Citing Sources: MLA Style

This guide contains examples of MLA bibliographic formats for commonly used sources. For complete and authoritative information consult the printed MLA Style Manual. You must attribute direct quotations and other people’s ideas within the body of your paper. Failure to do so might lead to charges of plagiarism.

- If you are unsure of what to cite, a good rule of thumb is to cite it, or ask your instructor.

Keep in mind the following rules when formatting your bibliography:

- The bibliography should be arranged alphabetically by author, or, if author is not present, by title.
- Use hanging indents of 5 spaces.
- All entries must include a medium (print, electronic, recording etc.) note. See the Style Manual for a full listing of mediums.
- Web resources must include a date of access in the citation.
- Check with your instructor to see if URLs are required for web resources. If not, use URLs for any resource that can not be found using a simple web search.
- Use double spacing, unless your professor instructs otherwise.
- Be sure to use the proper punctuation.

**BOOKS**

Basic format: Author. Title. Publisher city: Publisher, year. Medium.


**ONLINE BOOK:**


**CHAPTER IN AN EDITED BOOK:**

Chapter author. “Chapter title.” Book title. Editor first name last name. Publisher city: Publisher, year. Pages. Medium.


**TRANSLATED BOOK:**


**JOURNAL ARTICLES**

**PRINT:**


**FROM A FULL-TEXT DATABASE:**


**FROM A WEB-BASED SOURCE:**
Author. “Title.” *Journal Title* Volume number. Issue number (years): page numbers, if applicable*: Web. Date accessed. <URL, if necessary />.
*If page numbers are not available, use abbreviation n.pag. to indicate “no pagination.”


**MAGAZINE ARTICLES:**


**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:**


For magazine and newspaper articles from a FULL-TEXT DATABASE or a WEB-BASED SOURCE, use the format shown above, but change the “medium” and include database name, date accessed, and URL (if necessary) as shown in the JOURNAL ARTICLE examples above.

**WEB SITE**
*Basic Format:* Author or Corporation. *Title (see below).* Version or edition used. Publisher or sponsor.*. Date of creation or update day month year **. Web. Date of access day month year. <URL if necessary />.

If are citing the overall web site, place the title in italics. If you are using a specific page from a larger site, place the title in regular font, inside quotes.
*if not available, use N.p.
**if not available, use n.d.


For further help, see:
- The Libraries’ web guide, Citing Sources (<http://library.lib.binghamton.edu/search/citing.html>)
- Using Refworks (<http://library.binghamton.edu/instruct/refworkshelp.html>) to help create your citations and keep track of your sources.