

Referencing using OSCOLA

Section 3

Books

What is the reference telling the reader?

- **Who wrote the book**
- **What it is called**
- **When it was published (including which edition)**
- **Who the publisher was**

Authors' names

- Give the names as they appear in the publication.
- If there is no individual author, but an institution or organisation is identified, give that as the author.

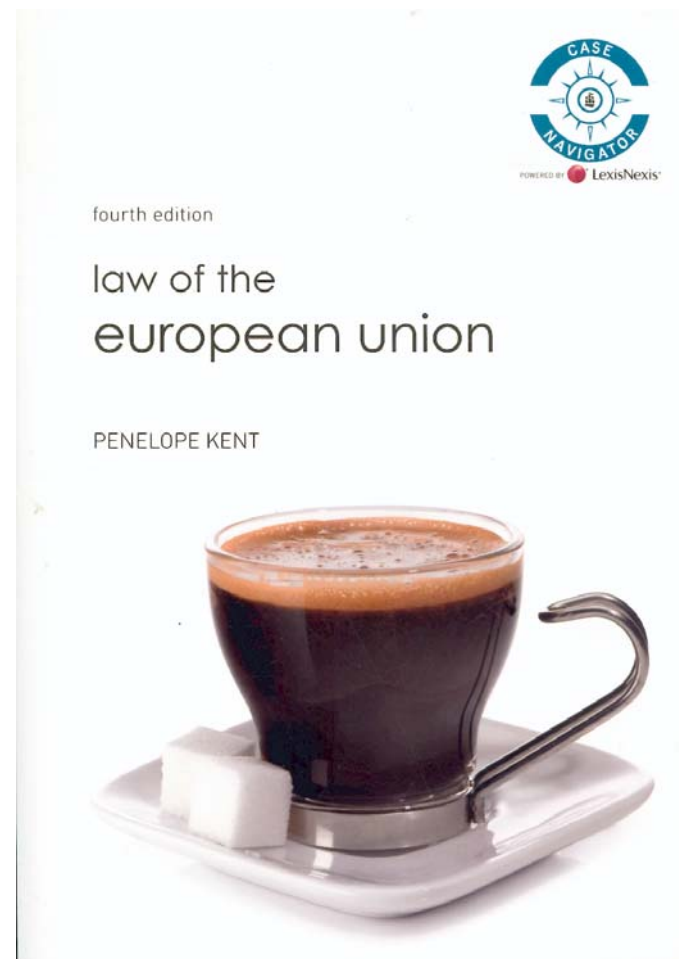
What information do you need to include?

- Author's name, then a comma, then title of the book in italics.
- Follow this with publication information in brackets: the edition (if it's not the first edition), publisher and year of publication.
- NOTE a change from the previous edition of OSCOLA is that you no longer need to give the place of publication.

Points to note

- You need to be precise about the order in which you present the information, and use **EXACTLY** the same pattern of punctuation.
- In a footnote, a page number outside the brackets will refer to the specific page where you can find the passage you are quoting or referring to.

Putting it into practice



Title

Law of the European Union

Penelope Kent

Author

fourth edition

Edition

Publisher



Harlow, England • London • New York • Boston • San Francisco • Toronto
Sydney • Tokyo • Singapore • Hong Kong • Seoul • Taipei • New Delhi
Cape Town • Madrid • Mexico City • Amsterdam • Munich • Paris • Milan

So...

- **Most of the information you need is on the title page. (Often you will find all the information there.)**
- **The only piece missing here is the date of publication.**
- **This is slightly harder to find – in this case it's in the detailed information over the page.**

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Date of publication

- **Remind yourself of the formula:**

Author, *Title in Italics* (edition, publisher date) page

- **So we can put the first piece of information in place – the author – in this case Penelope Kent.**

Presenting this correctly

- The author is given with first name or initial first, then surname. If initials are used, they are not followed by full stops or spaces between the initials.
- The author's name is followed by a comma
- So in this case, it will be:

Penelope Kent,

Now the title

- The next piece of information you need is the title of the book
- In this case it is 'Law of the European Union'
- Looking back at the formula we see that this is the next piece of information you need. The title should be given in italics (N.B. no quotation marks)
- So in this case, it will be:

Law of the European Union

Putting these two pieces of information together:

- **Penelope Kent, *Law of the European Union***

This is the basic information about who wrote the book, and its title. There are some more important elements to a complete reference – which would enable the reader to find your original source.

Now we need to add the information in brackets

- **(edition, publisher date)**
- **We've seen that the first two pieces of this information are on the title page**
 - **It's the 4th edition**
 - **The publisher is Longman Pearson**

Inside the brackets:

- Give the edition first, then a comma, then the publisher.
- Make sure you punctuate in exactly the form given in the formula
- Edition is abbreviated as edn (no full stop!) and is followed by a comma
- So in this case, we'll have (4th edn, Pearson Longman)

Just one thing missing!

The date of publication, which we've already found on the next page.

Adding this final piece of information, we have the full reference

- **Penelope Kent, *Law of the European Union* (4th edn, Pearson Longman 2008)**

Pinpointing

- Outside the brackets, you pinpoint the page your reference relates to.
- So with our example above, if you were quoting from page 98, your footnote would be
- **Penelope Kent, *Law of the European Union* (4th edn, Pearson Longman 2008) 98**

Chapters in edited books

- Give the author of the contribution, followed by a comma.
- Then the title of the chapter in single quotation marks, then the details of the book in the normal format

Example

- V Easy, 'All you need to know about referencing' in Joe Bloggs (ed), *OSCOLA for Everyone* (9th edn, Sanity Press 2010)