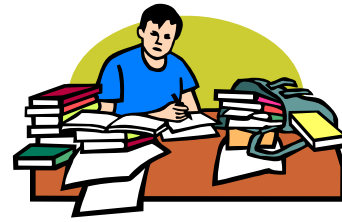




# Introduction to Citation Style

Bismarck State College Library Pathfinder

<http://www.bismarckstate.edu/library/>



## What is a Citation Style?

There are numerous style guides that will help you cite sources and prepare a bibliography. Some that are frequently used are MLA, APA, and Chicago. MLA is commonly used in humanities courses, but your instructor will tell you which style you should use.

### What is APA?

“When editors or teachers ask you to write in “APA style,” they do not mean writing style. They are referring to the editorial style that many of the social and behavioral sciences have adopted to present written material in the field. The American Psychological Association has established a style that it uses in all of the books and journals it publishes. Many others working in the social and behavioral sciences have adopted this style as their standard as well.”

Citation:

American Psychological Association. (2002). About APA Style. Retrieved February 12, 2002, from <http://www.apastyle.org/>

### What is Chicago/Turabian?

“The Chicago or Turabian style, sometimes called documentary note or humanities style, places bibliographic citations at the bottom of a page or at the end of a paper. Although the 14th edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style* (1993) and the 5th edition of *Turabian's Manual for Writers* (1987) also offer guidelines for parenthetical documentation and reference lists, the Chicago and Turabian styles are most commonly thought of as note systems. Check with the instructor who assigned your paper to determine whether you need to use notes or whether you can cite sources parenthetically in your text.”

Citation:

NA. 2001. *Writers Handbook*. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin-Madison; available from <http://www.wisc.edu/writing/>; Internet; accessed 12 February 2002.

### What is MLA?

“Modern Language Association (MLA) format provides writers with a system for cross-referencing their sources--from their parenthetical references to their works cited page. This cross-referencing system allows readers to locate the publication information of source material. This is of great value for researchers who may want to locate your sources for their own research projects. The proper use of MLA style also shows the credibility of writers; such writers show accountability to their source material. Most importantly, the use of MLA style can protect writers from accusations of plagiarism--the purposeful or accidental use of source material by other writers without giving appropriate credit” (Owl).

Citation:

Owl: [Online Writing Lab](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_mla.html). 2002. Purdue University. 11 Feb. 2002  
<[http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r\\_mla.html](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_mla.html)>



## ODIN: Online Dakota Information Network

<http://odinlibrary.org/nbj.html>

The following resources were located by searching ODIN. ODIN is Bismarck State College's online library catalog. You can use it to search for books, videos, compact discs, and other library materials. You can also access periodicals (magazines, journals, newspapers) through BSC Library's homepage (<http://www.bismarckstate.edu/library/>) by selecting Databases (Articles & More).

### Selected Reference Resources – Style Manuals

You can find these style manuals in the Library:

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| • The Chicago Manual of Style                                  | Reference: Z253 .U69 2003     |
| • A Guide to MLA Documentation :With an Appendix on APA Style  | Reference: PN147 .T75 2004    |
| • MLA handbook for writers of research papers                  | Reference: LB2369 .G53 2003   |
| • The Pocket Wadsworth Handbook                                | Reference: PE1408 .K6755 2006 |
| • Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association | Reference: BF76.7 .P83 2001   |
| • The Scott Foresman Handbook for Writers                      | Main: PE1408 .H2968 2004      |

### Why should I cite?



- To acknowledge the work of other writers
- To demonstrate the body of knowledge on which you have based your work
- To enable other researchers to trace your sources



### Selected Electronic Sources – Style Manuals

Using the search engine [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) and the search term "citation," I located the following electronic sources. The search for MLA, APA, and Turabian citation sources can be accomplished with any search engine (examples: yahoo, excite, infoseek, or dogpile), but be wary. Some sources you locate by this method may not be accurate or reliable.

- Make note of who owns or maintains the site.
- Is it a major university or library?
- Or is it someone you have never heard of?
- How old are the site's contents?
- When in doubt, ask your instructor or a librarian.

#### Suggested Electronic Sources

- Citation Styles (Bedford / St. Martin's)  
<http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/online/citex.html>
- Dakota State University Online Writing Lab (OWL)  
<http://www.departments.dsu.edu/owl/>
- Owl: Online Writing Lab (Purdue University)  
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu>
- The University of Wisconsin-Madison Writing Center  
<http://www.wisc.edu/writing/>