Rosen Research Guides, MLA

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MLA Citation Style

This guide is designed to get you started with and/or refresh your memory about the MLA citation style. For more information, please consult the official source—the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th ed. (2009)* (commonly called the “MLA Manual”)—which is available in the Universal Orlando Foundation Library at: Rosen Reference LB2369 .G53 2009.

**Citing Sources in the Text**

- MLA style recommends that you use **parenthetical references** (notes that appear in parentheses) throughout the text of your paper, along with a **Works Cited** list at the end of your paper.
- Parenthetical references generally follow the format: (Author Page). The author(s) may be a single individual, several individuals, or an organization:
  
  “Hotel occupancy rates in Orlando rose 2.1% last year” (Butler 72).
  All survey respondents rated interpersonal skills highly (Koenig, Watson, and Ziff 20-24).
  Arrivals to Asia rose significantly in 2003 (World Tourism Organization 4).
- For more assistance with in-text citations, refer to the longer electronic version of this guide (http://guides.ucf.edu/citations-mla) or to p. 213-232 in the MLA Manual.

**Formatting the References List**

- In MLA style, the list of sources at the end of the paper is usually called **Works Cited**. Start this list on a new page, with the words Works Cited in the top center of the page. Double-space throughout the list. Use a “hanging indent” (indent the second and following lines) for entries longer than one line. Arrange the items alphabetically by author (or, for works with no author, by the title).
- Capitalize the first word of titles, as well as all other significant words in titles.
- Italicize (not underline) the titles of works published independently, such as books, entire journal or magazine titles, entire websites, dissertations, entire television and radio programs, sound recordings, and works of art: *Conferences and Conventions: A Global Industry* (entire book)
- Put quotation marks around the titles of works published within larger works (such as journal articles, book chapters, essays, individual episodes of television and radio programs) and for unpublished works (such as lectures and speeches): “Convention Centers” (book chapter)
- Include the medium of publication for all entries (i.e. Print, Web, Television, Radio, Film, DVD, etc.)
- For more assistance with the references list, refer to the longer electronic version of this guide (http://library.ucf.edu/rosen/guide_mla) or to p. 129-35 in the MLA Manual.

**Works Cited Examples – Selected Common Source Types**

**BOOK**

- General Form:
  
  Last, First M., and First M. Last. *Book Title.* # ed. [if other than 1st]. Place: Publisher, Date. Medium.
- Example:
  
CHAPTER FROM A BOOK OR AN ENTRY IN A REFERENCE BOOK

- General Form:
  Last, First M. “Article Title.” Translator [if applicable]. Book Title. Editor(s). Edition [if applicable]. Volumes [if applicable]. Place: Publisher, Year. Pages [unless the work is arranged alphabetically]. Medium.

- Example:

JOURNAL OR MAGAZINE ARTICLE

Print version:

- General Form:
  Last, First M. “Article Title.” Journal Title Volume.Number (Date): Pages. Medium.

- Example:

Electronic version – accessed through a library database

- General Form: follow Print form, then add: Database Name. Web. Access Date.

- Example:

WEBSITE

- General Form:
  Last, First M. [or name of organization] “Title of the Work.” Title of the Overall Site. Publisher or sponsor of the site [use. N.p. if not available], Publication Date [n.d. if not available]. Medium. Access Date.

- Examples:
  When websites do not provide all the desired information, give as much information as you can and follow the general form as closely as possible.


***Note: The MLA Handbook states that it is not necessary to include the website’s URL except when “the reader probably cannot locate the source without it or when your instructor requires it” (182). The following example shows how to format a reference that includes the URL.


To cite a source type not listed above, or for more examples and details refer to the longer electronic version of this guide (http://guides.ucf.edu/citations-mla) or to p. 123-212 of the MLA Manual.

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