



# The Writing Center

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO  
DENVER | ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

## Documenting Difficult (Web) Sources in MLA 8<sup>th</sup> Edition

More than just a system for avoiding plagiarism or indicating the presence of secondary research, MLA Style (and citation/documentation in general) provides readers and other scholars with a detailed roadmap for how to locate the sources a writer uses. Unfortunately, not all sources—especially nonperiodical publications found online and in library databases—are as easy to document (or find again) as books and journals. The key to documenting unusual sources is to find as much information as you can and do your best.

Specifically, try to find information for all of the following 9+ categories identified in the *MLA Handbook* (8<sup>th</sup> Edition); if you cannot find one of the components – e.g., Version and Number, which most nonperiodicals won't have – move on to the next one, though don't forget that many web sites and online organizations have About Us, copyright, or other legal pages containing pertinent information. The goal is to create and maintain a consistent citation style that allows readers and researchers to successfully locate your sources.

Consider this handout a basic companion to the *MLA Handbook* and/or our own longer MLA Style handout.

### Components of Nonperiodical Publications on the Web

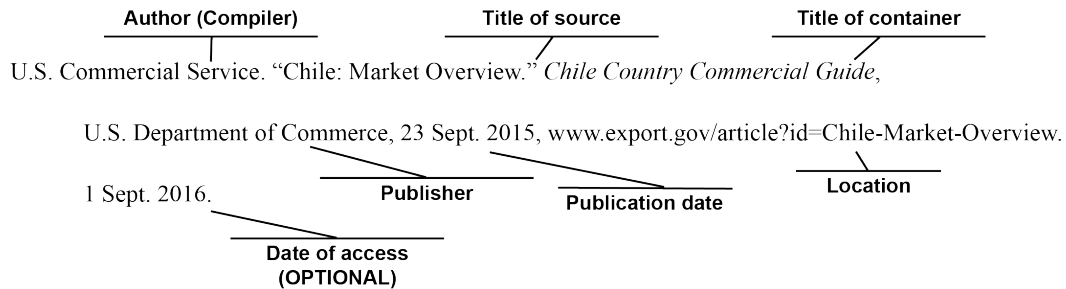
A Works Cited entry for a nonperiodical publication on the Web should contain as many of the following elements, in sequence, as you can find. Note the punctuation following each item:

1. **Author.** (compiler, director, editor, narrator, performer, or translator)
  - a. If a corporate author is identical to the publisher, skip Author and begin with #2.
2. **Title of source.**
  - a. Italicize standalone sources; use quotation marks if part of a larger work
3. **Title of container,** (web site or database)
  - a. Italicize
4. **Other contributors,** (adapters, directors, editors, illustrators, narrators, performers, etc.)
5. **Version,** (or edition)
6. **Number,**
7. **Publisher,** (or sponsor of site)
8. **Publication date,**
  - a. 28 Aug. 2016
9. **Location.** (page number[s], URLs, DOIs, physical places, archive #s or codes)
  - a. For single pages, use p. 1; for multiple pages, use pp. 1-2
10. **Date of Access.** (OPTIONAL)
  - a. Accessed 28 Aug. 2016

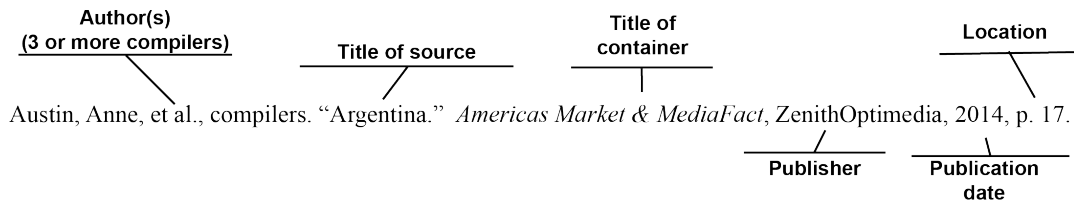
OTHER OPTIONAL ELEMENTS: City of publication, medium/type of publication

The following Works Cited entries utilize the 9+-step outline for difficult-to-categorize, non-periodical sources. The sources below include reports and articles published online.

Works Cited



**Market & MediaFact:**



**News Article:**

