

# APA: Electronic Sources

Examples are based on the *APA Style Guide to Electronic References* (2007) and the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th ed.)

Here are some general guidelines to keep in mind from the *APA Style Guide to Electronic References*:

- "In general, include the same elements, in the same order, as you would for a reference to a fixed-media source [print, microfilm, DVD, CD-ROM], and add as much electronic retrieval information as needed for others to locate the sources you cited" (p. 1).
- "For journal articles, always include the journal issue number (if available) along with the volume number, regardless of whether the journal is paginated separately by issue or continuously by volume" (p. 2). This is a change from the fifth edition.
- "For undated or otherwise changeable content retrieved from the open Web, . . . include the retrieval date. No retrieval date is necessary for content that is not likely to be changed or updated, such as a journal article or book" (p. 2).
- "Direct readers as closely as possible to the source you used. . . . When a DOI is available, include the DOI instead of the URL in the reference" (p. 2). A DOI, or Digital Object Identifier, is a string of letters and numbers used to provide a *persistent link* to material on the Internet. If a DOI is assigned, you can usually find it on the first page of the article or in the database record.
- "With the exception of hard-to-find books and other documents of limited circulation delivered by electronic databases, the database name is no longer a necessary element of the reference. . . . If you do include the database name in a reference, do not include the database URL" (p. 3).

Other guidelines to keep in mind, from the *Publication Manual* are:

- For authors' names, just use the last name and initials.
- Just give the year for journals, books and audiovisual media: (1993)
- Give the year and the month for monthly magazines, newsletters, and newspapers: (1993 June).
- Give the year, month and day for daily and weekly magazines, newsletters, and newspapers: (1993, June 3).

### Journal Article and Other Documents with a DOI

A DOI (Digital Object Identifier) is a unique identifier and direct link to an article or document now assigned by many scholarly publishers. For articles without a DOI, see examples in the next section.

Fox, M., Andrews, A., Wendland, J., Lesch, K.-R., Holmes, A., & Murphy, D. (2007). A pharmacological analysis of mice with a targeted disruption of the serotonin transporter. *Pharmacology* 195(2), 147-166. doi:10.1007/s00213-007-0910-0

- Include the DOI when available instead of the URL.
- No database name is need.

### Magazine, Journal or Newspaper Article without a DOI from an Aggregated Database (EBSCOhost)

(Services that provide articles and other types of material through a common gateway. Examples are *EBSCOhost*, *FirstSearch*, *ProQuest* and journal articles in *Literature Resource Center*. For articles retrieved from a publication's own Web site, see examples in the next section.)

Dolan, F. M. (1991). The poetics of postmodern subversion: The politics of writing in William Burrough's *The Western Lands*. *Contemporary Literature* 32(4), 534-551. Retrieved from Academic Search Premier database.

- For journals, always include the volume and issue numbers.
- Just give the year for journals.

Grossman, L. (2007, September 3). Why Facebook is the future. *Time*, 170, 54. Retrieved from MasterFILE Premier database.

- Give the date—month for monthlies or month and day for weeklies.
- For a magazine article, give the volume number.

Churchill, B. (1999, April 15). Award-winning architect and his buildings. *Christian Science Monitor*, p. 13. Retrieved from MasterFILE Premier database.

- Give the date—month for monthlies or month and day for weeklies.
- For a newspaper article, do not give the volume number. Use p. or pp. for page numbers.

### Magazine, Journal or Newspaper Article from an Online Magazine, Journal or Newspaper (Open-Access or by Subscription)

(Articles available at the publication's own Web site. An example is *CQ Researcher*. For articles from an aggregated database such as those from EBSCOhost, see examples in the previous section.)

Block, D. (2004). Globalization, transnational communication and the Internet. *IJMS: International Journal on Multicultural Societies* 6(1), 22-37. Retrieved from <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001385/138569E.pdf#page=23>

Payne, G. (2007). Social divisions, social mobilities and social research: Methodological issues after 40 years. *Sociology* 41(5), 901-915. Retrieved from <http://soc.sagepub.com>

Martin, A., & Pollack, A. (2008, January 16). F.D.A. says food from cloned animals is safe. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <http://www.nytimes.com>

- For journal articles, "If there is no DOI assigned, give the exact URL (if the content is open-access) or the URL of the journal home page (if the content is available from a subscription)" (*APA Style Guide*, p. 8).
- "Do not insert a hyphen if you need to break a URL across lines; instead break the URL before most punctuation (an exception would be <http://>). Do not add a period after the URL, to prevent the impression that the period is part of the URL" (*APA Style Guide*, p.6). The *Publication Manual* directs to "break the URL after a slash or before a period" (p.271).
- "No retrieval date is included because the final version of the article is being referenced" (*APA Style Guide*, p. 8).
- For newspaper articles from general interest media (such as the *New York Times*) and alternative presses, use the publication's home page (*APA Style Guide*, p.22).

### Article in an Online Reference Source

(Examples are *Britannica Online*, *AccessScience*, *Credo Reference*, and the Facts on File databases.)

Constructivism. (2007). In *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. Retrieved December 19, 2007, from Encyclopedia Britannica Online: <http://search.eb.com/>

Metz, T. (2007, May 15). The meaning of life. In E. N. Zalta (Ed.) *The Stanford encyclopedia of philosophy*. Retrieved December 19, 2007, from <http://plato.stanford.edu>

- "The date of the most recent change or update may not be clear from the entry, so include the retrieval date" (*APA Style Guide*, p.15).
  - "Give the home or index page URL for reference works" (*APA Style Guide*, p. 15).

## Article in an Online Reference Source Originally Published in a Book

(Examples are book resources in *Opposing Viewpoints* and the Facts on File history databases (*African-American History Online*, *American History Online*, etc.)

Renewable energy. (2007). In S.M. Alters (Ed.), *Energy: Supplies, sustainability, and costs*. (2007 ed.) Detroit: Thomson Gale. Retrieved from *Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center* database.

Mowrey, C. (1997). An overview of "The Fall of the House of Usher." In *Short stories for students*. Gale Research. Retrieved from *Literature Resource Center* database.

- Publication information for print version may be incomplete. Use what is available.

## Professional Web Site

(Reflects the aims and purposes of an organization or institution.)

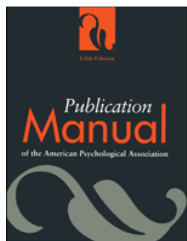
Chan, M. (2007, December 10). Climate change and health: Preparing for unprecedented challenges. Retrieved from World Health Organization Web site: [http://www.who.int/dg/speeches/2007/20071211\\_maryland/en/](http://www.who.int/dg/speeches/2007/20071211_maryland/en/)

- "If a document is contained within a large and complex Web site (such as that for a university or a government agency), identify the host organization and the relevant program or department before giving the URL for the document itself" (*Publication Manual*, p. 274).

But note:

National Institute of Mental Health. (2007, December 18). What are the autism spectrum disorders? Retrieved from <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/autism/symptoms.shtml>

- When a U. S. government report is available on the government agency's own Web site (or a report from a private organization is available on the organization's own Web site), omit the host organization, since it is the same as the corporate author. (*Publication Manual*, p. 275)

	<p>See the <i>Publications Manual of the APA</i> for additional examples and explanatory information. Available in the library's reference collection (call number: <b>REF BF 76.7. P83 2001</b>)</p>
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