

How to Cite Sources According to AMA, 9th EDITION

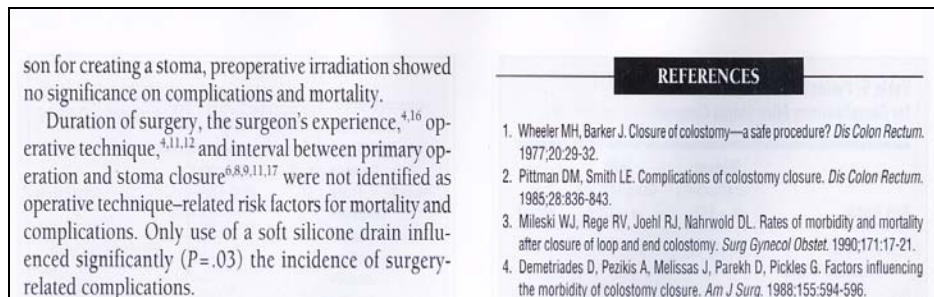
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This handout is designed as a starting point to help you cite sources, in particular electronic sources. More examples for citing print resources can be found in the **American Medical Association Manual of Style: a Guide for Authors and Editors**.

The Reference List

A reference list should appear at the end of the paper (i.e., endnotes, not footnotes). It provides the information necessary for a reader to locate and retrieve any source cited in the body of the paper. Each source cited in the paper must appear in the reference list; likewise, each entry in the reference list must be cited in the text. (A list that also includes sources not used in the paper is called a **Bibliography**.)

Select authoritative sources when writing your manuscript. Questions to ask include: Is the article peer reviewed? Is the author's affiliation listed? Is the publisher reputable? More questions can be found in *Evaluating Information Resources* brochure: http://jeffline.jefferson.edu/SML/helpaids/handouts/Eval_Info_Res.pdf



This snippet from an Archives of Surgery article¹ shows the relationship of in-text citations to the Reference list.

Answers to frequently asked questions

- Citations in bibliographic databases such as MEDLINE, Scopus and WorldCat can be exported directly to RefWorks. You will need to manually create RefWorks records for unstructured sources such as Web pages and e-books (In RefWorks—Under References tab click on Add New Reference.)
- Number endnotes according to the order they appear in your text. (Do not alphabetize.)
- If a book has editors-in-chief, cite only the editor-in-chief, not the other associate editors.
- Cite only the first city if multiple cities are listed on the title page.
- Use MEDLINE abbreviations for journal names.
- Double space the text and references of your manuscript.
- Include a page number (or section if the original is not paginated) with the in-text citation if you use an exact quote, or to direct your reader to a particular passage within the original. No page number is needed if you are referring to the document as a whole.
- When citing a chapter in a book, include its page range in the endnote.
- When citing an author's use of a secondary citation or quotation, refer to the original source in your text and include the item consulted in the reference list. (Reading and citing the original is preferable.) For example, while reading Richardson, you learn information he got from Frisby. In your text, refer to Frisby, but provide reference to Richardson in the endnote:

Frisby AJ, Jones SS. The initiation of distance learning at Thomas Jefferson University: The library as integral partner. *Med Ref Serv Q*. 2000;19:19-37. Cited by: Richardson P. Student development in an online post-professional Master's program. *Occup Ther Health Care*. 2004;18(1-2):107-116.
- Do not use *ibid.* or *op cit.* If you refer to the same document multiple times within your text, list the source only once in the references section and repeat the same superscript number in the text. If necessary, provide page numbers within the superscript citation.

In his early work, Smith found a significant difference between smokers and non-smokers.^{8(p.23)} Age was also a factor.^{8(p.64,66)}
- List all authors up to six. If more than six, list the first three followed by "et al."

¹ Pokorny H, Herkner H, Jakesz R, Herbst F. Mortality and complications after stoma closure. *Arch Surg*. 2005;140:956-960.

Citing Electronic Sources

Most electronic citations include the following:

- Author
- Title
- Media type (e.g., computer software, patient handout; leave off for Web pages as it is generally taken for granted)
- URL (uniform resource locator)
- Date (either the date of publication, update, retrieval, or verification)

Components of a URL:

<http://www.apa.org/monitor/oct00/workplace.html>

1 2 3 4

1. Protocol
2. Host name
3. Path to document
4. File name of specific document

- The URL should include the protocol (usually the http://) and the entire URL.
- Remember to direct readers as closely as possible to the information being cited. Whenever possible, reference specific documents rather than home or menu pages.
- Nevertheless, provide Web addresses that work, even if that means a home page.
- Do not cite indirect URLs such as search engine results or email links.

Sample references

Below are several examples of references using the **American Medical Association Manual of Style: a Guide for Authors and Editors**.

Print Article in journal

1. Frisby AJ, Jones SS. The initiation of distance learning at Thomas Jefferson University: the library as integral partner. *Med Ref Serv Q*. 2000;19:19-37.

Book with one author or editor

2. Gehlbach, SH. *Interpreting the Medical Literature*. 4th ed. McGraw-Hill, NY; 2002.

UpToDate

3. Larson, RA. Patient information: treatment of acute myeloid leukemia (AML) in adults. In: UpToDate. Rose, BD, ed. *UpToDate*. Waltham, Mass: UpToDate; 2005. Available at: <http://www.utdol.com>. Accessed September 22, 2005.

MDConsult

4. Rhabdomyolysis [patient handout]. Broomfield, CO: McKesson Health Solutions; 2004. Available at: <http://home.mdconsult.com/das/patient/view/53069872-2/10002/13187.html/top>. Accessed September 12, 2005.

Web Site

5. Terre Haute Center for Medical Education. The THCME Medical Biochemistry Page. Available at: <http://web.indstate.edu/thcme/mwking/home.html>. Accessed December 10, 2005.

eBook

6. Rennie D, Guyatt G, eds. *Users' Guide to the Medical Literature: A Manual for Evidence-Based Clinical Practice* [book online]. Chicago, IL: AMA Press; 2002. <http://www.usersguides.org/textbooks.asp>. Accessed December 10, 2005.

Additional information

- Find a print copy of the **AMA Manual of Style** in the Scott Memorial Library Reference Collection (2nd floor: WZ 345 B244M 1998).
- Use RefWorks to automatically format standard book and journal references.
- Askalibrarian@jefferson.edu (MSN & email); SMLreference (AIM & Yahoo); 215-503-8150