Coastal Bend College Library
Quick Tips for APA Citations
Adapted from the APA Publication Manual, 6th ed., 2010

This information is adapted from the 6th edition of the APA Publication Manual. All Campus libraries have copies of the manual. These examples provide the answers to the most common citation questions; refer to the printed Manual for detailed information. Page numbers refer to pages in the APA Manual.

Reference List

Use sentence style for works: capitalize the first word, but not the remainder, with the exception of organizations, names, and titles (p.228). It is not necessary to double space the Reference List, just between each entry (p. 326).

Electronic Citations from library databases – it is not necessary to copy and paste the URL; however, most library databases provide a permalink to the article, which is acceptable to use (p. 231).

Electronic Citations from the internet – the citations are listed just as the print version, but add this statement at the end: Retrieved Month Day, Year, from [URL] – look for the URL permalink

Permalinks and DOI: many websites archive articles with permalinks, or assign unique identifiers called Digital Object Identifier (DOI) which are supposed to be permanent, archived links to the articles. This may not be the same URL as the one that shows in the URL box. If the URL is too long to type out or refers to multiple pages of a web site, use the entry URL for the web site (pp. 268-273 of the APA manual): for example: “http://www.australianhumanities.org”, rather than the entire link as used in the example below. The DOI is the FINAL archival copy, therefore needs no “retrieved on” date. The DOI is assigned through an organization and can be retrieved at http://www.doi.org. The DOI information is outlined in the APA Style Guide to Electronic References (2007).

Books

[basic book format]
Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (Date of publication). Title of Book (Ed.). Place of publication: Publisher.

[electronic book from database]

[electronic book on the internet]

[print edition that is not the first; no author instead use first significant words of title]

[entry in an online reference work, no author or editor]

[book chapter from a print version of an edited book]
Journal articles

[original article format]

[journal article in print]

[journal article from library database]

[article from an internet based journal]

[journal article from internet journal with page numbers]

[journal article from internet journal with DOI, with more than 6 authors]

News Articles

[original news format; p.242 in APA]
Author, A. A. (Year, Month Day). Title of article. *Title of Newspaper, pp. page number.

[newspaper article in print]

[print newspaper article with no author]

[news article retrieved from website; note the use of the newspapers website rather than url to avoid nonworking URLs; note lack of page number in online newspaper]

[retrieved from library database]
Internet Sources

This section explains citation of documents such as web pages, newsletters, blogs, social networking cites – the format is very similar to electronic books and articles.

At minimum, you need: • URL • Title or website name • Date retrieved

If possible: • Author name (either personal or organization or institution name) • Website name (not necessarily the same thing as the author name) • Title of the posting • Date of the posting • DOI or the URL for the archived message or posting (frequently called the “permalink”)

[web page with no date and the organization/web site as the author]

[web page document with DOI; white paper: organization’s unpublished policy document]

[web page article with an institutional author and a specific given date; note this example has the web site listed as a separate publication from the author]

[blog posting with an identifiable author and web site name; use the blog name as the title of the source]

[comment to a blog posting; not all blogs have dates or URLs for comments; note the lack of “retrieved from” date; screen name from blog used as author name]

[video blog post]

[video on a web site; no date; institutional author]

[photo on a photo sharing site; username used as author]

[photo from web site with authors]