



The Writing Center

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
DENVER | ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

Council of Science Editors [CSE] Citation Guidelines, 7th Edition

CSE allows for three different systems of citation: Citation-Sequence, Name-Year, and Citation-Name. This handout will define each system, discuss its advantages and disadvantages, and provide examples.

Citation-Sequence System

Use numbers within the text to refer to the end reference. Number the references and order them within the reference list in the sequence in which they first appear within the text. Use the same number for subsequent in-text references to the same document.

Advantages: 1) Because in-text references consist of numbers only, they interrupt the reading of the work only minimally; 2) Little decision making is needed by the compiler to format either an in-text reference or an end reference. Unlike the name-year format, the in-text references consist of only a number, and the end references are formatted according to standard bibliographic rules.

Disadvantages: 1) The reader who might be familiar with the subject and author of the work cited cannot identify the author from the in-text reference; 2) Since in-text references are numbered in the order in which they appear within the work, the numbers change as the manuscript changes; and 3) Because the end references are listed in the order they appear in the text, there may be difficulty locating the works of a specific author and works by the same author are usually not listed together.

In-Text	<p>Traumatic life events and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are endemic among American civilians ¹.</p> <p>*Note the space between the end of the word and the superscript number.</p>
In-Text, Multiple Citations	<p>Separate in-text reference numbers with a comma with no spaces. For more than 2 numbers in a continuous sequence, connect the first and last number with a hyphen.</p> <p>Modern scientific nomenclature really began with Linnaeus in botany ¹, but other disciplines ^{2,3} were not many years behind in developing various systems ⁴⁻⁷ for nomenclature and symbolization.</p>
Reference Page (Journal)	<p>Author(s). Article title. Journal title. Date;volume(issue):location.</p> <p>1. Gerlick, Q. Posttraumatic stress disorder in the National</p>

	Comorbidity Survey. Arch Gen Psychiatry. 2013 Dec;52(12):1048-1060.
Reference Page (Book)	Author(s). Title. Edition. Place of publication: publisher; date. Extent. 1. Schott J. Leading antenatal classes: a practical guide. 2nd ed. Boston (MA): Books for Midwives; 2012. 245 p.

Name-Year System

In-text references consist of the surname of the author or authors and the year of publication of the document. Enclose the name and year in parentheses.

Advantages: 1) It is easier to add and delete references from the manuscript since doing so does not necessitate any renumbering of the list, as would be the case in the citation-sequence system; 2) This system also recognizes the authors in the text without referral to the end references; 3) the date provided with the author name in the text may provide useful information to the reader; and 4) Since the reference list is arranged alphabetically by author, it is easy to locate works by specific authors as works by the same first author are grouped together.

Disadvantages: 1) The most significant disadvantage of this system relates to the numerous rules that must be followed to properly form an in-text reference. Using and applying rules for multiple authors, works published by the same author in the same year, and works authored by organizations can become burdensome to the user. These rules also conflict with recommended bibliographic standards, such as the use of “and” between 2 author names in the in-text reference, and newer formats such as the Internet make these rules even more complex; 2) finally long strings of in-text references in the name-year format interrupt the text and may therefore be irritating to the reader.

One Author	
In-Text	The NIH has called for a change in the smallpox vaccination policy (Fauci 2012). Fauci (2012) documents the call for change in smallpox vaccination policy by the NIH. The NIH’s call for change in smallpox vaccination policy (Fauci 2012) furthered the need for updated smallpox information.
Reference Page (Journal)	Author(s). Date. Article title. Journal title. Volume(issue):location. Fauci AS. 2012. Smallpox vaccination policy – the need for dialogue. N Engl J Med. 346(17):1319-1320.
Reference Page	Author(s). Date. Title. Edition. Place of publication: publisher. Extent.

(Book)	Schott J. 2012. Leading antenatal classes: a practical guide. 2nd ed. Boston (MA): Books for Midwives. 245 p.
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Two Authors	
In-Text	<p>Studies have shown the negative effects of the arbovirus (Smith and Hoffman 2014).</p> <p>Smith and Hoffman (2014) have documented the negative effects of the arbovirus.</p> <p>The negative effects of the arbovirus (Smith and Hoffman 2014) make apparent the need for continued aid in countries with a large amount of mosquitos.</p>
Reference Page (Journal)	<p>Author(s). Date. Article title. Journal title. Volume(issue):location.</p> <p>Smith T, Hoffman AM. 2014. Studies on arbovirus epidemiology associated with established and developing rice culture. Trans R Soc Trop Med Hyg. 64(4):481-482.</p>
Reference Page (Book)	<p>Author(s). Date. Title. Edition. Place of publication: publisher. Extent.</p> <p>Luzikov V. Essential psychopharmacology of depression and bipolar disorder. New York (NY): Cambridge University Press; 2000.</p>

Three or More Authors	
In-Text	<p>The landmark report on legalized abortion was published three years after the debate (Lederer et al. 1990).</p> <p>Lederer et al. (1990) note that the first report on legalized abortion was published three years after the debate.</p> <p>The landmark report on legalized abortion (Lederer et al. 1990) created a new system of evaluation in the United States legal system.</p>
Reference Page (Journal)	<p>Author(s). Date. Article title. Journal title. Volume(issue):location.</p> <p>Lederer J, Becker A, Little C. 1990. Legalized abortion and the public health. N Engl J Med. 24(6):48-62.</p>
Reference Page (Book)	<p>Author(s). Date. Title. Edition. Place of publication: publisher. Extent.</p> <p>Stahl S, Sun Y, Lavin C. Acute medical emergencies: the practical approach. London (England): BMJ Books; 2001. 856 p.</p>

Citation-Name System

Complete the list of end references for the work and then sequence them first alphabetically by author, then by title. Number the references in that sequence.

Advantages: 1) This system shares with the citation-sequence system the advantages that in-text references only minimally interrupt the text and end references are presented in standard bibliographic format; 2) It shares with the name-year system the advantages that end references are in alphabetical order by author, making identification of works by specific authors easier and grouping works by the same first author together.

Disadvantages: 1) It shares with the citation-sequence system the disadvantage of the reader not being able to identify authors from the in-text references and the problem of reference numbers changing as the manuscript is revised.

In-Text	<p>Traumatic life events and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are endemic among American civilians ²².</p> <p>*Note the space between the end of the word and the superscript number.</p>
In-Text, Multiple Citations	<p>Separate in-text reference numbers with a comma with no spaces. Place the corresponding reference list numbers in numeric order. For more than 2 numbers in a continuous sequence, connect the first and last number with a hyphen.</p> <p>Extensive studies ^{3,8-10,17,33,34} show the effects of the medicine on T-cells.</p>
Reference Page (Journal)	<p>Author(s). Article title. Journal title. Date;volume(issue):location.</p> <p>2. Gerlick, Q. Posttraumatic stress disorder in the National Comorbidity Survey. Arch Gen Psychiatry. 2013;52(12):1048-1060.</p>
Reference Page (Book)	<p>Author(s). Title. Edition. Place of publication: publisher; date. Extent.</p> <p>3. Schott J. Leading antenatal classes: a practical guide. 2nd ed. Boston (MA): Books for Midwives; 2012. 245 p.</p>