MLA STYLE

The 2016 *MLA Handbook*, 8th edition, is very different from the earlier versions regarding the citations. Instead of fixed rules on how to cite a specific type of source, MLA’s current system is based on nine core elements that are applied to all sources. (Pages 20-53 and 102-116 provide more detailed guidance for most citation questions as well as illustrations of where to find the necessary information. Additional answers are available at the MLA Style Center – https://style.mla.org - and other academic web sites.)

**Major differences between the 7th and 8th editions:**

1. No city of publication unless the book was published prior to 1900.
2. No medium of the publication (ex. print, web, transcript, address, etc.), except when needed for clarity.
3. Add p. or pp. for page number(s). (NOTE: Only for the works cited page, not in-text.)
4. Add vol. and no. for periodicals.
5. The month or season is now included for scholarly journals.
6. Formerly abbreviated terms such as editor, edited by, translator and review are no longer abbreviated.
7. Use the abbreviations rev. for revised and ed. for edition.
8. The use of et al. is now for three or more authors.
9. URLs (without the http:// or https://) are now given for web sources and databases.
10. The use of DOIs (digital object identifiers) is encouraged.
11. The use of permalinks or stable URLs is preferred if the DOI is not available.
12. Citing the date the source was consulted is now optional.
13. Placeholders for unknown information are omitted. (If relevant facts such as date are missing, there is no notation such as n.d. for “no date”.)
14. Publisher names are given in full except for words like “Company”. Academic presses still use the abbreviations U, P, and UP (for University, Press, and University Press).
15. A forward slash can be used between the names of co-publishers.
16. When an organization is the author and publisher of a work, the organization is generally only listed once as the publisher and no author is given.
17. Reference works are treated the same as all other sources.
18. The original publication information for a reprinted source is now considered optional as the emphasis is on the form in which the source is consulted.
CORE ELEMENTS

In order:

1. **Author.** (Last name, first name initial if available.)
2. **Title of source.** (Books and web sites are in italics and articles, stories, poems, song on an album, etc., are in quotation marks)
3. **Title of container,** (Containers hold the source. For example, a container may be a book holding a story or chapter; a magazine, journal or newspaper holding an article; a web site holding an article, posting, or section; a television series holding an episode; a database holding a source; etc.)
4. **Other contributors,** (Such as editors, translators, introducers, adapters, directors, etc.)
5. **Version,** (The edition or version of the work, such as revised, updated, second, unabridged, etc.)
6. **Number,** (If the source is part of a multi-volume set, the volume and issue numbers on a journal, or the seasons and episodes of a television series)
7. **Publisher,** (Use for books, film and television series and web sites, but not for magazines, journals or newspapers, works published by the author or editor, web sites when the title is the same as the publisher, databases, etc.)
8. **Publication date,**
9. **Location.** (Includes page number(s) for print sources, the URL or web address for online works, the DOIs - digital object identifiers - for online works if available instead of a URL or web address, the physical place for a physical object experienced firsthand, such as in a museum, etc.)

OPTIONAL ELEMENTS

You may also add other elements such as:

1. **Date of Original Publication,** (Used if the source is reprinted and the original date is important. This date is placed after the source’s title before the current publication information.)
2. **City of Publication,** (Used with books published before 1900 and may be used instead of a publisher’s name.)
3. **Facts about the Source.** (Includes number of volumes in a multivolume publication, series name, transcript, lecture, address, original publication information, number and session of Congress and document type and number, and date of access for online sources.)
NOTE:

MLA recommends including URLs (or DOIs if available) in the works cited list, as well as the date of access, especially if there is no date on the source. Do not include the http:// or https:// on the URL. If the web site has a stable URL (or permalink), use that instead.

If your instructor does not want you to include the URLs in your works cited list, follow his or her preferences. When in doubt, include the information.

The inclusion of the date of access is also subject to the instructor’s preference. When in doubt, include the information.

EXAMPLES

BOOKS

The core elements for book citations are:

In print:

Author last name, author first name. Title of book. Other contributors [editor, translator, etc.], Version [edition], Number, Publisher, publication date.

In a database or on a web site:

Author last name, author first name. Title of book. Other contributors [editor, translator, etc.], Version [edition], Number, Publisher, Publication date. Container title [database name, title of website], Other contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication date, Location [DOI, Permalink, stable URL or URL]. Date of Access [day month year - if necessary].

One author:


Multiple works by the same author:

List the books alphabetically by title, ignoring the A, An, or The if it is the first word. After providing all of the information for the first entry, use three hyphens and a period in place of the author’s name for all following entries.


---. *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*. Translated by Anthony Bonner, Bantam Books, 1981.

Two authors:


Three or more authors:

Only list the first author and add et al. to indicate “and others”:


Editor(s):


Work in a collection, anthology, or chapter of a book:


Editions:


Reprint:

If the source was previously published, adding information about the prior publication is now considered optional because the emphasis is on the form in which you consulted the source. Please check with your instructor as to their preference.


Translation, Introduction, Forward, Afterward:


Government Publications:


Journals, Magazines, Newspapers, Advertisements:

The core elements for periodical citations are:

In print:

Author last name, author first name. “Title of article.” Title of Magazine, Journal, Newspaper, volume number, issue number, publication date, page number(s).

In a database or on a web site:

Author last name, author first name. “Title of article.” Title of Magazine, Journal, Newspaper, volume number, issue number, publication date, page number(s). Container title [database name, title of website], Other contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication date, Location [DOI, Permalink, stable URL or URL]. Date of Access [day month year - if necessary].

Print:


Database:


**Web:**


Other Sources:

**E-mail:** Roberts, Mathew J. “Re: Class Assignment.” Received by Jennifer M. Carlyle, 18 July 2016.

**Tweet:** @northeaststate. “Applications being accepted now for @TheJKCF Undergrad Transfer Scholarship open to #communitycollege students.” Twitter, 26 Aug. 2016, 11:05 a.m., twitter.com/northeaststate/status/769234259710214144. Accessed 29 Aug. 2016.

**Interviews:** Always list by the interviewee’s name. A personal interview is conducted by writer of paper. Published interviews – if part of a larger work, use quotation marks for the title. If the interview is independent, italicize the title. If there is no title of the interview, add Interview by.


Drescar, Rebecca. Personal interview. 23 Apr. 2016.


**Videogames:** *NBA 2K17*, Legend Gold ed. 2K Games, 16 Sept. 2016.

**Music:** Adele. “When We Were Young.” 25, XL Recordings, 2015.


**Films or Movies:** *Big Stone Gap*. Directed by Adriana Trigiani, performances by Ashley Judd, Patrick Wilson, and Whoopi Goldberg, Universal Studios Home Entertainment, 2016.


**Television:** “94 Meetings.” *Parks and Recreation*, season 2, episode 21, NBC, 29 Apr. 2010.


**Performances:** The Charlie Daniels Band. Fun Fest, 22 July 2016, Kingsport.

*Mama Mia!* Directed by Richard Rose, 28 May 2016, Barter Theatre, Abingdon.