Nimitz Library - MLA Style Guide

This guide lists examples of only the most commonly cited types of print and electronic sources and is based on information obtained from: 1) The <u>MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers</u>, 6th ed. (2003) by Joseph Garibaldi and 2) MLA's official website, <http://www.mla.org/>.

For more information and examples, consult the <u>MLA Handbook</u> (available in the Nimitz Library and shelved in the Ready Reference area at call number location: **Ready Ref LB 2369 .G53 2003**) or the MLA Website. Be advised that the Modern Language Association (MLA) does not publish its documentation guidelines on the Web.

Check with your instructor if you need additional guidance on which citation style to use. Your instructor may prefer alternative citation forms. Be sure you know your instructor's preferences.

General Rules for MLA Style

- Citations for print material are very similar, but there are differences between book and article entries.
- Rather than using footnotes or endnotes to cite page references, the MLA suggests brief parenthetical acknowledgments whenever you incorporate another person's words, facts, or ideas.
- A <u>Book</u> entry consists of the following information (if available/applicable):
  - author (inverted);
  - title of a part of the book, i.e.: a chapter (if applicable, in quotation marks);
  - title (italicized or underlined);
  - editor, compiler, or translator;
  - edition;
  - number of the volume(s) (if applicable);
  - series name (if applicable);
  - place of publication, name of publisher, and date of publication.
- An <u>Article</u> entry has the following information (if available/applicable):
  - author (inverted);
  - title of the article (in quotation marks);
  - name of the periodical (italicized or underlined);
  - series number or name;
  - volume number;
  - issue number (if available);
  - date of publication (in parentheses); page numbers.
- A <u>parenthetical note</u> inserted into your text, either at the end of a quote or end of a sentence, consists of the author's last name and a page reference, both placed within a single set of parentheses.
- <u>Works Cited</u> items are listed alphabetically at the end of the document, and are referred to in the body of the paper using the <u>in-text</u> style of parenthetical notes.
- MLA recommends the use of <u>hanging indention</u> for the entries in the works-cited list: the first line of each entry is flush left, and subsequent lines in the entry are indented. Hanging indention makes alphabetical lists easier to use.
- For citing electronic versions of articles or information obtained from a website, see the **<u>Electronic Resources</u>** section of this guide.

Print Source Examples:

BOOK (SINGLE AUTHOR) / MLA Sec. 5.6.1

Works Cited: Parker, Michael. <u>Seamus Heaney: The Making of the Poet</u>.
Iowa City: U of Iowa Press, 1993.

Parenthetical Note: (Parker 158)

BOOK (TWO OR THREE AUTHORS) / MLA Sec. 5.6.4

Works Cited: Ashmore, Wendy and Robert J. Sharer. <u>Discovering Our Past</u>.
Mountain View: Mayfield, 1988.

Parenthetical Note: (Ashmore and Sharer 95-99)

BOOK (MORE THAN THREE AUTHORS) / MLA Sec. 5.6.4

Works Cited: Holloway, Susan D., et al. <u>Through My Own Eyes: Single Mothers the</u>
<u>Cultures of Poverty</u>. Cambridge: Harvard UP, 1997.

Parenthetical Note: (Holloway et al. 125)

BOOK (A WORK WITHIN AN ANTHOLOGY) / MLA Sec. 5.6.7

Works Cited: Baldwin, James. "A Talk to Teachers." <u>The Graywolf Annual Five: Multi-</u>
<u>Cultural Literacy</u>. Eds. Rick Simonson and Scott Walker. Saint
Paul: Graywolf, 1988. 3-12.

Parenthetical Note: (Baldwin 8)

BOOK (CORPORATE AUTHOR) / MLA Sec. 5.6.6

Works Cited: Modern Language Association. <u>Transactions of the Modern Language</u>
<u>Association of America</u>. Baltimore: Modern Language
Association, 1970.

Parenthetical Note: (Modern Language Association 8)

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION / MLA Sec. 5.6.21

Works Cited: United States. Cong. Senate. Committee on Environment and Public
Works. <u>Senate Report 109-98: Nuclear Security Act of 2005</u>.
109th Cong., 1st sess. Washington: GPO, 2005.

Parenthetical Note: (United States Senate Report 109-98)

 OR

Works Cited: Hobbs, Frank and Nicole Stoops. <u>Demographic Trends in the</u>
<u>20th Century</u>. U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Special
Reports, Series CENSR-4. Washington: GPO, 2002.

Parenthetical Note: (Hobbs and Stoops 100)

JOURNAL ARTICLE / MLA Sec. 5.7.1

Works Cited: Cong, Dachang. "The Roots of Amish Popularity in Contemporary America." <u>Journal of American Culture</u> 17.2 (1994): 59-66.

Parenthetical Note: (Cong 63-64)

MAGAZINE ARTICLE / MLA Sec. 5.7.6

Works Cited: Joseph, Nadine. "Degree of Danger." <u>Newsweek</u> 3 Feb. 2003: 10.

Parenthetical Note: (Joseph 10)

OR

Works Cited: Smith, Gary. "Stranger in a Strange Land." <u>Reader's Digest</u> June 2002: 174.

Parenthetical Note: (Smith 174)

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE / MLA Sec. 5.7.5

Works Cited: Boudette, Neal E. "European Cars to Get Boxier Look." <u>Wall Street Journal</u> 5 Mar. 2003: D4.

Parenthetical Note: (Boudette D4)

ARTICLE (NO AUTHOR GIVEN) / MLA Sec. 5.7.9

Works Cited: "The Great Leap Forward: Cars in China." <u>The Economist</u> 1 Feb. 2003: 53-56.

Parenthetical Note: ("Great Leap")

ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLE / MLA Sec. 5.6.8

Works Cited: Etheridge, Brian. "Marshall Plan." <u>Encyclopedia of American History</u>. Eds. Allan M. Winkler, Susan V. Spellman and Gary B. Nash. 11 vols. New York: Facts On File, 2003.

Parenthetical Note: (Ethridge 194)

ARTICLE IN A MULTIVOLUME SERIES / MLA Sec. 5.6.15

Works Cited: Miller, Ruth. "Emily Dickinson." <u>Dictionary of Literary Biography</u>. Ed. Joel Myerson. Vol. 1 Detroit: Gale, 1978. 34-45.

Parenthetical Note: (Miller 37)

LECTURE, SPEECH OR ADRESS / MLA Sec. 5.8.11

Works Cited: Bush, George W. "Press Conference of the President." James S. Brady Briefing Room, The Whitehouse, Washington. 21 Mar. 2006.

Parenthetical Note: (Bush Press Conference 21 Mar. 2006)

PUBLISHED INTERVIEW / MLA Sec.

Works Cited: Doctorow, E.L. "10 Questions for E.L. Doctorow." <u>Time</u>. 6 Mar. 2006: 6.

Parenthetical Note: (Doctorow 6)

Electronic Source Examples

Tips for Citing Electronic Sources

Examples are based on the <u>MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers</u>, 6th ed. (2003) by Joseph Gibaldi and MLA's official website, <http://www.mla.org/>. For more information and examples, consult the <u>MLA Handbook</u> (available in the Nimitz Library and shelved in the Ready Reference area at call number location: **Ready Ref LB 2369 .G53 2003**) or the MLA Website. Be advised that the Modern Language Association (MLA) does not publish its documentation guidelines on the Web.

- In general, one needs the following information (if available/applicable) to cite an electronic source:
  - author (inverted);
  - title of poem, short story, or similar short work within a larger project, database, or periodical (in quotation marks);
  - title of the scholarly project, database, periodical, or professional or personal site (underline);
  - editor or compiler of project;
  - version of source or, for a journal, the volume number and issue number, and a page or paragraph range if numbered;
  - date of electronic publication or latest update (day, month, year); name of sponsoring institution or organization;
  - <u>date of access</u> (day, month, year);
  - electronic address or URL (in angle brackets). Note: If you must divide the URL between two lines, break only after a slash; do not insert a hyphen at the break.

- For parenthetical notes on electronic material, only fixed pages, fixed paragraphs (abbreviated to "pars."), or section numbers can be cited, such as (Cooper 15) and (Sumner, pars. 34). If the source has no fixed pagination, then no numbers will appear in your parenthetical note, such as (Sherman). Remember, page numbering derived from a printout should not be cited because the pagination may vary in different printouts.

WEBSITE (SCHOLARLY PROJECT)

Works Cited: <u>Timeline of Art History</u>. 2000-2002. Metropolitan Museum of Art. 18 Mar. 2003 <http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/>.

Parenthetical Note: (<u>Timeline of Art History</u>)

WEBSITE (PROFESSIONAL OR PERSONAL)

Works Cited: Guth, Peter L. Professor Peter L. Guth Home Page. 1 Aug. 2006.
24 Aug. 2006 <http://www.usna.edu/Users/oceano/
pguth/website/plghome.htm/>.

Parenthetical Note: (Guth)

INFORMATION DATABASE

Works Cited: Thomas: Legislative Information on the Internet. 19 June 2001.
Lib. of Congress, Washington. 18 May 2002
<http://thomas.loc.gov/>.

Parenthetical Note: (Thomas)

ELECTRONIC JOURNAL ARTICLE FROM FULL-TEXT DATABASE

Works Cited: Habicht, Werner. "Shakespeare Celebrations in Times of War."
Shakespeare Quarterly. 52.4 (2001). 441-455. Project
Muse. 20 Mar. 2003 <www.muse.jhu.edu>.

Parenthetical Note: (Habicht)

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE FROM FULL-TEXT DATABASE

Works Cited: Krepinevich, Andrew F. "A New War Demands A New Military."
Wall Street Journal 10 Sept. 2002. ProQuest. 20 Mar. 2003
<http://proquest.umi.com>

Parenthetical Note: (Krepinevich)

ARTICLE IN A REFERENCE DATABASE

Works Cited: "Kerouac, Jack." Encyclopaedia Britannica 2003.
Encyclopædia Britannica Online. 20 Mar. 2003
<http://search.eb.com/eb/article?eu=46223>

Parenthetical Note: ("Kerouac")

ARTICLE IN AN ONLINE PERIODICAL

Works Cited: "Inside the Ruins." Atlantic Monthly 17 June 2002. 9 Mar. 2003
<http://www.theatlantic.com/unbound/interviews/
int2002-06-17.htm>

Parenthetical Note: ("Inside the Ruins")