APA Referencing Style
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APA Referencing Style</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quotation</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book with one author</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book with two authors</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book with three, four or five authors</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book with six or seven authors</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book with eight or more authors</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book with a corporate author</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book with an Editor</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter in an edited book</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic Book (e-Book, electronic version of print book)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic Book (e-Book, no print version available)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Print Journal article, one author</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Print Journal article, up to seven authors</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Print Journal article, more than seven authors</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-journal article</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Print Newspaper article</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Newspaper article</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website (entire site)</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page on a website</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page on a website (no author)</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blogs</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facebook</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twitter</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Podcasts</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Images</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interviews, email, and other personal communication</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government agency or other organization publication</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parliamentary and legal material</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU publications</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conferences</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theses</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Film or television programmes ................................................................. 19
Music Recordings .................................................................................. 19
Podcasts ................................................................................................ 20
Lectures or Presentations .................................................................... 20
Group presentations ............................................................................ 21
Datasets ................................................................................................ 21
Repository Items .................................................................................. 22
Secondary sources ............................................................................... 23
APA Referencing Style

What is it?

Academic writing requires the author to support their arguments with reference to other published work or experimental results/findings. A reference system will perform three essential tasks:

- Enable you to acknowledge other authors ideas and thereby avoid plagiarism.
- Enable a reader to quickly locate the source of the material you refer to so they can consult it if they wish.
- Indicate to the reader the scope and depth of your research.

The American Psychological Association (APA) style is a widely used referencing system to help you achieve these objectives.

How do I use the APA Referencing Style?

The APA style involves two tasks:

- How you refer to other authors in the body of your text (in text citation).
- How you compile a list of reference sources at the end of your text (reference list).

What does it look like?

Here is an extract showing what In-text Citations look like in the APA Style

It has been claimed that due to funding being almost exclusively available from the Irish Film Board, Irish film makers are restricted to the type of Ireland they can depict in their work (MacDougall, 2009). Jervir (2011) argues that subjects such as Northern Ireland are disproportionately represented as these are key areas of interest to the board.

Here is an example of what a Reference List looks like in the APA Style


Quotation

The APA Style advises that when using another's exact words, known as direct quotation, then those words must be placed in double inverted commas/quotation marks (e.g. ""), followed by an in-text citation that includes the Author Last name, Year and Page numbers. A full reference should then appear in your reference list.

If unsure, always check with your lecturer or tutor.

Short quotations - less than 40 words

Short quotations are held to be less than 40 words in the APA Style. An example of a short direct quotation would be:

The findings suggest children have a "high level of enjoyment" (Fitzgerald et al., 2008, p. 66), while exercising with the system as indicated by the positive responses to all three questions.

Long quotations - 40 words or more

Long quotations in the APA Style are held to have 40 words or more. These are laid out in a separate paragraph of text and indented about half an inch from the left margin. No inverted commas/quotation marks are included. An example of a long quotation would be:

In their research on rehabilitation using Wobbleballs, Fitzgerald and her team conclude that:

The fourth question collected some feedback from children and while most provided positive comments a small number of children (n=13) mentioned that the wobble board was “difficult to control” or “hard to use”. We must therefore investigate some easier methods to control the game as an option for some children. Future research is needed to investigate the benefits of the system as an exercise intervention for children and to examine how training using Wobbleball could be integrated into the existing physical education curriculum in schools. (Fitzgerald et al., 2008, p. 66).
In this guide we show how common reference types should look in your reference list (Reference) along with an example. Immediately following this will be two samples of how that reference should appear as an in-text citation (In-Text-Citation).

If the exact reference type you are looking for is not shown in this guide, look for one similar and follow the same rules or consult the “Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association”. This is available in UCD Library.

**Book with one author**

**Reference:** Author Last name, Initials. (Year). *Title*. Place of publication: Publisher.


**In-Text-Citation:**
- Author Last name (Year)
- (Author Last name, Year)

**Example:**
- Carson (1998) argues
- Another approach (Carson, 1998) highlighted....

**Book with two authors**

**Reference:** Author Last name, Initials. & Second Author Last name, Initials. (Year). *Title*. Place of publication: Publisher.


**In-Text-Citation:**
- First Author Last name and Second Author Last name (Year)
- (First Author Last name & Second Author Last name, Year)

**Example:**
- Hogg and Vaughan (2008) argue....
- As argued elsewhere (Hogg & Vaughan, 2008)....
Book with three, four or five authors

Reference: First Author Last name, Initials., Second Author Last name, Initials., Third Author Last name, Initials., Fourth Author Last name, Initials., & Sixth Author, Last name, Initials. (Year). Title. Place of publication: Publisher.


In-Text-Citation (First time mentioned in text):

- First Author Last name, Second Author Last name, Third Author Last name, Initials, Fourth Author Last name, and Fifth Author Last name, Initials, (Year)....
- (First Author Last name, Second Author Last name, Third Author Last name, Fourth Author Last name, & Fifth Author Last name, Year)

Example:

- Fennelly, Matthews, Morgan, Bennett, and Bishop (2014) talk about the developing child....
- Child development has been proved to be universal (Fennelly, Matthews, Morgan, Bennett, & Bishop, 2014)

In-Text-Citation (subsequently mentioned in-text):

- First Author Last name et al. (Year)
- (First Author Last name et al., Year)

Example:

- Fennelly et al. (2014) describe...
- It has been shown that children as young as two months can perceive changes in depth (Fennelly et al., 2014)

Book with six or seven authors

Format in your reference list as for a book with three, four or five authors.

In-Text-Citation:

First Author Last name et al. (Year)

(First Author Last name et al., Year)
Example:

Sanowitz et al. (2014) argue that...

It has been shown to be valid by many studies (Sanowitz et al., 2014)...

**Book with eight or more authors**

Include the first six authors, followed by three dots (ellipses points) and then add the final author’s name.

**Reference:** First Author Last name, Initials., Second Author Last name, Initials., Third Author Last name, Initials., Fourth Author Last name, Initials., Fifth Author Last name, Initials., & Sixth Author Last name, Initials.,...Last Author Last name, Initials. (Year). *Title.* Place of publication: Publisher.


**Book with a corporate author**

**Reference:** Name of corporate author. (Year). *Title.* Place of publication: Publisher

**Example:** Economic and Social Research Institute. (2008). *ESRI research strategy 2008-2013: research for a changing Ireland.* Dublin: ESRI.

**In-Text-Citation:**
- Name of Corporate Author (Year)
- (Name of Corporate Author, Year)

**Example**
- Economic and Social Research Institute (2008) highlight research....
- Research (Economic and Social Research Institute, 2008) highlighting other trends....

**Book with an Editor**

**Reference:** Editor(s) Last name, Initials. (Ed.). (Year). *Title.* Place of publication: Publisher.


**In-Text-Citation:**
- Editor(s) last name (Year)
- (Editor(s) Last name, Year)
Example

- Among the proposals in Booth (1994)...
- Others (Booth, 1994) also proposed...

Chapter in an edited book

Reference: Author(s) Last name, Initials. (Year). Title of chapter. In authors Initials, Last name (Ed.), *Title of book* (pages of chapter). Place of publication: Publisher.


In-Text-Citation:

- Chapter Author(s) Last name (Year)
- (Chapter Author(s) Last name Year)

Example:

- Beiner (2000) argues....
- Another view (Beiner, 2000) points out....

Electronic Book (e-Book, electronic version of print book)

Reference: Authors Last name, Initials. (Year). *Title of work* [Reader name version]. Retrieved from URL/DOI


In-Text-Citation:

- Author Last name (Year)
- (Author Last name, Year)

Example:

- Luhr (2004) shows that....
- It is argued that the Coen brothers’ Fargo is their seminal work (Luhr, 2004).

Electronic Book (e-Book, no print version available)

Reference: Authors Last name, Initials. (Year or n.d.). *Title of work*. Retrieved from URL/DOI
Example: Yip, V. & Matthews, S. (2007). The bilingual child: early development and language contact. Retrieved from http://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=acls;cc=acls;q1=child%20development;q2=ACLS%20Humanities%20Book;op2=and;rgn=full%20text;rgn1=full%20text;rgn2=series;view=toc;idno=heb07828.0001.001

*Note n.d. stands for “no date”, use in any reference if no publication date is available.

In-Text-Citation:

- Author Last name (Year)
- (Author Last name, Year)

Example:

- Yip (2007) noted that....
  - It has been argued that bilingual children are better at picking up languages (Yip, 2007).

Print Journal article, one author

Reference: Author(s) Last name, Initials. (Year). Article title. Journal title, volume number(Issue number), page numbers.


In-Text-Citation:

- Author(s) Last name (year)
- (Author(s) Last name year)

Example:

- Lum and Bleses (2012) took a different approach...
- Another approach (Lum & Bleses, 2012) shows that...

Note: For journal articles only include the issue number when each issue is individually paginated.

Print Journal article, up to seven authors

Reference: Last name, Initials First and all authors. (Year). Title of article. Title of Journal. Volume number (Issue number) page. DOI

Note: for any article with up to seven authors, include all author names in the reference list.

In-Text-Citation:

- First Author Last name et al. (Year)...
- (First Author Last name et al., Year)...

Example:

- Murphy et al. (2014) discuss the ethics of breeding white rats purely for experimentation purposes....
- The article clearly articulates reasons why scientists should question both the ethics and validity of using white rats to generalise to human behaviour (Murphy et al., 2014).

**Print Journal article, more than seven authors**

Reference: First six Authors' Last names, Initials...Last Author's Last name, Initials. (Year). Title of article. *Title of Journal*, Volume(Issue no.), page numbers. doi


In-Text-Citation:

- First author's Last name et al. (Year)...
- (First author's Last name et al., Year)...

Example:

- Gerardin et al. (2014) investigated the impact of...
- It was found that the psychomotor development of children whose mother’s were exposed to the virus was affected (Gerardin et al., 2014)...

**E-journal article**

Example

- Kelly (2010) wrote that....
- An article (Kelly, 2010) appeared at the time....

**Website (entire site)**

To cite an entire website, just include the web address in the text

In-Text-Citation:

- (URL)

Example

- UCD Library Website has five Referencing style guides (http://www.ucd.ie/library)

**Page on a website**

Reference: Author(s) Last name, Initials. (Year, month day; n.d. to indicate no date). Title of article. Title of web site. Retrieved from URL


In-Text-Citation:

- Author(s) Last name (year)
- (Author(s) Last name, year)

Example:

- Gambill (2011) argues....
- Another approach (Gambill, 2011) suggests....

**Page on a website (no author)**

Reference: Title of webpage. (Year, month day). Retrieved from url.


In-Text-Citation:

- “Title of webpage” (Year)
- (“Title of webpage”, Year)
Example:

- The webpage “UCD Library – Online Tutorials” (2014) provides help....
- There is help completing research from the UCD Library (“UCD Library – Online Tutorials,” 2014).

Blogs

Reference: Author Last name, Initials. (Year, Month Day). Title of post [Blog post]. Retrieved from URL


In-Text-Citation

- Author(s) Last name (year)
- (Author(s) Last name, year)

Example:

- Whelan (2013) showed that
- In another post (Whelan, 2013) it was argued....

*Please note that titles for items in online communities (e.g. blogs, newsgroups, forums) are not italicized. If the author’s name is not available, provide the screen name.

Facebook

Reference: Author Screen name. (Year, Month, Day). Post or if too long, shortened section. [Facebook update]. Retrieved from URL


In-Text-Citation:

- (Author Screen name, Year)

Example:

- Leo Varadkar, Minister for Health, noted the HIQUA report on the ambulance service can be used to improve the service. (Leo Varadkar, 2014).
Twitter
Reference: Author Last name, Initials. [screen name]. (Year, Month Day). Title (up to the first 40 words). [Tweet]. Retrieved from URL


In-Text-Citation:

• (Author Last name, Year)

Example:

• Maureen Gaffney refers to the negative effects of fear in the decision making process (Gaffney, 2015).

Podcasts
Reference: Writer/Speaker/Producer/Creator Last name, Initial(s). (role). (Year, Month Day). Title of podcast. [Type of podcast]. Retrieved from url


In-Text-Citation:

• Writer/Speaker/Producer/Creator Last name (Year)
• (Writer/Speaker/Producer/Creator Last name, Year)

Example:

• UCD’s Professor Aidan Moran (2013) explains the processes of boredom...
• A detailed explanation of the cognitive processes involved in become bored are explained in this podcast (Moran, 2013).
Images – reproduced in your text

The APA Style Manual does not give specific information about how to format images in your reference list. Therefore this is an interpretation of the guidance they do provide. Check with your lecturer on requirements before submitting an assignment.

For graphs, charts, maps, drawings, and photographs that appear in the text, the style advises these should be labeled as numbered figures (e.g. Figure 1, Figure 2, Figure 3 etc.) with a Caption.

The Caption is at the bottom of the figure, it includes the figure number, a brief descriptive phrase, any information needed to interpret the figure and then the words "Adapted from..." or "From..." followed by a citation. Include a copyright statement also.

Below is an example of citing an image from a Journal Article.

**Reference:** Figure #. Title or Description of image (if no title). Adapted from “Title of Article,” by Author(s) Initials Last name, Year, *Journal Title*, Volume, pp. no. Copyright Year and holder.

**Example:** Figure 1. fMRI images showing comparison of a healthy brain with one affected by Alzheimer’s disease. Adapted from "Cognitive degeneration associated with early onset Alzheimer’s disease," by B. F. Reddin and G. Hall, 2015, *Neuropsychological research*, 34, p. 55. Copyright 2014 by the Irish Psychological Society.

**In-Text-Citation:**

- Photographer/Creators Last name (Year)
- (Photographer/Creators Last name, Year)

**Example:**

- The images show the difference in a health brain and one with Alzheimer’s disease (Reddin and Hall, 2015)
- Reddin and Hall’s (2015) images show ...

**Interviews, email, and other personal communication**

No personal communications are included in your reference list. Instead cite in the main text only:

- communicator’s name
- phrase “personal communication”
- date of the communication
Example:

- P. Jones noted a strong impact on development (personal communication, March 4, 2014)...
- It was reported the medication strongly impacted on development (P. Jones, personal communication, March 4, 2014)...

**Government agency or other organization publication**

Reference: *Name of agency.* (Year). *Title.* (Series information). Place of publication: Publisher.


In-Text-Citation:

- Name of agency (year)
- (Name of agency, year)

Example

- According to the Department of Health (2014)
- Official figures released (Department of Health, 2014) show that...

**Parliamentary and legal material**

Reference: Title, source and section number if applicable, (year of publication). Retrieved from URL (if available)


In-Text-Citation

- Name of the act (year)
- (Name of the act, year)

Example

- Legislation (Human Rights Commission Act, 2000) covering the area....
EU publications

Reference: European Union, Name of EU agency. (Year). Title of publication. Retrieved from/ Place of publication


In-Text-Citation:
- Name of institution (year)
- (Name of institution, year)

Example
- European commission for the Environment statistics released at the time (2009)
- An EU white paper (European Commission for the Environment, 2009)....

Conferences

Reference: Presenter(s) Last name, Initials (Year, Month). Title of paper. In Editor(s) Initial, Last name (Ed.) Title of conference proceedings (Page numbers). Place of publication: Publisher.


In-Text-Citation:
- Author(s) Last name (year)
- (Author(s) Last name, year)

Example
- Jones (2010) argued....
- Another participant (Jones, 2010) argued....
Theses


In-Text-Citation
  - Author Last name (year)
  - (Author Last name, year)

Example
  - Moore (2001) argues....
  - Another approach (Moore, 2001) argues....

Film or television programmes

Reference: Producer(s) Last name, Initials (Producer) & Director(s) Last name Initials. (Year) *Title* [Motion picture]. Place of production: Production company.


In-Text-Citation: (Director’s surname, year)

Example: In this film (Tarantino, 1994) he sought to....

Music Recordings

Reference: Author(s) Last name, Initials. (Copyright year). Title of song [Recorded by name of recording artist if different]. On *Title of album* [Medium of recording: mp3, CD, record, etc.]. Location: Label. (Date of song if different from song copyright date)

In-Text-Citation:

- Author(s) Last name (year)
- (Author(s) Last name, year)

Example:

- Madonna sings "Material Girl" (Brown & Rans, 1984)...

Podcasts

Reference: Writer/Speaker/Producer/Creator Last name, Initial(s). (role). (Year, Month Day). Title of podcast. [Type of podcast]. Retrieved from url


*Note: you can use the main organisation’s url as this will be more reliable a location over time as items are moved on websites.

Lectures or Presentations

Reference: Author(s) Last name, Initial(s). (Year). Title of lecture [format, e.g. PowerPoint, Prezi, PDF etc.]. Retrieved from URL


Note: if you are referencing the live lecture or just print notes simply leave out the URL.

In-Text-Citation:

- Author Last name (Year)
- Author Last name, Year

Example:

- Duffy (2015) explained the presentation of dysphasia after stroke...
- Dysphasia is a common outcome of stroke (Duffy, 2015).
Group presentations

APA does not give direct instructions on citing and referencing this type of work. This is an interpretation of how this type of work should be cited.

Reference: Author(s) Last name, Initials. (Year). Title of work. Unpublished manuscript. Institution department, name, location.


In-Text-Citation:
- Author(s) Last name (year)
- (Author(s) Last name year)

Example:
- Hughes and Brown (2015) investigate the use of...
- Measurement of full body movement was assessed as an indicator of deception (Hughes & Brown, 2015).

Datasets

Reference: Rightsholder(s), A. A. (Year). Title of dataset [Description of form]. Retrieved from URL


In-Text-Citation:
- Rightsholders (Year)
- (Rightsholders, Year)

Example:
- (Leahy, Nolan, O’Connell, and Kenny, 2012)
Repository Items

The APA Style does not give specific instructions on quoting items from an Institutional Repository. This is an interpretation of their guidelines. If unsure, consult with your lecturer or supervisor.

Note: If the article has been published, provide a full reference for the published version as you normally would. Along with this, include the link to the Repository Item you have accessed. Otherwise, follow the rules below.

**Pre-prints (before scholarly peer-review)**

Reference: Author(s) Last name. (Date posted). Title of article. Title of Periodical. Retrieved from URL

Example:


In-Text-Citation:

- Author(s) Last name (Year)
- (Author(s) Last name, Year)

Example:

- Watson (2015) argues that...
- Elicitation of child eye-witness statements requires intensive training of professionals (Watson, 2015).

**Post-prints (after scholarly peer review but before publication)**

Reference: Author(s) Last name. (Year). Title of article. Title of Journal. Advance online publication. doi or URL:

Example:


In-Text-Citation:

- Author(s) Last name (Year)
- (Author(s) Last name, Year)
Example:

- Fenton (2015) argues that...
- High measures of self-efficacy has been shown to correlate negatively with higher than average social media participation (Fenton, 2015).

**Final Published Article**

Include digital object identifier (doi) if one is assigned; if no doi assigned and you retrieved the content online, include URL of home page of journal, newsletter, or magazine

Reference: Author(s) Last name. (Year). Title of article. Title of Journal, xx, pp-pp. doi:


In-Text-Citation:

- Author(s) Last name (Year)
- (Author(s) Last name, Year)

Example:

- Herbst-Damm and Kulik (2005) have found that...
- Volunteer support and marital status have been found to be key factors in the health outcomes for terminally ill patients (Herbst-Damm & Kulik, 2015).

**Secondary sources**

The American Psychological Association recommends using secondary sources only when the original title is out of print, unavailable through original sources, or not available in English (American Psychological Association 2010).

When referring to the work of an author whom you have read in another source, but not read directly yourself, list the full details of the secondary source in the reference listing; the in-text citation should name the original work and give a citation for the secondary source. In the reference list format the secondary reference as you would any reference of that type. For example a journal article below is shown.
Reference: Secondary source Author Last name, Initials. (Year) 'Article title', Journal Title, Volume(Issue), pp. page numbers.

Example:


In-Text-Citation:

Original Author Last name (Year, as cited in Secondary Author Last name, Year, Page no.)

(Original Author Last name, Year, as cited in Secondary Author Last name, Year, Page no.)

Example:

Geddes' work on the changing views on migration in Europe (2005, as cited in Seeberg, 2013 p.160)...

Theories of migration have evolved in recent years (Geddes, 2005, as cited in Seeberg, 2013, p. 160)...

---

EndNote is a software application that allows researchers store and manage all references in one place. It is available via Software for U and the Library runs regular introductory and advanced training sessions.

- Users can record, store and manage references in hundreds of citation styles.
- Users can add references manually or search and download directly from online databases and library catalogues.
- EndNote Cite While You Write features allows users to insert citations easily and creates bibliographies automatically in Microsoft Word

More information about Library support for Endnote is available on EndNote Guide.

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1 http://www.ucd.ie/library/endnote