

## USING MLA TO CITE WORLD WIDE WEB AND ELECTRONIC SOURCES (VERSION 7)

\*Note: The examples below are guidelines and address only the most common types of citations. For complete information and specific questions please refer to the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers 7th Edition*.

**Citations for electronic sources may contain as many as five divisions of information, depending upon the type of source and how much information is supplied by the website or database:**

Author's name. "Title of the document." Information about print publication.

Information about electronic publication. Access information.

1. **Authors' name** - if available, reversed for alphabetizing. Also list the name of the editor or compiler of the site (if given), followed by ed or comp.
2. **Title** – state the full title of an article, document, short story, poem, or similar short work in quotation marks. If you are citing an entire Internet site or an online book, italicize the title.
3. **Information about the print publication** – If the document was originally published in print format, cite any available print publication information just as you would for a journal article or book.
4. **Information about the electronic publication** – this typically includes these items in this order:
  - title of the website (italicized, if not already stated earlier)
  - name of the organization or institution that sponsors the site (if not stated earlier), if no sponsor listed use N.p.
  - date of electronic publication or the latest update of the site, if nothing is listed use n.d.
  - medium of publication (Web)
5. **Access information** – the date you accessed the site (day, month, year). Note that all months are abbreviated except for May, June, and July. Only list the URL if the site is difficult to locate or your instructor requires it.

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

Below are examples for specific types of Internet sources. Note where periods, quotation marks and commas are placed within a citation.

**A DOCUMENT FROM AN INTERNET SITE:** When citing a document from within a website, follow the five steps above, skipping sections that do not apply to your document, or that you do not have information about. For example:

Hansson, Karen. "Patrick White – Existential Explorer." *Nobel e-Museum*. Nobel Foundation, 2003. Web.

16 Jan. 2004.

Adams, R. Jerry, ed. "Handgun Control Debate." *Awesome Library*. Evaluation and Development Institute, 2004. Web.

8 Feb. 2004.

Boynton, W. H. "Mrs. Wharton's Manner." *Nation* Oct. 1913: 404-5. *Electronic Text Center*. University of

Virginia Library, 2002. Web. 25 May 2003.

**AN ENTIRE ONLINE BOOK:** Citing an entire online book is similar to citing a book in print. Begin with as much of the original print publication information as is provided: author, title, place of publication, publisher,

and publication date. Follow this with information about the site or database, the medium (Web), and the date you accessed it, as outlined in steps four and five on the front of this handout. Below are two examples, one from the World Wide Web and one from net Library, a library subscription database.

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *This Side of Paradise*. New York: Scribner, 1920. *Bartleby.com: Great Books Online*. Bartleby, 2003. Web. 15 Feb. 2004.

Landels, John G. *Music in Ancient Greece and Rome*. London: Routledge, 2002. *netLibrary*. Web. 4 March 2004.

Sometimes a website does not give all or any information about the original print publication. Cite whatever is given, then move on to the next steps. Below is an example:

Hawthorne, Nathaniel. *The House of Seven Gables*. *Great Literature Online*. Cyber Studios, Inc, 2004. Web. 25 Jan. 2004.

**PART OF AN ONLINE BOOK:** Cite part of an online book just as you would cite an entire online book, only insert the title of the part you are using between the author's name and the book title. If the part you are citing is a poem, essay, or short story, put it in quotation marks.

Plath, Sylvia. "Daddy." *The Collected Poems*. New York: Harper & Row, 1981. *Poets.org*. Academy of American Poets, 2004. Web. 10 Dec. 2003.

Sometimes a website does not give all or any information about the original print publication. Cite whatever is given, then move on to the next steps. Below is an example:

Dickinson, Emily. "Because I Could Not Stop for Death." *Poetry Archives*. eMule, 2004. Web. 5 Feb. 2004.

**AN EMAIL:** Cite an email communication by giving the name of the person who wrote the email (reversed for alphabetizing), the subject line of the email (in quotation marks), a description that states whom the email was sent to, followed by the date of the message, and the medium of delivery. Here is a sample citation:

Carter, Curtis F. "Re: Greek Sculpture." Message to Barbara Cole. 17 May 2003. Email.

**AN ARTICLE FROM A SCHOLARLY JOURNAL:** Please see the pink MLA citation handout on periodical and newspaper articles if you are not certain whether the online article you are citing is from a magazine or a scholarly journal. **If the article is from a library subscription database, also see that heading on the back of this page.**

A scholarly journal article from an online scholarly journal is cited in almost the same way as a scholarly journal article in print: author's name (reversed for alphabetizing), followed by the article title (in quotation marks), followed by the journal title (italicized), followed by the volume and issue number (if provided), the date, and the page numbers (if not provided use n. pag.). Follow this with the medium and the date you accessed the article. Below is a sample citation:

Bilton, Peter. "Another Island, Another Story: A Source for Shakespeare's *The Tempest*." *Renaissance Forum* 5.1 (2000): n. pag. Web. 27 Nov. 2003.

**AN ARTICLE FROM A MAGAZINE:** Please see the pink MLA citation handout on periodical and newspaper articles if you are not certain whether the online article you are citing is from a magazine or a scholarly journal. **If the article is from a library subscription database, also see that heading on the back of this page.**

A magazine article from an online magazine is cited in the same way as a magazine article in print: author's name (reversed for alphabetizing), followed by the article title (in quotation marks), followed by the magazine title (italicized), followed by the date of publication (not the volume or issue numbers), and the page numbers (if not provided use n. pag.). Follow this with the medium and the date you accessed the article. Below is a sample citation:

Tumulty, Karen. "Round Three: Edwards Hangs In." *Time* 3 Feb. 2004: n. pag. Web. 12 March 2004.

**AN ARTICLE FROM A NEWSPAPER:** If the newspaper article is from a library subscription database, also see that heading on the back of this page. A newspaper article from an online newspaper is cited the same way as an online magazine article (see above). Here is an example:

Von Drehle, David. "A Ruling With Resonance." *Washington Post* 5 Feb. 2004: n. pag. Web. 11 Feb. 2004.

**AN ONLINE FILM OR BOOK REVIEW:** Citing an online film or book review is just the same as citing an online magazine or newspaper article, with one exception: between the title of the review (if there is one) and the name of the magazine or newspaper, insert *Rev. of* (for review of) and the name of the movie or book being reviewed (italicized). This is followed by the director's name if it is a film review or the writer's name if it is a book review. Below are two examples; in the second, the review did not have a title.

O'Neil, Caitlin. "Flood Watch." *Rev. of In Sunlight, In a Beautiful Garden*, by Kathleen Cambor. *Boston Book Review* March 2001: n. pag. Web. 18 Jan. 2004.

Ebert, Roger. *Rev. of Cold Mountain*, dir. Anthony Minghella. *Chicago Sun-Times* 24 Dec. 2003: n. pag. Web. 19 Jan. 2004.

**AN ARTICLE FROM A LIBRARY SUBSCRIPTION DATABASE:** To cite articles or books from an electronic database that a library subscribes to, begin the citation as you would for the print version of the article or book (see other handouts for more information) and end it with the name of the database (italicized), medium (Web), and date of access.

Examples:

Easterbrook, Gregg. "The Media Glamorize Violence." *American Values*. Ed. Jennifer A. Hurley. San Diego: Greenhaven, 2000. Rpt. of "Watch and Learn." *The New Republic* 17 May 1999. *Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center*. Web. 17 Jan. 2004.

West, Genevieve. "The Aesthetics of Toni Morrison: Speaking the Unspeakable." *Studies in the Novel* 35 (2003): 272-76. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 5 Feb. 2004.

Wade, Nicholas. "Grappling With the Ethics of Stem Cell Research." *New York Times* 24 July 2001: F3. *America's*

*Newspapers*. Web. 16 Apr. 2002.

**A PAINTING, SCULPTURE OR PHOTOGRAPH:** Begin this citation with the name of the artist, sculptor, or photographer (reversed for alphabetizing), followed by the name of the work (italicized). The year the work was created is listed after the title; if the date is unknown list N.d. Follow this with the name of the institution or sponsor of the site. List the title of the site or database in italics. The medium (Web) and date of access are listed last. If you can't find some of this information, cite what is available. Here is an example:

Gursky, Andreas. *99 Cent*. 1999. Museum of Mod. Art. *MOMA: Exhibition*. Web. 10 October 2003.

**AN ONLINE MAP, CHART, OR GRAPH:** Begin this citation with the name of the area being mapped, or the title of the chart or graph (in quotation marks). Follow with the date of publication and name of institution or site sponsor. Complete the citation by following steps four and five on the front page of this handout.

"Afghanistan." 2003. Latimer Clarke Corp. *Altopedia Online*. Web. 24 Jan. 2004.

**GUIDELINES FOR INCLUDING THE URL:** If you are required to include the URL in the citation, list it after the date of access. Enclose the URL in angle brackets and place a period at the end. Give the complete address including *http*. If a URL must be divided break it only after a slash. Here are some examples:

"Censorship Roundup." *School Library Journal* 52.6 (2006): 23. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 28 Feb.

2007. <<http://www.linccweb.org/eresources.asp>>.

Wein, Harrison. "Stress and Disease: New Perspectives." *The NIH Word on Health*. National Institutes of

Health, 2000. Web. 28 Feb. 2007. <<http://www.nih.gov/news/WordonHealth/oct2000/story01.htm>>.