VANCOUVER REFERENCING STYLE GUIDE
REVISED 09/08/2022

Vancouver Referencing Style Guide..............1
Referencing........................................2
Academic honesty and plagiarism..............2
About the Vancouver style ......................2
In-text citation: Referencing sources within the text.................................3
Reference list.....................................4
Electronic items....................................6
Referencing secondary sources...............6
Books and book chapters.......................7
  ▪ Single author.................................7
  ▪ Two authors.................................7
  ▪ Three or more authors .................7
  ▪ No author....................................8
  ▪ Edited book..................................8
  ▪ Chapter or article in book..............8
  ▪ Chapter or article in an edited book ....8
  ▪ E-book........................................8
Journal articles, newspaper articles and conference papers.........................9
  ▪ Journal article (print version)..9
  ▪ Journal article (full-text from electronic database).........................9
  ▪ Non-English journal article translated into English...............10
  ▪ Newspaper article (available in print).................................10
  ▪ Newspaper article (from electronic database)...............10
  ▪ Article (from the Internet, not available in print version)........10
  ▪ Proceedings of meetings and symposiums, conference papers ..........11

▪ Systematic reviews.........................11
Other materials.................................11
  ▪ Australian Bureau of Statistics ..................................................11
  ▪ Brochure......................................12
  ▪ Government report (online)....12
  ▪ Image from a database (online)..................................................12
  ▪ Lecture (unpublished) / personal communication........13
  ▪ Legal cases..................................13
  ▪ Legislation..................................13
  ▪ Podcast (on the internet)...........14
  ▪ Thesis.......................................14
  ▪ Video (from the internet)............14
  ▪ Web page.....................................15

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REFERENCING

Referencing acknowledges the sources that you used to write your essay or assignment paper. Please see the section of this guide regarding intellectual honesty and plagiarism.

In-text citations are used throughout your writing to acknowledge the sources of your information. The full references for the citations are then listed at the end of your assignment paper in the References list.

It is important to first consult your unit outline, lecturer, or tutor for the preferred citation style for each unit you undertake.

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND PLAGIARISM

At Western Sydney University plagiarism falls within the framework of the Student Misconduct Rule and its associated guidelines.

Further information about the importance of academic honesty is available on the Library website.

ABOUT THE VANCOUVER STYLE

The Vancouver style is a widely used numbered system of referencing or bibliographic citation. The citation style was originally based on the rules proposed by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors; they are now maintained by the US National Library of Medicine.

This guide covers basic explanations and examples for the most common types of citations used by students based on Citing Medicine: The NLM Style Guide for Authors, Editors, and Publishers (2nd edition online). If you are unable to find the referencing example you require in this guide, more detailed information and examples can be found in the above publication.

For further support, please contact the library:

- Phone 02 9852 5353
- Email
- Online Librarian
IN-TEXT CITATION: REFERENCING SOURCES WITHIN THE TEXT

Throughout the text of your paper you need to acknowledge the sources used in your writing. Whenever you present a statement of evidence such as a quote, or when you use someone else’s ideas, opinions, or theories in your own words (paraphrasing), you must acknowledge your sources.

The Vancouver citation style uses a sequential number system whereby the authorship is acknowledged using a number to represent the reference. The reader can then find this reference under the corresponding number in the reference list. This number is static, meaning that the same number is used every time you wish to cite a particular reference at any point in your document.

You can insert numbers as superscript e.g.¹ or in parentheses e.g. (1). If you wish to cite two or more references together, place a comma between the numbers, e.g. ¹,² or (1,2). If you wish to cite a series of consecutive references, use a dash, e.g. ²-⁵ or (2-5). When required, page numbers can be given in parentheses after the reference number e.g. ²(p34) or (2 p34) or ³(p4,6) or (3 pp4,6).

Place the number immediately after the author, title, word, or phrase to which it is directly relevant. In the author-focused in-text citation, the superscript follows immediately after the author (no space). In the idea-focused in-text citation, the superscript follows immediately after the full stop or comma (no space). When colons and semi-colons are used, place the number inside the punctuation.

Mullan³ described narration as...
The narration of works can be divided into two²
...in the Royal Commission’s landmark report²; yet this result...

Note: When you summarise the general idea of a source in your own words, you must cite the author or body responsible for the work. The use of author-focused in-text citations should be extremely limited.

If you directly quote fewer than four lines of a quote, enclose the quotation using double quotation marks within the text. The page number(s) should be provided following the reference number e.g.

Mullan⁴[215] explained that tone should be “anti-solemn”.

If the quotation is greater than 4 lines it should be displayed in an indented block, in a reduced font size and without quotation marks.

The paper concluded that⁵(p3142):

James is making an argument about a singular novel, but that last phrase is evidence enough of his disdain for the form in general. He expresses this elsewhere in his criticism and correspondence, notably in an extraordinary letter to H. G. Wells. In 1911 Wells had sent James a copy of his latest novel, The New Machiavelli (1911), which is narrated in the first person.

Sources that you cite in your writing are listed in detail at the end of your document in a reference list.
REFERENCE LIST

A reference list includes details of the sources cited in your paper. It starts on a separate page at the end of your assignment paper and is titled References. Each item cited in the reference list must have been cited in your paper. All sources appearing in the reference list are listed in the order in which they are first cited in the text (not alphabetically).

The reference list is a numbered list and should be single spaced with a one line space between each entry. No indentation is required.

Capitalisation in the Vancouver style is very specific. The following general rules apply:

Book title, chapter, section title and article – capitalise the first letter of the first word of the title, proper nouns, proper adjectives, and acronyms.

e.g. Ageing and aged care in Australia.

Brave new brain: conquering mental illness in the era of the genome.

What can save UNESCO?

Journal and newspaper titles - capitalise the first letter of each word using the appropriate abbreviation for journal names (see section on journal articles in this guide). Newspaper titles are not abbreviated.

e.g. J Educ Psychol

Proper nouns, acronyms, and abbreviations that are normally capitalised should be capitalised in the reference list. For further information on capitalisation, see examples on the following pages for each reference type.

In the Vancouver style place of publication requires that the city be followed by the state, province, or country in parentheses. United States and Canadian cities are followed with a two-letter abbreviation of the state or province (see Citing Medicine, “Appendix E”). Cities in other countries are followed with the name or a two-letter abbreviation of that country (see Citing Medicine, “Appendix D”).

| ... Springfield (MA): ... |
| ... Marrickville (AU): ... or ... Marrickville (Australia): ... |
| ... Oxford (GB): ... or ... Oxford (United Kingdom): ... |

Also note that reference elements within each entry are separated by a full stop, and parts of these elements are separated by commas, colons, and semi-colons. End with a period only if the URL ends with a slash, otherwise end with no punctuation. See examples on the following pages for each reference type.

Sources that are not readily retrievable should not be listed in the References list, but should be cited within the text of your paper. These sources include personal communications (oral, written, and electronic) and unpublished/yet to be published works. Avoid citing personal communication, including lecture notes, unless to provide essential information not available from another source.
Example of a reference list:

References


ELECTRONIC ITEMS

When referencing electronic resources, it is necessary to give details of where an item is available. This may be a direct URL. For sources that are not freely available and require a login, use the URL of the database or journal homepage. If a DOI number is available, it must be placed at the end of the reference.


Cited dates (i.e. the dates on which the publications were viewed) are required for sources accessed online where the material is subject to change. See examples below and Citing Medicine for more information.

REFERENCING SECONDARY SOURCES

Authors should always consult the primary source of information and should not cite through a secondary source unless the primary source is not readily available. Although not preferable, you may sometimes need to quote or paraphrase a source (A) that is referred to within another source (B). The original source should be mentioned in the text of your paper along with the secondary source. The original source is not cited in the reference list entry.

For example, the book you are using is written by Smith who quotes another author called Jones. In your essay you wish to use Jones’ idea. Acknowledge the primary source (Jones) as follows:

Jones as cited in Smith¹, agreed that the experiment failed to confirm this hypothesis.

or

Smith¹ cites the experiment by Jones in 2008 that failed to confirm this hypothesis.

Provide the details of the secondary source only in your reference list:


# BOOKS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

The standard reference list format for citing entire books is as follows:

Author AA. Book title: subtitle. Edition number. Place of publication: Publisher; Year.

or

Editor AA, editor. Book title: subtitle. Edition number. Place of publication: Publisher; Year.

Note: For information on Organisation as authors refer to *Citing Medicine*.

## SINGLE AUTHOR

|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| In-text citation | ...has been suggested.¹  
or  
Andreasen¹ stated that... |

## TWO AUTHORS

|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| In-text citation | ...is demonstrated.²  
or  
...as stated by Copstead and Banasik.² |

## THREE OR MORE AUTHORS


*Note: List all authors. Vancouver does not use et al. in the reference list.* |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| In-text citation | ...as this finding indicated.³  
or  
Schneider et al³ found...  
Note: List only the first author in the text, followed by et al. |
### NO AUTHOR

Title. Edition number. Place of publication: Publisher; Year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-text citation</td>
<td>The Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary defines... or...as defined by the Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### EDITED BOOK

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-text citation</td>
<td>Craven discussed the successful... or...in Australian cinema.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### CHAPTER OR ARTICLE IN BOOK

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-text citation</td>
<td>Knowles demonstrated that... or...as shown in this independent study.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

### CHAPTER OR ARTICLE IN AN EDITED BOOK

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-text citation</td>
<td>Ferres discussed the television episode... or...the television episode.</td>
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</table>

### E-BOOK

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-text citation</td>
<td>Storey stated that... or...is an example of functional metabolism.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
JOURNAL ARTICLES, NEWSPAPER ARTICLES AND CONFERENCE PAPERS

The titles of journals should be abbreviated. A search can be carried out to locate the details and abbreviations of journal titles at: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nlmcatalog/journals. If the title cannot be located in the NLM catalogue follow the abbreviation rules for journal titles in Citing Medicine.

The format for more than one author is the same for all sources including journal articles, therefore, refer to the examples for books in this guide.

The standard reference list format for electronic journal articles is as follows:

Author AA, Author BB, Author CC. Article title. Journal/Periodical Abbreviation [Internet]. Year Month Day [cited Year Month Day]; Volume(Issue):Pages. Available from: URL doi:

Note: If a journal is continuously paginated throughout a volume, the month and day of publication may be omitted.

For more journal and newspaper article examples see Citing Medicine chapters 1, 8 and 23.

JOURNAL ARTICLE (PRINT VERSION)

| In-text citation | Younger\(^{(9)}\) stated that the ... or The internet can be used to conduct a literature search.\(^{(9)}\) |

JOURNAL ARTICLE (FULL-TEXT FROM ELECTRONIC DATABASE)

| Reference list | Provide the URL of the database or journal homepage if it is not freely available (for example, access is not free when a login is required).
| In-text citation | Jackson et al.\(^{(10)}\) found that..... or ...was therefore conclusive.\(^{(10)}\) |
**NON-ENGLISH JOURNAL ARTICLE TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-text citation</td>
<td>Von Der Luhe(^1) concludes that both states are essential or ...that both states are essential.(^1)</td>
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</table>

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLE (AVAILABLE IN PRINT)**

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-text citation</td>
<td>Berkovic(^2) explained that handouts.... or It was suggested that handouts may not be sent.(^2)</td>
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</table>

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLE (FROM ELECTRONIC DATABASE)**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-text citation</td>
<td>Wentworth(^3) stated that... or ...the engineered apple.(^3)</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

**ARTICLE (FROM THE INTERNET, NOT AVAILABLE IN PRINT VERSION)**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-text citation</td>
<td>Cooper(^4) stated that a ferocious ant... or ...that meat ants may be able to help control toad numbers.(^4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## PROCEEDINGS OF MEETINGS AND SYMPOSIA, CONFERENCE PAPERS


Note, in example 15 above, if conference information is included in the published title, do not repeat after the title. Where location of conference and place of publication are the same, do not repeat. If the institution where the conference was held is useful to the reader it may be included before the location.  

For more examples of conference publications see Citing Medicine. |
| In-text citation | ...founded in grammatical theory,\textsuperscript{15} which is also supported by later research,\textsuperscript{16} or  
Chang et al.\textsuperscript{15} stated that...which was further supported by later research.\textsuperscript{16} |

## SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS


Note: For systematic reviews written for primary publications such as a journal or a book, cite as you would a journal article or part of a book. |
| In-text citation | Osborne and Sinn\textsuperscript{17} stated that...  
or  
It has been found that allergens are present.\textsuperscript{17} |

## OTHER MATERIALS

## AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS


In-text citation | The Australian Bureau of Statistics\textsuperscript{18} found that...  
or  
... was shown in the census information.\textsuperscript{18} |
### BROCHURE

|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| In-text citation | Buses run on a schedule.\(^9\)  
or  
The Western Sydney University transport brochure\(^9\) shows that... |

### GOVERNMENT REPORT (ONLINE)

*Place the two-letter country code in parentheses after the author, if it is not part of the title.* |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| In-text citation | ...was shown in the report.\(^20\)  
Or  
The Department of Health and Ageing\(^20\) reported that... |

### IMAGE FROM A DATABASE (ONLINE)

|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| In-text citation | **Caption**  
If the image is included in your assignment, a caption needs to be added under the image. The caption includes a figure number, title of the image (if the image is modified it will require an ‘Adapted from’ statement preceding the title), a reference number which corresponds with the source in the reference list, and a brief description of any modifications.  

**Example:**  
Figure 1: Adapted from Valves of the heart\(^2\) by addition of labels. |
LECTURE (UNPUBLISHED) / PERSONAL COMMUNICATION

Note: When you cite information spoken about in a lecture that has gone unpublished it is treated as a personal communication and you do not need to provide a reference list entry. Provide all information in text. Include the nature and source of the information followed by ‘unreferenced’ in parentheses.

In-text citation

... H. Dwyer stated that “neutrons are dangerous” (H0379 Lecture, Western Sydney University, 2016 Jan 10, unreferenced).

LEGAL CASES

The standard reference list format for a case is as follows:

Case name in italics [year in round or square brackets – see note] Volume Number Abbreviation of law report Commencing page number of case Pinpoint (Name of Court only when not obvious from citation).

Note: Enter year in brackets e.g. (2009) for reports with sequential volume numbers and therefore the year is not essential for locating the correct volume in the series OR use square brackets e.g. [2020] where the year is essential to locate the correct volume.

Reference list


In-text citation

In Queensland v Masson22 the...
or
In Lane v Morrison23 the...
or
In Andrew Shelton & Co Pty Ltd v Alpha Healthcare Ltd24...

LEGISLATION

The standard reference list format for Act or Regulations is as follows:

Title Year (Jurisdiction Abbreviation) Pinpoint.
Enter the short title of the Act in italics Year initialics (Jurisdiction) Pinpoint reference to relevant section if applicable.

Reference list

25. Mental Health Act 2007 (NSW) s 18.

In-text citation

Note: when you are referring to legislation in the text of your work, you should write as you would speak:

Section 18 of the Mental Health Act 2007 (NSW)25 states that...
NOT: Mental Health Act 2007 (NSW) s 1825 states that...
or
Section 9 of the National Cancer Screening Act 2016 (Cth)26 states that...
NOT: National Cancer Screening Act 2016 (Cth) s 926 states that...
## PODCAST (ON THE INTERNET)

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-text citation</td>
<td>Atkin\textsuperscript{29} found that...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>...was found\textsuperscript{29}</td>
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## THESIS

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<tr>
<td>In-text citation</td>
<td>Fayadh\textsuperscript{30} showed that...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>...was noted\textsuperscript{30}</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## VIDEO (FROM THE INTERNET)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference list</th>
<th>Norton R. How to train a cat to operate a light switch [video on the Internet]. 2006 Nov 4 [cited 2021 Jun 2]; [6 min.]. Available from: <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vja83KLQXZs">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vja83KLQXZs</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-text citation</td>
<td>Norton\textsuperscript{31} has discussed...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>...has been discussed\textsuperscript{31}</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## WEB PAGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference list</th>
<th>Document on the Internet:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Document on the Internet, no author, no date:**


*Note: If the webpage includes a date of revision or update, include the date along with the cited date within square brackets [updated 2009 Jan 15; cited 2009 May 27]*

*For further information, on date of publication refer to Citing Medicine.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In-text citation</th>
<th>Este et al.⁴² suggest that...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>...is necessary to develop an argument.⁴³</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For further assistance with referencing, please contact the library on 02 9852 5353.