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:

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.