How Do I Cite That?

Citing from where you obtained information is extremely important so that the original author is given credit for their work. Using information without a citation and passing it off as your own is considered plagiarism. Proper citation can be time-consuming and confusing, but with practice, it will become easier!

Several types of citation styles are used when writing academic papers. These citation styles are often specific to your subject area, and your instructor might specify the preferred style for the course. Below are some online resources that will provide you with instructions and examples on citing your sources both in the text and in a works cited page.

Library Citation Guides

WSU Libraries has created a number of “quick guides” to assist you with citation creation. This includes numerous styles: APA, CSE, Chicago, MLA, NLM, and SSA. Visit this link to find them:

- [http://libraries.wsu.edu/quickguides](http://libraries.wsu.edu/quickguides)

WSU Libraries has also created a tutorial on plagiarism. Visit this link to view it:

- [http://libraries.wsu.edu/library-instruction/plagiarism](http://libraries.wsu.edu/library-instruction/plagiarism)

Citation Styles

The most commonly used citation styles in the Humanities and Social Sciences are MLA, APA, and Chicago.

MLA

This citation style from the Modern Languages Association (currently in the 7th Edition) is often used in humanities disciplines. To find out more about how to use this style, visit the websites below:

- [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/)
  - The Purdue OWL is a highly-recommended, frequently updated site with examples of nearly every resource type. The site is run by Purdue University.
  - Call Number: Reference LB2369 .G53 2009

APA

This citation style from the American Psychological Association (currently in the 6th Edition) is often used in the social sciences disciplines. To find out more about how to use this style, visit the websites below:

- [http://www.apastyle.org/learn/quick-guide-on-references.aspx](http://www.apastyle.org/learn/quick-guide-on-references.aspx)
  - The APA provides a website with a “quick answers” page on their site. Use the link above to go directly there, and explore their other resources (free and paid).
- [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/)
  - The Purdue OWL is a highly-recommended, frequently updated site with examples of nearly every resource type. The site is run by Purdue University.
  - Call Number: Reference BF76.7 .P83 2010

Chicago

This citation style, originally created at the University of Chicago (currently in the 16th Edition), is often used in the discipline of history. To find out more about how to use this style, visit the websites below:

- [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)
  - The Chicago Manual of Style website provides numerous examples and other resources.
The Purdue OWL is a highly-recommended, frequently updated site with examples of nearly every resource type. The site is run by Purdue University.


**Call Number: Reference Z253 .U69 2010**

### Citation Tools in the Databases and Search It

Some electronic databases will produce a citation of the article you are viewing. **We do not recommend relying on these,** as they often contain typos or are not up-to-date with the latest revisions. However, these can be a good starting point for constructing a citation or seeing what it might look like in the end. To find these citation tools, look for a “Cite” link or icon. This will vary between databases. For example, in EBSCO, the citation icon is a piece of paper on the right side of the screen. When you click on it within any record, it will cite the source in a variety of styles.

**Search It** also has the ability to generate citations. When in a record, click on **Actions** and then **Citation.** You will be provided with the citation in several styles. Like the databases, however, they may contain typos.

### Citation Management Tools

If you are collecting several sources for your research project and would like to keep them organized, try a citation management tool! WSU Libraries supports the following:

**EndNote:** To use EndNote, see the LibGuide link below, or contact librarian Chelsea Leachman at chelsea.leachman@wsu.edu or 509-335-8527.

- [http://libguides.libraries.wsu.edu/endnote](http://libguides.libraries.wsu.edu/endnote)

**Zotero:** To use Zotero, see the LibGuide link below, or contact Lorena O'English at oenglish@wsu.edu or 509-335-2695.


### On-Campus Citation Help

The Undergraduate Writing Center is available to help you construct or review citations. They provide both in-person and online help! Walk-ins are welcome. They are also available at the library, near the reference desk, on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1-3pm. Visit their website for more information:

- [http://universitycollege.wsu.edu/units/writingprogram/units/writingcenter/undergrad/#etutoring](http://universitycollege.wsu.edu/units/writingprogram/units/writingcenter/undergrad/#etutoring)