

APA Reference List for Online Sources (APA 7)

A few quick tips on citing online sources on a reference page:

- Direct readers as closely as possible to the information being cited. Reference specific documents rather than home or menu pages.
- Include the **most specific web address possible** at the end of the citation.
- Begin the citation with the title of the document if no author is identified.
- When possible, include the year, month, AND date in references. If the month and date are not available, use just the year of publication.
- Use “n.d.” in place of a date if there is no date of initial publication or uploading to the Internet.
- Capitalize only the first letter of the first word of an article’s title.
- Italicize the title of the publication; do not use quotation marks.

APA 7th edition no longer requires the use of “Retrieved from” before URLs or DOIs; special exceptions, however, are made for resources that are unarchived.

Important Formatting Tips

- If brackets are needed, brackets should directly surround their content without spaces. Ex. [bracketed content] NOT [bracketed content]
 - Citations are always alphabetical whether author, username, or title is used.
 - Citations have a hanging indent (all lines but the first are indented for all citations).
 - Citations are double-spaced.
 - Only the first letter of the first word of titles of articles, proper nouns, and the first word following a full colon are capitalized.
 - When a URL extends over one line, a line break should be given after a slash or period.
 - Citations ending in a URL do not have a period at the end.
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Common Examples of Online Sources:

Journal Article with DOI (Digital Object Identifier)

Herbst-Damm, K. L., & Kulik, J.A. (2005). Volunteer support, marital status, and the survival times of terminally ill patients. *Health Psychology, 24*, 225-229.

<https://psycnet.apa.org/doi/10.1037/0278-6133.24.2.225>

DOI’s should be presented as hyperlinks. If no DOI is assigned to the content and you retrieved it online, use the stable URL presented by the journal or database. For example, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/25087514>

If this is not available, then include the home page URL for the journal, newsletter, or magazine in the reference. Use this format: <http://www.xxxxxxxx>

Journal Article with DOI, More than Twenty Authors

Gilbert, D., McClernon, J., Rabinovich, N., Sugai, C., Plath, L., Asgaard, G., . . . Botros, N. (2004). Effects of quitting smoking on EEG activation and attention last for more than 31 days and are more severe with stress, dependence, DRD2 A1 allele, and depressive traits. *Nicotine and Tobacco Research*, 6, 249-267. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14622200410001676305>

If the source has twenty or fewer authors, you must list out all the authors' names. If the source has more than 20, add an ellipsis after the 19th author and skip to the final author's name. Do not include an ampersand after the ellipsis.

Online Magazine Article

Clay, R. (2008, June). Science vs. ideology: Psychologists fight back about the misuse of research. *Monitor on Psychology*, 39(6). <http://www.apa.org/monitor/>

*Note the above citation: **volume number** is italicized and comes after the title of the newsletter; **issue number** is in parentheses and is not italicized.*

Online Newspaper Article

*The format for this type of source depends on whether your source comes from a site with an associated newspaper or not. If the source **does** come from a sit with an associated newspaper, leave the title of the article unformatted, but italicize the title of the newspaper. Give the URL of the home page when the online version of the article is available by search to avoid nonworking URLs.*

Brody, J. (2007, December 11). Mental reserves keep brain agile. *The New York Times*.
<http://www.nytimes.com>

*If the source **does NOT** come from a site with an associated newspaper, italicize the title of the article, but leave the name of the site unformatted.*

Jones, J. (2020, May 10). *Why flats dominate Spain's housing market*. BBC.
<https://www.bbc.com/worklife/article/20200506-why-do-flats-dominate-spains-housing-market>

Chapter/Section of a Web Document or Online Book Chapter

Engellschall, R.S. (1997). Module mod_rewrite: URL Rewriting Engine. In *Apache HTTP Server Version 1.3 Documentation* (Apache modules). http://httpd.apache.org/docs/1.3/mod/mod_rewrite.html

Article Retrieved from a Database

Smyth, A.M., Parker, A.L., & Pease, D.L. (2002). A study of the enjoyment of peas. *Journal of Abnormal Eating*, 8(3).

Entry in an Online Reference Work

Graham, G. (2005). Behaviorism. In E.N. Zalta (Ed.), *The Stanford encyclopedia of philosophy* (Fall 2007 ed.). Retrieved February 20, 2023, from <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/behaviorism/>

Retrieval dates are no longer required for all reference entries. However, if a source is prone to change, include a retrieval date in the following format: Retrieved Month Date, Year, from https://xxxxx

Report from Institutional Archive (Database)

McDaniel, J., & Miskel, C. (2002). *The effect of groups and individuals on national decisionmaking: Influence and domination in the reading policymaking environment* (CIERA Report 3-025). Retrieved from University of Michigan, Center for Improvement of Early Reading Achievement website: <http://www.ciera.org/library/reports/inquiry-3/3-025/3-025.pdf>

Corporate Author, Government Report

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. (2003). *Managing asthma: A guide for schools* (NIH Publication No. 02-2650). Retrieved September 26, 2011, from http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/prof/lung/asthma/asth_sch.pdf

Entry in an Online Reference Work, No Author or Editor

Heuristic. (n.d.). In *Merriam-Webster's online dictionary* (11th ed.). <http://www.m-w.com/dictionary/heuristic>

Wikipedia Article

Quantum mechanics. (2019, November 19).

In *Wikipedia*. https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Quantum_mechanics&oldid=948476810

Wikipedia articles often update frequently. For this reason, the date should be the date the cited version of the page was published. The link should be to the archived version of the page, rather than the current version of the page on the site, since the latter can change over time. Access the archived version by clicking "View History," then clicking the date/timestamp of the version you'd like to cite.

Abstracts

APA 7 does not provide guidance on how to cite abstracts. However, if you only use information from the abstract but the full text of the article is also available, PurdueOWL advises to add "[Abstract]" after the article or source name. If the full text is not available, you may use an abstract that is available through an abstracts database as a secondary source.

Online Forum (Reddit, Tumblr, Twitter (X), YouTube, or Instagram)

Stine, R. L. [RL__Stine]. (2013, October 23). *I'm R.L. Stine and it's my job to terrify kids. Ask me anything!* [Online forum post]. Reddit. <https://www.reddit.com/r/IAmA/comments/1p32dl/>

In brackets, after the poster's name, should be their username. If their legal name is not available, use the username as the author's name without the brackets.

a_phantom_limb. (2022, August 13). *MCU characters dealing with disabilities and impairments* [Online forum post]. Reddit. https://www.reddit.com/r/marvelstudios/comments/wnpi31/mcu_characters_dealing_with_disabilities_and/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=web3x&utm_name=web3xcss&utm_term=1&utm_content=share_button

For tweets and Instagram posts, ensure the username has the @ symbol and the title of the citation should be the content of the post (or Instagram caption) up to the first 20 words. If the tweet or Insta includes images, videos, or links to other sources, indicate that information in brackets after the content description. Also attempt to replicate emojis if possible.

National Geographic [@NatGeo]. (2020, January 12). *Scientists knew African grays are clever, but now they've been documented assisting other members of their species—even strangers* [Tweet; thumbnail link to article]. Twitter. <https://twitter.com/NatGeo/status/1216346352063537154>

BBC [@bbc]. (2020, January 12). *Skywatchers have been treated to the first full moon of 2020-known as a "wolf moon"-at the same time as a* [Photograph]. Instagram. <https://www.instagram.com/p/B7OkWqbBwcf/>

For YouTube, the person or channel that uploaded the video is considered the author. If the author's name is the same as the username, omit the [username].

Decker, J. & Seawright, A. [Cinema Therapy]. (2024, September 27). *Therapist Reacts to INSIDE OUT 2*. [Video]. YouTube. https://youtu.be/R_nv-kAq-Wg?si=JcLWt7SV8tFGp91B.

Television Series

Sherman-Palladino, A., Palladino, D. (Executive Producers). (2017-present). *The marvelous Mrs. Maisel* [TV series]. Dorothy Parker Drank Here Productions; Picrow, Amazon Studios.

Single Episode from a Television Series

Egan, D. (Writer), & Alexander, J. (Director). (2005). Failure to communicate [Television series episode]. In D. Shore (Executive producer), *House*. Fox Broadcasting.

Igla, Jonathon. (Creator). (2021). Echoes (Season 1, Episode 3) [TV series episode]. In *Hawkeye*. Marvel Studios.

Film or Video in English & In Another Language

Director, D. D. (Director). (Date of publication). *Title of motion picture* [Film]. Production company.

Del Toro, G. (Director). (2006). *El laberinto del fauno* [Pan's labyrinth] [Film]. Warner Bros. Pictures.

Music Album

Recording artist. (Year of release). *Title of album* [Album]. Record label.

Single Song or Track

Recording artist. (Year of release). Title of song [Song]. On *Title of album* [Album]. Record label.

If the song is a piece of classical music, you can list the composer instead of the recording artist. If the song doesn't have an associated album, omit the section with the album.