite it. After that, only include the abbreviated name. E.g., (APA, 1985)

*** For a work with no author, put the title in the author position (see secs. 8.14 & 9.12).

Reference Examples

Source	Reference list entry	In-Text Citation
Journal article with a DOI (<i>APA Manual</i> , sec. 10.1 #1)	Mousseau, M. (2003). The nexus of market society, liberal preferences, and democratic peace: Interdisciplinary theory and evidence. <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> , 47(4), 483–510. https://doi.org/10.1046/j.0020-8833.2003.00276.x	(Mousseau, 2003)
Journal article on a website, with no DOI (<i>APA Manual</i> , sec. 10.1 #2)	Bruce, N., & Lamb, L. (2019). The case of a home grown high-tech sector in a small Canadian city. <i>Journal of Rural and Community Development</i> , 14(3), 61–73. https://journals.brandonu.ca/jrcd/article/view/1653/388	(Bruce & Lamb, 2019)
Journal article print or in a library database, with no DOI (<i>APA Manual</i> , sec. 10.1 #3)	Hubball, H., & West, D. (2008). Silence and authentic reflection strategies: Holistic learning in an outdoor education program. <i>Physical & Health Education Journal</i> , 74(2), 12–14.	(Hubball & West, 2013)
Journal article with article number (<i>APA Manual</i> , sec. 10.1 #6)	Wolsink, I., Den Hartog, D. D., Belschak, F. D., & Oosterwijk, S. (2019). Do you feel like being proactive today? Trait-proactivity moderates affective causes and consequences of proactive behavior. <i>PLoS ONE</i> , 14(8), Article e0220172. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0220172	(Wolsink et al., 2019)

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Source	Reference list entry	In-Text Citation
Journal article advance online publication (<i>APA Manual</i> , sec. 10.1 #7)	Fairley, M., Humphreys, K., & Joyce, V. R. (2021). Cost-effectiveness of treatments for opioid use disorder. <i>JAMA Psychiatry</i> . Advance online publication. https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2021.0247	(Fairley et al., 2021)
Magazine article on a website (<i>APA Manual</i> , sec. 10.1 #15)	Brownell, C. (2019, October 1). Where all the weed went. <i>Maclean's</i> . https://archive.macleans.ca/article/2019/10/1/where-all-the-weed-went	(Brownell, 2019)
Magazine article print or in a library database, with no DOI (<i>APA Manual</i> , sec. 10.1 #15)	Moyer, M. W. (2019, June). Vaccines reimaged. <i>Scientific American</i> , 320(6), 54–61. NOTE: Some magazines have volumes and issues, while others do not. If there is a volume and/or issue, include it in the reference.	(Moyer, 2019)
Newspaper article on a website (<i>APA Manual</i> , sec. 10.1 #16)	Heil, E. (2019, October 22). The pizza box hasn't evolved in decades, but now Pizza Hut is trying out a new round design. <i>The Washington Post</i> . https://wapo.st/35WJxUk	(Heil, 2019)
Newspaper article print or in a library database (<i>APA Manual</i> , sec. 10.1 #16)	Hughes, L. (2006, October 26). Blue-box blues. <i>The Globe and Mail</i> , p. A20.	(Hughes, 2006)
Authored book with a DOI (<i>APA Manual</i> , sec. 10.2 #20)	Gibson, R. (2020). <i>Desire in the age of robots and AI: An investigation in science fiction and fact</i> . Palgrave Macmillan. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-24017-2	(Gibson, 2020)
Authored book print or in a library database, with no DOI (<i>APA Manual</i> , sec. 10.2 #21)	Meikle, G. (2016). <i>Social media: Communication, sharing and visibility</i> . Routledge.	(Meikle, 2016)
Ebook on a website, with no DOI (<i>APA Manual</i> , sec. 10.2 #22)	Marks, D. F., Murray, M., & Estacio, E. V. (2018). <i>Health psychology: Theory, research and practice</i> (5th ed.). https://amazon.ca/Health-Psychology-Theory-Research-Practice-ebook/dp/B0785M2VS9	(Marks et al., 2018)
Book, specific edition with a DOI (<i>APA Manual</i> , sec. 10.2 #31)	Cohen, D. (2017). <i>How the child's mind develops</i> (3rd ed.). Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315201375	(Cohen, 2017)

Source	Reference list entry	In-Text Citation
Edited book print or in a library database, no DOI (APA Manual, sec. 10.2 #25)	Shulman, D., & Stroumsa, G. G. (Eds.). (1999). <i>Dream cultures: Explorations in the comparative history of dreaming</i> . Oxford University Press.	(Shulman & Stroumsa, 1999)
Chapter in an edited book with a DOI (APA Manual, sec. 10.3 #38)	Ward, L. M., & Harrison, K. (2005). The impact of media use on girls' beliefs about gender roles, their bodies, and sexual relationships: A research synthesis. In E. Cole & J. Henderson (Eds.), <i>Featuring females: Feminist analyses of media</i> (pp. 3–23). American Psychological Association. https://doi.org/10.1037/11213-001	(Ward & Harrison, 2005)
Chapter in an edited book print or in a library database, no DOI (APA Manual, sec. 10.3 #39; see sec. 9.8 for directions for hyphenated first names)	Li, W.-Y. (1999). Dreams of interpretation in early Chinese historical and philosophical writings. In D. Shulman & G. G. Stroumsa (Eds.), <i>Dream cultures: Explorations in the comparative history of dreaming</i> (pp. 17–42). Oxford University Press.	(Li, 1999)
Encyclopedia or dictionary entry with editor but no author, print or in a library database, no DOI (APA Manual, secs. 8.14, 9.12, & 10.3 #47)	Population control. (2008). In W. A. Darity, Jr. (Ed.), <i>International encyclopedia of the social sciences</i> (2nd ed., Vol. 6, pp. 377–378). Gale. NOTE: If the entry has both an author and a book editor, cite it like a chapter in an edited book.	(“Population Control,” 2008)
Encyclopedia or dictionary entry with author, on a website, no DOI (APA Manual, sec. 8.28 & 10.3 #48)	Brown, D. J., & Lawton, S. B. (2013, December 16). Charter schools. In <i>The Canadian encyclopedia</i> . https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/charter-schools	(Brown & Lawton, 2013, para. 4) NOTE: To quote a source with no page numbers, give a section heading or paragraph number instead.
Government or organization report with group author, on a website (APA Manual, sec. 10.4 #50 & #54)	Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. (2015). <i>Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to action</i> . https://ehprnh2mwo3.exactdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf	First citation: (Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada [TRC], 2015)

Source	Reference list entry	In-Text Citation
Government or organization report with individual author, on a website (<i>APA Manual</i> , sec. 10.4 #51)	MacLaurin, B., Trocmé, N., Fallon, B., Pitman, L., & McCormack, M. (2003). <i>Northwest Territories incidence study of reported child abuse and neglect, NWTIS-2003: Major findings</i> . University of Calgary. https://cwrp.ca/sites/default/files/publications/NWTIS2003_en_0.pdf	(MacLaurin et al., 2003)
Canadian statute (<i>APA Manual</i> , sec. 11.5 #8; <i>Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation</i> , sec. 2.1)	Privacy Act, RSC 1985, c P-21 (1985). https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/P-21/index.html	(Privacy Act, 1985)
Dissertation or thesis in a library database (<i>APA Manual</i> , sec. 10.6 #65)	Leonard, W. H. (2018). <i>Living in an unreal world: Fake news, social identity theory, and media literacy</i> (Publication No. 10976562) [Master's thesis, University of Alabama]. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global.	(Leonard, 2018)
Film or video (<i>APA Manual</i> , sec. 10.12 #84)	Mangold, J. (Director). (1999). <i>Girl, interrupted</i> [Film]. Columbia Pictures. NOTE: If you watched a particular version of the film, you may specify that as part of the format. E.g., [Film; three-disc special edition].	(Mangold, 1999)
TV episode (<i>APA Manual</i> , sec. 9.29 & 10.12 #87)	Shelton, L. (Director), Schur, M. (Writer), & Law, A. (Writer). (2017, September 21). What's my motivation (Season 1, Episode 11) [TV series episode]. In M. Schur, D. Miner, M. Sackett, & D. Goddard, (Executive Producers), <i>The good place</i> . Fremulon; 3 Arts Entertainment; Universal Television.	(Shelton et al., 2017)
Streaming video (<i>APA Manual</i> , sec. 10.12 #90)	CBN News. (2015, August 24). <i>Slowing down Alzheimer's one exercise at a time</i> [Video]. Youtube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iTYYAqcqLjE NOTE: For retrieval purposes, the uploader is considered the author even if they did not create the work.	(CBN News, 2015)
Slides or lecture notes on eClass or a website (<i>APA Manual</i> , sec. 10.14 #102)	Jones, S. (2019, January 22). <i>An introduction to the limbic system</i> [PowerPoint Slides]. eClass. https://eclass.srv.ualberta.ca/ NOTE: If the slides or notes are on a site that requires a login (e.g., eClass), provide a URL to the login page. If not, provide a URL directly to the slides or notes.	(Jones, 2019)
Webpage with personal author (<i>APA Manual</i> , sec. 10.16 #112)	Moore, T. R. (2018, April 11). <i>Diabetes mellitus and pregnancy</i> . Medscape. http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/127547-overview	(Moore, 2018)

Source	Reference list entry	In-Text Citation
Webpage with group author (APA Manual, sec. 10.16 #111)	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2019, September 5). <i>Anxiety and depression in children</i> . https://www.cdc.gov/childrensmentalhealth/depression.html NOTE: When the author and the title of the website are the same, omit the website title.	First citation: (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2014)
Webpage with no date with group author (APA Manual, sec. 9.16, 9.17, & 10.16 #114)	Pfizer. (n.d.). <i>Ongoing vaccine research at Pfizer</i> . Retrieved October 28, 2019, from https://www.pfizer.com/science/vaccines/research	(Pfizer, n.d.)
Webpage with no known author (APA Manual, secs. 8.14, 9.12, & 10.16 #112)	<i>Narcissistic personality disorder</i> . (2019, February 7). Psychology Today. https://www.psychologytoday.com/ca/conditions/narcissistic-personality-disorder	<i>(Narcissistic Personality Disorder, 2019)</i>
Photograph or image (APA Manual, sec. 10.14)	American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. (n.d.). <i>Anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) tear</i> [diagram]. OrthoInfo. Retrieved April 16, 2021, from https://orthoinfo.aaos.org/globalassets/figures/a00325f04_resize.jpg NOTE: If the image has no author, start the reference with the title. If no title is provided, include only a description of the content in square brackets (e.g., [diagram of ACL tear]).	First citation: (American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons [AAOS], n.d.)
Social media post (APA Manual, sec. 10.15 #103)	Obama, B. [@POTUS44]. (2015, June 26). <i>Today is a big step in our march toward equality. Gay and lesbian couples now have the right to marry</i> [Tweet]. Twitter. https://twitter.com/POTUS44/status/614435467120001024 NOTE: Begin the reference with the user's real name, if known, followed by the screen name in square brackets. In place of a title, provide the content of the post, up to the first 20 words.	(Obama, 2015)
Generative AI E.g., ChatGPT (APA Style Blog post)	OpenAI. (2022). <i>ChatGPT</i> (Dec 20 version) [Large language model]. https://chat.openai.com NOTE: For more information, visit the guide to using and citing generative AI.	(OpenAI, 2022)
Personal communications (APA Manual, sec. 8.9)	NOTE: Personal communications are works that cannot be recovered by readers. They include emails, letters, personal interviews, phone conversations, unrecorded lectures, and more. Personal communications are cited only in the text and not in your reference list.	(J. L. Smith, personal communication, September 24, 2019)

Example Reference List

Note: The reference list should have a hanging indent.

References

- American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. (n.d.). *Anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) tear* [diagram]. OrthoInfo. Retrieved April 16, 2021, from https://orthoinfo.aaos.org/globalassets/figures/a00325f04_resize.jpg
- Brownell, C. (2019, October 1). Where all the weed went. *Maclean's*. <https://archive.macleans.ca/article/2019/10/1/where-all-the-weed-went>
- Bruce, N., & Lamb, L. (2019). The case of a home grown high-tech sector in a small Canadian city. *Journal of Rural and Community Development*, 14(3), 61–73. <https://journals.brandonu.ca/jrcd/article/view/1653/388>
- CBN News. (2015, August 24). *Slowing down Alzheimer's one exercise at a time* [Video]. Youtube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iTYAYgcqLJE>
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- MacLaurin, B., Trocmé, N., Fallon, B., Pitman, L., & McCormack, M. (2003). *Northwest Territories incidence study of reported child abuse and neglect, NWTIS-2003: Major findings*. University of Calgary. https://cwrp.ca/sites/default/files/publications/NWTIS2003_en_0.pdf
- Meikle, G. (2016). *Social media: Communication, sharing and visibility*. Routledge.
- Moore, T. R. (2018, April 11). *Diabetes mellitus and pregnancy*. Medscape. <http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/127547-overview>
- Mousseau, M. (2003). The nexus of market society, liberal preferences, and democratic peace: Interdisciplinary theory and evidence. *International Studies Quarterly*, 47(4), 483–510. <https://doi.org/10.1046/j.0020-8833.2003.00276.x>
- Obama, B. [@POTUS44]. (2015, June 26). *Today is a big step in our march toward equality. Gay and lesbian couples now have the right to marry* [Tweet]. Twitter. <https://twitter.com/POTUS44/status/614435467120001024>
- Population control. (2008). In W. A. Darity, Jr. (Ed.), *International encyclopedia of the social sciences* (2nd ed., Vol. 6, pp. 377–378). Gale.

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