References in APA Style

Below you will find examples of references in APA Style, which is mostly used in the social sciences. Because many nursing journals also use American Psychological Association style, rules and examples follow. Just pull up this guide and keep it on your screen for a quick comparison.

Reference List
APA style calls for a reference list. Insert a page break at the end of your manuscript and begin this list at the top of the next page. Title the page “References” center and don’t underline. Each entry should be flush left, double spaced with a hanging indent. When you alphabetize this list, use prefixes such as “De Vries,” but not “Sr.” or “III.” Disregard apostrophes and spaces as in “D’Arcy” and “de Chardin.” Single-author citations in the same year precede multiple-author citations of the same year. Do not abbreviate corporate authors and alphabetize by the first significant word, not “The.” Two-author format: author’s surname, initials, & second author’s surname, initials. Three or more authors: Separate author names with commas, and use an ampersand before the last author. More than seven authors: List the first six and then use an ellipsis, followed by the name of the last author.

Book

One or more authors

Chapter in an edited book

Electronic book

Periodicals
For periodicals in print, follow this format: author’s last name, initials. (year). Title of article. Title of Periodical, volume # (issue #), page range. DOI

For periodicals online with no DOI, use the article url if possible; otherwise use the publication’s general address. Follow this format: Retrieved from http://www.socialforces.com

Journal article with DOI
Online magazine article

Audiovisual Material

Podcast

Music recording

Datasets & Software
Italicize only the title of a dataset—not software, programs or computer languages. Name an individual with proprietary rights, otherwise use the common/trademarked name. Identify the version number in parentheses and the source in brackets.

Dataset

Software
Minuit2 (Version 5.28.00) [Computer software]. Geneva, Switzerland: CERN.

Internet Message Boards, Electronic Mailing Lists & Other Online Communities
Use the author’s name, if available, or screen name, with exact date of posting, the subject line/thread, “Retrieved from” information and an address where the archive can be found.

Blog post