APA (6th edition) Referencing Style

This referencing style sheet is to be used in conjunction with the Library’s general Guide to Citing & Referencing. The information is based on the following manual from the American Psychological Association (APA):


For help with referencing items not covered in this guide:
You might like to refer to either the Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.) or the more compact version, Concise rules of APA style (6th ed.). Both manuals are available in the Library, on Level 3, at shelf mark 808.06615 AME. You can also access the following ebook via the Library Catalogue:
The complete guide to referencing and avoiding plagiarism - this includes examples for APA and other styles.

Citation
The APA uses an author-date style of referencing with details entered in round brackets, for example:

The traditional approach to human cognition is over-simplified in assuming that processing is typically serial (Eysenck & Keane, 2010).

Treatment of multiple authors: when a work has two authors, cite both authors every time. When a work has three, four or five authors, cite all authors the first time a reference occurs. In subsequent citations, include only the surname of the first author followed by et al. See:

Kisangau, Lyaruu, Hosea, and Joseph (2007) found that … [first time cited]

Kisangua et al. (2007) found that … [subsequent citations]

When a work has six or more authors, cite only the surname of the first author followed by et al. and the year of publication for the first and subsequent citations.

Reference list
The reference list should contain full details of all the sources mentioned in your text, arranged alphabetically by surname of first author.

Reference examples
Below are some examples of the more common types of document you might want to reference. Each gives the APA 6th ed. format for the reference, followed by an example. Treatment of multiple authors within reference list: when authors number eight or more, include the first six authors’ names then insert three ellipses and add the last author’s name. For example:

Book
Author's surname, Initials. (Year of publication). Title (xx ed. if not the first). Place of publication: Publisher.


Book with two authors / editors
Authors' names. (Year of publication). Title (xx ed. if not the first). Place of publication: Publisher.


Book with editor(s) instead of author(s)
Editor's surname, Initials. (Ed.). (Year of publication). Title (xx ed. if not the first). Place of publication: Publisher.


Book with corporate author
Corporate author. (Year of publication). Title (xx ed. if not the first). Place of publication: Author.


NB When the author and publisher are the same, use the word Author as the name of the publisher.

Book usually known by its title
Title. (Year of publication). (xx ed. if not the first). Place of publication: Publisher.


One chapter / paper from a collection in a book
Author of chapter’s surname, Initials. (Year of publication). Title of chapter. In: Initials of first editor, Surname of first editor & Initials of second editor, Surname of second editor (Eds.), Title of book (pp. xx-xx). Place of publication: Publisher.


Newspaper article
Author's surname, Initials. (Year of publication, Month of publication, Day of publication). Title of article. Title of newspaper, pp. xx-xx.


Thesis / dissertation – from a university outside the US
APA uses American terminology so please refer to Publication Manual for detailed guidance.

The example below is for a doctoral thesis found on a Swedish institutional repository:

Author surname, Initials. (Year of award). Title of thesis (Level of award, Awarding institution). Retrieved from URL


Government publication
Corporate author. (Date of publication). Title of report. Place of publication: Author.

Television broadcast


Electronic version of a print book
Author surname, Initials. (Year of publication). Title. Retrieved from URL


Electronic version of a republished book
Author surname, Initials. (Year of release in electronic format). Title. Retrieved from URL (Original year work was published).


Journal article
Author surname, Initials. (Year of publication). Article title. Journal Title, Volume number(part), page numbers.


Electronic journal article without DOI
Author surname, Initials. (Year of publication). Article title. Journal Title, Volume number(part), page numbers. Retrieved from URL


Electronic journal article with DOI
Author’s surname, Initials. (Year of publication). Article title. Journal Title, Volume number(part), page numbers xx-xx. doi:


Web pages
Author's surname, Initials. (Year site/document was published online). Title. Retrieved Month Day, Year, from web address.

Note: if there is no individual author you can use an organisation or corporate body name. If neither is available, use the title for author. If there is no publication date available, use no date instead i.e. (n.d.).


Do not include retrieval dates unless the source material may change over time (e.g. wikis, web pages...)
This guide offers a basic template for APA referencing. For help with referencing items that are not included in the above examples, please refer to page 1 of this guide.