



http://www.keystone.edu/Miller_Library

This guide is meant to offer a brief overview of MLA style applied to online information and to offer some citation examples of the most commonly used online sources. *The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* provides extensive examples covering a wide variety of potential sources in chapter four. If your particular case is not covered here, use the basic forms to determine the correct format, consult the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (6th edition)* located on Closed Reserve or in the Reference section (REF 808.02 G437ml), visit the MLA links on the Library's webpage, talk to your instructor, or consult our other citation guides.

Some general info about MLA Style and Online Sources:

Sources on the World Wide Web that students and scholars use in their research include scholarly projects, reference databases, the texts of books, articles in periodicals, and professional and personal sites. Entries in a works-cited list for such sources contain as many items from the list below as are relevant and available. Following this list are sample entries for some common kinds of Web sources.

1. Name of the author, editor, compiler, or translator of the source (if available and relevant), reversed for alphabetizing and followed by an abbreviation, such as *ed.*, if appropriate
2. Title of a poem, short story, article, or similar short work within a scholarly project, database, or periodical (in quotation marks); or title of a posting to a discussion list or forum (taken from the subject line and put in quotation marks), followed by the description *Online posting*
3. Title of a book (underlined; see 5.9.3)
4. Name of the editor, compiler, or translator of the text (if relevant and if not cited earlier), preceded by the appropriate abbreviation, such as *Ed.*
5. Publication information for any print version of the source
6. Title of the scholarly project, database, periodical, or professional or personal site (underlined); or, for a professional or personal site with no title, a description such as *Home page*
7. Name of the editor of the site (if available)
8. Version number of the source (if not part of the title) or, for a journal, the volume number, issue number, or other identifying number
9. Date of electronic publication, of the latest update, or of posting
10. For a work from a database subscription service, the name of the database, the name of the service provider and—if a library is the subscriber—the name and city (and state abbreviation, if necessary) of the library (see 5.9.7)
11. For a posting to a discussion list or forum, the name of the list or forum
12. The number range or total number of pages, paragraphs, or other sections, if they are numbered
13. Name of any institution or organization sponsoring or associated with the Web site
14. Date when the researcher accessed the source
15. Electronic address, or URL, of the source (in angle brackets); or, for a subscription service, the URL of the service's main page (if known) or the keyword assigned by the service

THESE EXAMPLES ARE SINGLE-SPACED HERE TO PRESERVE PAPER ONLY! DOUBLE-SPACE ENTRIES IN YOUR PAPER

If no author is given for a web page or electronic source, start with and alphabetize by the title of the piece and use a shortened version of the title for parenthetical citations.

A web site

It is necessary to list your date of access because web postings are often updated, and information available at one date may no longer be available later. Be sure to include the complete address for the site. Also, note the use of angled brackets around the electronic address; MLA requires them for clarity.

Author(s). Name of Page. Date of Posting/Revision. Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site. Date of Access <electronic address>.

Examples:

Buffy the Vampire Slayer. 2003. United Paramount Network (UPN). 10 Feb. 2003. <<http://www.upn.com/shows/buffy>>.

Sommers, Buffy. Undergraduate Guide to Demons and Vampires. 17 Dec. 1999. Sunnydale University. 15 Nov. 2000 <<http://omni.cc.sunnydale.edu%7BSommers/theory2.html>>.

An article on a web site

It is necessary to list your date of access because web postings are often updated, and information available at one date may no longer be available later. Be sure to include the complete address for the site. Also, note the use of angled brackets around the electronic address; MLA requires them for clarity.

Author(s). "Article Title." Name of web site. Date of posting/revision. Name of institution/organization affiliated with site. Date of access <electronic address>.

Example:

Poland, Dave. "The Hot Button." Roughcut. 26 Oct. 1998. Turner Network Television. 28 Oct. 1998 <<http://www.roughcut.com>>.

"Using Modern Language Association (MLA) Format." Miller Library. 2003. Keystone College. 6 Feb. 2003. <http://www.keystone.edu/Miller_Library>.

An article in an online journal or magazine

Some electronic journals and magazines provide paragraph or page numbers; include them if available. This format is also appropriate to online magazines; as with a print version, you should provide a complete publication date rather than volume and issue number.

Author(s). "Title of Article." Title of Journal Volume. Issue (Year): Pages/Paragraphs. Date of Access <electronic address>.

Example:

Wheelis, Mark. "Investigating Disease Outbreaks Under a Protocol to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention." Emerging Infectious Diseases 6.6 (2000):33 pars. 5 Dec. 2000 <<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/eid/vol6no6/wheelis.htm>>.

E-mail (or other personal communications)

This same format may be used for personal interviews or personal letters. These do not have titles, and the description should be appropriate. Instead of "Email to John Smith," you would have "Personal interview."

Author. "Title of the message (if any)" E-mail to person's name. Date of the message.

E-mail to you

Knotts, Don. "Re: Modernist Literature." E-mail to the author. 15 Nov. 2000.

Email communication between two parties, not including the author

Neyhart, David. "Re: Silly Humans." E-mail to Tom Green. 1 Dec. 2000.

A listserv posting

Author. "Title of Posting." Online posting. Date when material was posted (for example: 14 Mar. 1998). Name of listserv. Date of access <electronic address for retrieval>.

Online Posting

Karper, Erin. "Welcome!" Online posting. 23 Oct. 2000. Professional Writing Bulletin Board. 12 Nov. 2000 <<http://linnell.english.purdue.edu/ubb/Forum2/HTML/000001.html>>.

An article or publication retrieved from an electronic database (Lexis-Nexis Academic, Proquest, etc.)

If you're citing an article or a publication that was originally issued in print form but that you retrieved from an online database that your library subscribes to, you should provide enough information so that the reader can locate the article either in its original print form or retrieve it from the online database (if they have access).

Provide the following information in your citation:

1. Author's name (if not available, use the article title as the first part of the citation)
2. Article Title
3. Publication Name
4. Publication Date
5. Page Number/Range
6. Database Name
7. Service Name
8. Name of the library where service was accessed
9. Name of the town/city where service was accessed
10. Date of Access
11. URL of the service's homepage (but not the whole URL for the article, since those are very long and won't be able to be re-used by someone trying to retrieve the information)

The generic citation form would look like this:

Author. "Title of Article." Publication Name Volume Number (necessary for scholarly journals) Publication Date: page number-page number. Database name. Service name. Library Name, City, State. Date of access <electronic address of the database>.

Example:

- Smith, Martin. "World Domination for Dummies." Journal of Despotry Feb. 2000: 66-72. Expanded Academic ASAP. Gale. Miller Lib., La Plume, PA. 19 February 2003 <<http://www.infotrac.galegroup.com>>.
- Koretz, Gene. "Economic Trends: Uh-Oh, Warm Water." Business Week 21 July 1997: 22. MasterFILE Premiere. EBSCO. PA POWER Lib., 17 Oct. 1997 <<http://search.epnet.com/>>.
- Mulder, Fox, and Dana Scully. "Aliens Made Me Do It." Journal of Alien Psychology. 16 (2003): 17-20. PA Research I. Proquest. Miller Lib., La Plume, PA. 20 Mar. 2003 <<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?>>.