

Writing Reference Sections for Psychology

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Writing your References Section: A Brief Guide for Psychology Students

“Just as the data in the paper support interpretations and conclusions, so reference citations document statements made about the literature. All citations in the manuscript must appear in the reference list, and all references must be cited in text. The reference list should be succinct, not exhaustive; simply provide sufficient references to support your research.” (APA Publication Manual, 2001, p. 28)

Referencing & Citation: How Do I...?

How do I reference Secondary Sources?

When you come across a study in a secondary source you reference it as follows:

Say, for example, you read about Mazur’s (1996) study in Lane & Cherek (2000). In the text you would cite Mazur (1996) and place it in alphabetical order in the References:

Mazur, J. E. (1996). Choice with certain and uncertain reinforcers in an adjusting-delay procedure. *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*, 66, 63-74. Cited in Lane & Cherek (2000).

Note that Lane & Cherek (2000) is not cited in the text. Rather, it is given a separate reference:

Lane, S. D. & Cherek, D. R. (2000). Risk aversion in human subjects under conditions of probabilistic reward. *The Psychological Record*, 50, 221-234.

How do I reference a Journal Article?

Referencing a journal article that you have read, adopt the following format:

Author, A. A., Author, B. B., & Author, C. C. (Year of Publication, add month and day of publication for daily, weekly, or monthly publications). Title of article. *Title of periodical*, Volume Number, page numbers.

Example:

Steele, D., & Hayes, S. C. (1991). Stimulus equivalence and arbitrarily applicable relational responding. *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*, 56, 519-555.

How do I reference a Chapter of a Book?

When referencing a chapter of a book that you have read, the format is Author-Date-Title-Source:

Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (Year of Publication). Title of chapter. In A. Editor & B. Editor (Eds.),

Title of book (pages of chapter). Location: Publisher.

Example:

Barnes-Holmes, D., Stewart, I., Dymond, S., & Roche, B. (2000). A behavior-analytic approach to some of the problems of the self: A relational frame analysis. In M. Dougher (Ed.), *Clinical behavior analysis* (pp. 47-74). Reno, NV: Context Press.

If the source actually wrote the book, then:

Author, A. A. (Year of Publication). *Title of work: Capital letter also for subtitle*. Location: Publisher.

Example:

Skinner, B. F. (1974). *About behaviorism*. London: Penguin.

N.B. For "Location," you should always list the city, but you should also include the US state if the city is unfamiliar or if the city could be confused with one in another US state.

How do I cite and reference authors with the Same Surname?

If you are aware that someone shares the same surname of the author you are citing (e.g., in husband and wife teams), then include the author's initials in the text as follows: S. C. Hayes (1992) and in the references section as: Hayes, S. C. (1992)

Do not use the authors' first name or initial in the text of your report under any other circumstances! You don't know Zenon Phylyshn by first name so don't pretend you do!

How do I reference Unpublished Work?

Referencing an unpublished Ph.D. thesis:

Lipkens, R. (1992). *A behaviour analysis of complex human functioning: Analogical reasoning*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Nevada-Reno, Nevada, USA.

Referencing an unpublished article or book

Use same format as **Journal Articles or Books** above, except put "(in press)" in where the year should be, and just give the name of the journal or book in which it will appear:

Roche, B., & Barnes, D. (in press). A transformation of respondently conditioned sexual arousal functions in accordance with arbitrarily applicable relations. *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*.

How do I reference a translated work and/or a republished work?

Laplace, P. S. (1951). *A philosophical essay on probabilities* (F. W. Truscott & F. L. Emory, Trans.). New York: Dover. (Original work published 1814).

How do I reference a book or article with no author or editor named?

Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary (10th ed.). (1993). Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster.

New drug appears to sharply cut risk of death from heart failure. (1993, July 15). *The Washington Post*, p. A12.

N.B. For parenthetical citations of sources with no author named, use a shortened version of the title instead of an author's name. Use quotation marks and underlining as appropriate. For example, parenthetical citations of the two sources above would appear as follows: (*Merriam-Webster's*, 1993) and ("New Drug," 1993).

How do I reference Electronic (online) sources?

Internet articles based on a print source

VandenBos, G., Knapp, S., & Doe, J. (2001). Role of reference elements in the selection of resources by psychology undergraduates [Electronic version]. *Journal of Bibliographic Research*, 5, 117-123.

Or if the online source is likely to have changed or to include additional comments:

VandenBos, G., Knapp, S., & Doe, J. (2001). Role of reference elements in the selection of resources by psychology undergraduates. *Journal of Bibliographic Research*, 5, 117-123. Retrieved October 13, 2001, from <http://jbr.org/articles.html>

Article in an Internet-only journal

VandenBos, G., Knapp, S., & Doe, J. (2001, March 7). Role of reference elements in the selection of resources by psychology undergraduates. *Journal of Bibliographic Research*, 5, 117-123. Retrieved October 13, 2001, from <http://jbr.org/articles.html>

Electronic copy of a journal article retrieved from a database

VandenBos, G., Knapp, S., & Doe, J. (2001). Role of reference elements in the selection of resources by psychology undergraduates. *Journal of Bibliographic Research*, 5, 117-123. Retrieved October 13, 2001, from Web of Science database.

Electronic copy of a abstract obtained from a secondary database

VandenBos, G., Knapp, S., & Doe, J. (2001). Role of reference elements in the selection of resources by psychology undergraduates. *Journal of Bibliographic Research*, 5, 117-123. Abstract retrieved October 13, 2001, from Web of Science database.

Stand-alone document, no author identified, no date

GVU's 8th WWW user survey. (n.d.) Retrieved August 8, 2000, from http://www.cc.gatech.edu/gvu/user_surveys/survey-1997-10

Daily newspaper article, electronic version available by search

Hilts, J. (1999, February 16). In forecasting their emotions, most people flunk out. *New York Times*. Retrieved November 21, 2000, from <http://www.nytimes.com>

And remember:

- Every citation in the text must appear (alphabetically, and in the correct format) in the References section, which is called "References" not "Bibliography"
- Use APA (4th ed. 2001) format. That is, use a hanging indent (second and subsequent lines are indented) and *italicise* journal/book/newspaper titles