Basic MLA Citing Guidelines

The seventh edition of the MLA Handbook presents several changes to how works cited pages are written, especially in respect to electronic sources. This handout features the most significant changes with reference to the handbook itself for further assistance.

The format for citing a book with a single author is included because there is a difference from the 6th edition format. Consult the MLA Handbook, 7th edition for variations on print publications.

5.5.2 A Book by a Single Author

Include the following elements, in the following order: if an element is not given, go to the next.

1. Author's name, reversed for alphabetizing, followed by a period.
2. Title of the book. If the book has a subtitled, put a colon directly after the main title (unless the title ends in a question mark or exclamation point). Place a period after the entire title. Italicize the entire title, including punctuation marks.
3. Publication information:
   - City of publication, followed by a colon
   - Publisher's name, followed by a comma
   - Year of publication, followed by a period
   - Medium of publication (Print)

Sample works cited page:

Works Cited

Johnson, Roberta. *Gender and Nation in the Spanish Modernist Novel.* Nashville: Vanderbilt UP, 2003. Print.

Kirby, David. *What Is a Book?* Athens: U of Georgia P, 2002. Print.

Kurlansky, Mark. Salt: *A World History*. New York: Walker, 2002. Print.

Le Carrejohn [David Cornwell]. *The Constant Gardener*. New York: Scribner's, 2001. Print.

Rowling,J[oanne] K[athleen]. *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*. New York: Levine-Scholastic, 2000. Print.

Citing Electronic Sources

5.6.2b A Work Cited Only on the Web

An entry for a non-periodical publication on the Web usually contains most of the following components, in sequence:

1. Name of author, compiler, director, editor, narrator, performer, or translator of the work, followed by a period.
2. Title of the work (italicized if the work is independent; in roman type and quotation marks if the work is part of a larger work, followed by a period.
3. Title of overall Web site (italicized), if distinct from item 2, followed by a period.
4. Version or edition if used, followed by a period.
5. Publisher or sponsor of the site; if not available, use N.p.
6. Date of publication (day, month, year, as available); if nothing is available, use n.d.
7. Medium of publication (Web).
8. Day of access (day, month, year)

If you cannot find some of this information, cite what is available.

Sample works cited page:

Works Cited

Committee on Scholarly Editions. "Guidelines for Editors of Scholarly Editions." *Modern Language Association*. MLA, 25 Sept. 2007. Web. 15 May 2008.

Concerto Palatino, perf. "Canzon a 6 per I'Epistota." By Giovanni Priuli. *Boston Early Music Festival and Exhibition*. Boston Early Music Festival, 2003. Web. 20 July 2007.

"de Kooning, Willem." *Encyclopaedia Britannica Online*. Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2008. Web. 15 May 2008.

Eaves, Morris, Robert Essick, and Joseph Viscomi, eds. *The William Blake Archive*. Lib. of Cong., 8 May 2008. Web. 15 May 2008.

Carcia Landajose Angel, comp. *A Bibliography of Literary Theory, Criticism and Philology*. 13th ed. U de Zaragoza, 2008. Web. 15 May 2008.

Green, Joshua. "The Rove Presidency." *The Atlantic.com*. Atlantic Monthly Group, Sept. 2007. Web. 15 May 2008.

"Hourly News Summary." *National Public Radio*. Natl. Public Radio, 20 July 2007. Web. 20 July 2007.

Lessig, Lawrence. "Free Debates: More Republicans Call on RNC." *Lessig* 2.0. N.p., 4 May 2007. Web. 15 May 2008.

Liu, Alan, ed. Home page. *Voice of the Shuttle*. Dept. of English, U of California, Santa Barbara, n.d. Web. 15 May 2008.

"Maplewood, New Jersey." Map. *Google Maps*. Google, 15 May 2008. Web. 15 May 2008.

Quade, Alex. "Elite Team Rescues Troops behind Enemy Lines." *CNN.com*. Cable News Network, 19 Mar. 2007. Web. 15 May 2008.

Salda, Michael N., ed. *The Cinderella Project*. Vers. 1.2. U of Southern Mississippi, Oct. 2005. Web. 15 May 2008.

"The Scientists Speak." Editorial. *New York Times*. New York Times, 20 Nov. 2007. Web. 15 May 2008.

"Six Charged in Alleged N.J. Terror Plot." *WNBC.com*. WNBC, 8 May 2007. Web. 9 May 2007.

Tyre, Peg. "Standardized Tests in College?" *Newsweek*. Newsweek, 16 Nov. 2007. Web. 15 May 2008.

Yager,Susan, narr. “Former Age.” By Geoffrey Chaucer. *Chaucer Metapage*. Ed. Mark E. Allen et. al. U of North Carolina. 13 Feb. 2007. Web. 30 Nov. 2007.

5.6.2c A Work on the Web Cited with Print Publication Data (this would apply to a book that was scanned for access in a database)

Begin the entry with the relevant facts about print publication as described in 5.5, p. 148 in MLA Handbook or consult the last page of this handout. Instead of concluding with Print as the medium of the publication, record the following in sequence:

1. Title of the database or Web site (italicized), followed by a period
2. Medium of publication consulted (Web), followed by a period
3. Date of access (day, month, year) followed by a period

Sample works cited page:

Works Cited

Bierce, Ambrose. "Academy." *The Devil's Dictionary. The Collected Works of Ambrose Bierce*. Vol. 7. New York: Neale, 1911. N. pag. The Ambrose Bierce Project. Web. 15 May 2008.

Bown, Jennifer M. "Going Solo: The Experience of Learning Russian in a Non-traditional Environment." Diss. Ohio State U, 2004. *OhioLINK*. Web.15 May 2008.

Cascardi, Anthony J. *Ideologies of History in the Spanish Golden Age*. University Park: Pennsylvania State UP, 1997. Penn State Romance Studies. Web. 12 Mar. 2007.

Child, L Maria, ed. *The Freedmen's Book*. Boston, 1866. *Google Book Search*. Web. 15 May 2008.

Heim, Michael Henry, and Andrzej W. Tymowski. *Guidelines for the Translation of Social Science Texts*. New York: ACLS, 2006. *American Council of Learned Societies*. Web. 15 May 2008.

United States. Dept. of Justice. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. *Law Enforcement and Juvenile Crime*. By Howard N. Snyder. 2001. *National Criminal Justice Reference Service*. Web. 15 May 2008.

Whitman, Walt. *Leaves of Grass*. Brooklyn, 1855. *The Walt Whitman Archive*. Web. 12 Mar. 2007.

Whittierjohn C. "A Prayer." *The Freedmen's Book*. Ed. L. Maria Child. Boston, 1866. 178. *Google Book Search*. Web. 15 May 2008.

Ovid. *Metamorphoses*. Trans. Arthur Golding. London, 1567. *The Perseus Digital Library*. Ed. Gregory Crane. Tufts U. Web. 12 Mar. 2007.

5.6.4 A Periodical Publication in an Online Database

Begin the entry by following recommendations in 5.5 for citing works in print periodicals (p. 148 or consult the handout on the last page of this handout) but, drop the medium of original publication (Print). A periodical article on the Web may not include page numbers. If possible, give the inclusive page numbers or, when pagination is not continuous, the first page number and a plus sign; if pagination is not available, use
n. pag. Conclude the entry with the following items:

1. Title of database (italicized)
2. Medium of publication consulted (Web), (italicized)
3. Date of access (day, month, year)

Sample works cited page:

Works Cited

Chan, Evans. "Postmodernism and Hong Kong Cinema." *Postmodern Culture* 10.3 (2000): n. pag. *Project Muse*.

Web. 5 June 2008.

Evangelista, Stefano. Rev. of *Victorian and Edwardian Responses to the Italian Renaissance*, ed. John E. Law and Lene Ostermark-Johansen. *Victorian Studies* 46.4 (2006): 729-31. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 12 Mar. 2007.

France, Anatole. "Pour la Paix, pour la Liberte." *New Age* 5 Sept. 1907: 297-98. *The Modernist Journals Project*. Web. 5 June 2008.

Lal, Ananda. Letter. TDR 51.3 (2007): 1 7-18. *Project Muse*. Web. 30 Nov. 2007.

Miller, Steven, and Sara Guyer, eds. *Literature and the Right to Marriage*. Spec. issue of *Diacritics* 35.4 (2005): 1 – 124. *Project Muse*. Web. 5 June 2008.

Richardson, Lynda. "Minority Students Languish in Special Education System." *New York Times* 6 Apr. 1994, late ed.: A1+. Pt. 1 of a series, A Class Apart: Special Education in New York City. *LexisNexis*. Web. 15 Aug. 2007.

Rosenberg, Mark. "Something Old, Something New. . . ." Editorial. *Canadian Journal on Aging / La revue canadienne du vieillissement* 26.2 (2007): 81. *Project Muse*. Web. 30 Nov. 2007.

Tolson, Nancy. "Making Books Available: The Role of Early Libraries, Librarians, and Booksellers in the Promotion of African American Children's Literature." *African American Review* 32.1 (1998): 9-16. *JSTOR*. Web. 5 June 2008.

Section 5.5 p. 148 MLA Handbook, 7th edition

This information is referenced in this handout in the sections 5.6.2c and 5.6.4a. It can also be found in the handbook, p. 148. It is included here as a convenience for students.

This list shows most of the possible components of a book entry and the order in which they are normally arranged:

1. Name of the author, editor, compiler, or translator (for more than one author, see 5.5.4; for a corporate author, see 5.5.5; for an anonymous work, see 5.5.9)
2. Title of work (italicized)
3. Edition used (see 5.5.13)
4. Number(s) of the volume(s) used (see 5.5.14)
5. City of publication, (followed by a colon), name of the publisher (followed by a comma), and year of publication (followed by a period)
6. Medium of publication consulted (Print) **This will be omitted at this point in the entry in electronic sources.**