Quick Reference to AMA Style Reference Lists

General Formatting

• In the Reference List, references are listed numerically in the order they are cited in the text. Two references should not be combined under a single reference number.

• Use Arabic superscript numerals outside periods and commas, inside colons and semicolons. When more than 2 references are cited at a given place in the manuscript, use hyphens to join the first and last numbers of a closed series; use commas without spaces to separate other parts of a multiple citation.

• Use the author's surname followed by initials without periods or spaces. In listed references, the names of all authors should be given unless there are more than 6, in which case the names of the first 3 authors are used, followed by “et al.” Do not use and between names.

• References to material not yet accepted for publication or to personal communications (oral, written, and electronic) are not acceptable as listed references and instead should be included parenthetically in the text.

• Abbreviate and italicize names of journals. Use initial capital letters. Abbreviate according to the listing in the PubMed Journals database. For information on how journal title abbreviations are constructed, see http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/constructitle.html.

• In article titles, capitalize only the first letter of the first word, proper names, and abbreviations that are ordinarily capitalized.

Basic Formats and Examples

Scholarly Article
When the DOI is provided, it is preferable to cite it rather than the URL. Note: The DOI is provided immediately after “doi:” with no spaces. No accessed date is required for the DOI, making it the last item in the reference.

Basic Format for articles accessed online:
Author(s). Title. Journal Name. Year;vol(issue No.):inclusive pages. URL. Accessed [date].

Basic Format for articles in print:
Author(s). Title. Journal Name. Year;vol(issue No.):inclusive pages.

Examples:

Book
Basic Format:
Author(s). Book Title. Edition number (if it is the second edition or above). City, State (or Country) of publisher: Publisher's name; copyright year.

Example:

E-book
Basic Format:
Author(s). Book Title. Edition number (if it is the second edition or above). City, State (or country) of publisher: Publisher's name; copyright year. URL. Accessed [date].

Example:

Part of a Book
Basic Format:
Author(s). Chapter title. In: Editor(s). Book Title. Edition number (if it is the second edition or above). City, State (or country) of publisher: Publisher's name; copyright year:inclusive pages.

Example:

Web Site
Basic Format:
Author(s) (or, if no author is available, the name of the organization responsible for the site). Title (or, if no title is available, the name of the organization responsible for the site). Name of the Web site. URL. Accessed [date].

Example:

For more examples and further guidance, the full online edition of AMA Manual of Style is available at http://www.amamanualofstyle.com while on the UIC campus.

From off-campus, UIC users will need to log in (using their NetID and password) through the library website (https://i-share.carli.illinois.edu/uic/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?DB=local&v1=1&BBRecID=2428109) in order to access the complete AMA Manual of Style.

A print copy of AMA Manual of Style is available in the Reference Collection:
- Library of the Health Sciences-Chicago: WZ345 A511 2007

This quick reference guide is based on the 10th edition of AMA Manual of Style.