MLA STYLE ELECTRONIC DATABASES

WORKS CITED

To cite an article from an electronic database, include these elements: (MLA 5.5 & 5.6.4)

1. Author
2. Title of article (in quotation marks)
3. Name of periodical (italicized), volume & issue number
4. Date of publication
5. Inclusive pages
6. Name of database (italicized)
7. Medium of publication (Web)
8. Date of access (day, month, year)

WORKS CITED ENTRY FOR AN ARTICLE FROM A DATABASE


*From Diana Hacker: www.dianahacker.com*

**Note:** The inclusion of a URL (Web address) is optional unless required by your instructor. If required, add the URL at the end of the citation enclosed in angle brackets. If a URL is included and spans two lines of your citation, divide it after a backslash.

**Example with optional URL:**


**GENERAL GUIDELINES**

When using MLA style to cite an article from an electronic database, you need to know if the article is from a journal, a magazine, a newspaper, or other source. Ask a Librarian, Learning Center staff member, or your instructor if you need assistance.
I. Scholarly Journal Article from an Electronic Database


**Article in a Journal**

- Include both **volume** and **issue number** for a scholarly journal article unless the issue number is not available.
- After the volume number, put a period and then issue number.
- Abbreviate the names of the months **except May, June, and July**.
- If the print page numbers are missing from a database, put **n.pag.** in place of the page numbers to indicate no pagination.

II. Magazine Article from an Electronic Database


**Article in a Magazine**

- **Do not cite the volume and issue numbers** even if printed in the issue.
- If the magazine is issued monthly, cite the **month and year**.
- If the magazine is issued weekly, cite the **exact date** as in the example above.
- **Abbreviate** the names of the months except May, June, and July.
- If the print page numbers are missing from a database, put **n.pag.** in place of the page numbers to indicate no pagination.

III. Newspaper Articles from an Electronic Database


**Article in a Newspaper**

- **If specified, include the section letter or number** before the page number.
- **If the article does not appear on consecutive pages**, use a plus sign (+) after the page number. Example: **B5+**
- **When an edition of the newspaper is specified**, include the **edition after the date** and before the page number. If there is no edition, the colon and page designation follow the year.
- If the print page numbers are missing from a database, put **n.pag.** in place of the page numbers to indicate no pagination.
WORKS CITED EXAMPLES

Examples below are not double spaced. **Double space citations** on the Works Cited page.

**Academic Search Complete (Journal)**


**Access Science: Encyclopedia of Science and Technology Online (Encyclopedia)**


**Business Source Complete (Magazine)**


**CQ Researcher (Report)**


**CREDOREference (Reference Book Online)**


**Custom Newspapers (Newspaper)**


**LitFINDER (Biography)**


**Literature Resource Center (Literary Criticism) – article taken directly from a journal under tab**

*Literary Criticism, Articles, & Work Overviews*


**Literature Resource Center (Biography) – originally published in a reference book**


**Opposing Viewpoints (Viewpoint Essay) – originally published in an At Issue series book**

IN-TEXT CITATIONS

In-text citations (parenthetical references) are required when you quote or paraphrase an author or source. Not only do the citations give credit to the source, but they also allow readers to locate the source.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Citations should be brief and follow the same pattern as for print sources.
- General format: Author’s Last Name & Page Number(s) in Parentheses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Example of Single Author:</th>
<th>The Teach for America regional office will be the pilot site for the early-childhood education initiative (Jacobson 8).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- If author’s name is included in the sentence, cite the page number.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Example of In-Text Citation When Author’s Name is Included in the Text:</th>
<th>According to Jacobson, the Teach for America regional office will be the pilot site for the early-childhood education initiative (8).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- An In-text citation must correspond to a source listed on the Works Cited page at the end of the paper.

|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

- The citation should be as close as possible to the quotation or paraphrase, preferably at the end of the sentence before the punctuation mark.
- If the source lacks page numbering, omit the page number. Do not use the page number assigned by the printer.
- It is not necessary to cite references that are common knowledge, such as the years Lincoln was president.

MORE IN-TEXT CITATION EXAMPLES

Author’s Name in the Text: Page number only (8).

Single Author: (Jacobson 8).

Two Authors: (Fielding and Alexander 59).

Three Authors: (Wildhorn, Boyd, and Murphy 799).

More Than Three Authors: (Beringer et al. 425-426).

Single Author, Newspaper Article: (Lohr C1).

No Author: Abbreviated version of the title. (“Tales of First-Year Teachers” 9).

No Page Number or One Page: List the author only. (Carter).

Multiple Sources by Same Author: Place a comma after the author’s name, shortened title and page. (McPherson, “Ordeal” 142).