



## VANCOUVER REFERENCING STYLE GUIDE

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## REFERENCING

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Referencing acknowledges the sources that you used to write your essay or assignment paper. Please see the section of this guide regarding intellectual honesty and plagiarism.

In-text citations are used throughout your writing to acknowledge the sources of your information. The full references for the citations are then listed at the end of your assignment paper in the **References** list.

It is important to first consult your unit outline, lecturer or tutor for the preferred citation style for each unit you undertake.

## ACADEMIC HONESTY AND PLAGIARISM

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At Western Sydney University plagiarism falls within the framework of the **Student Misconduct Rule** and its **associated guidelines**.

Further information about the importance of academic honesty is available on the Library **website**.

## ABOUT THE VANCOUVER STYLE

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The Vancouver style is a widely used numbered system of referencing or bibliographic citation. The citation style was originally based on the rules proposed by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors; they are now maintained by the US National Library of Medicine.

This guide covers basic explanations and examples for the most common types of citations used by students based on *Citing Medicine: The NLM Style Guide for Authors, Editors, and Publishers (2nd edition online)*. If you are unable to find the referencing example you require in this guide, more detailed information and examples can be found in the above publication.

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o Phone 02 98525353

o **Email**

o **Online Librarian**

## IN-TEXT CITATION: REFERENCING SOURCES WITHIN THE TEXT

Throughout the text of your paper you need to acknowledge the sources used in your writing. Whenever you present a statement of evidence such as a quote, or when you use someone else's ideas, opinions or theories in your own words (paraphrasing), you must acknowledge your sources.

The Vancouver citation style uses a citation-sequence number system whereby the authorship is acknowledged using a number to represent the reference, which the reader can find under the corresponding number in the reference list. This number is static, meaning that the same number is used every time you wish to cite a particular reference at any point in your document.

You can insert numbers as superscript e.g. <sup>1</sup> or in parentheses. e.g. (1). If you wish to cite two or more references together, place a comma between the numbers, e.g. <sup>1,2</sup> or (1, 2). If you wish to cite a series of consecutive references use a dash, e.g. <sup>2-5</sup> or (2-5). When required, page numbers can be given in parentheses after the reference number e.g. <sup>2(p34)</sup> or <sup>3(p4,6)</sup>.

Place the number immediately after the author, title, word or phrase to which it is directly relevant. Allow a space before and after the number except when it is followed by a punctuation mark. Do not insert a space before a punctuation mark.

Below are some examples of how to cite sources within the text of your paper.

Mullan <sup>1</sup> described narration as...  
 The narration of works can be divided into two <sup>2</sup>.  
 In the Royal Commission's landmark report <sup>5</sup>, ...

Note: When you summarise the general idea of a source in your own words, you must cite the author or body responsible for the work.

If you directly quote fewer than four lines of a quote, enclose the quotation by **double** quotation marks within the text. The page number(s) should be provided following the reference number e.g.

Mullan <sup>1(p215)</sup> explained that tone should be "anti-solemn".

If the quotation is greater than 4 lines it should be displayed in a block, in a reduced font size without quotation marks.

Mullan <sup>1(p41)</sup> stated that:

James is making an argument about a singular novel, but that last phrase is evidence enough of his disdain for the form in general. He expresses this elsewhere in his criticism and correspondence, notably in an extraordinary letter to H. G. Wells. In 1911 Wells had sent James a copy of his latest novel, *The New Machiavelli* (1911), which is narrated in the first person.

Sources that you cite in your writing are listed in detail at the end of your document in a reference list.

## REFERENCE LIST

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A reference list includes details of the sources cited in your paper. It starts on a separate page at the end of your assignment paper and is titled **References**. Each item cited in the reference list *must* have been cited in your paper. All sources appearing in the reference list are listed in the **order in which they are first cited in the text** (not alphabetically).

The reference list is a numbered list and should be **single spaced** with a **one line space between** each entry.

**Capitalisation** in the Vancouver style is very specific. The following general rules apply:

Book title, chapter, section title and article – capitalise the first letter of the first word of the title, proper nouns, proper adjectives and acronyms.

- e.g.     Ageing and aged care in Australia.  
          Brave new brain: conquering mental illness in the era of the genome.  
          Understanding the Australian health care system.  
          What can save UNESCO?

Journal and newspaper titles - capitalise first letter of each word using the appropriate abbreviation for journal names (see section on [journal articles](#) in this guide). Newspaper titles are not abbreviated.

- e.g.     J Educ Psychol.

Pronouns, acronyms and abbreviations that are normally capitalised should be capitalised in the reference list. For further information on capitalisation see examples on the following pages for each reference type.

In the Vancouver style **place of publication** requires that the city be followed by the state, province or country in parentheses. United States and Canadian cities are followed with a two-letter abbreviation of the state or province (see [Citing Medicine. "Appendix E"](#)). Cities in other countries are followed with the name or a two letter abbreviation of that country (see [Citing Medicine. "Appendix D"](#)).

... Springfield (MA): ...
... Marrickville (AU): ...    or    ... Marrickville (Australia): ...
... Oxford (GB): ...            or    ... Oxford (United Kingdom): ...

Also note that reference elements within each entry are separated by a full stop, and parts of these elements are separated by commas, colons and semi-colons. See examples on the following pages for each reference type.

Sources that are not readily retrievable should **not** be listed in the References list, but should be cited within the text of your paper. These sources include personal communications (oral, written and electronic) and unpublished/yet to be published works.

***Example of a reference list:***

**References**

1. Andreasen NC. Brave new brain: conquering mental illness in the era of the genome. Oxford (GB): Oxford University Press; 2001.
2. Schneider Z, Whitehead D, Elliott D. Nursing and midwifery research: methods and appraisal for evidence-based practice. 3rd ed. Marrickville (AU): Elsevier Australia; 2007.
3. Davis M, Charles L, Curry MJ. Challenging spatial norms. London (GB): Routledge; 2003.
4. Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary. 10th ed. Springfield (MA): Merriam Webster; 1993.
5. Craven I, editor. Australian cinema in the 1990s. London (GB): Frank Cass; 2001.
6. Knowles MS. Using learning contracts. San Francisco (CA): Jossey-Bass; 1986. Chapter 4, Independent study; p. 73-90.
7. Ferres K. Idiot box: television, urban myths and ethical scenarios. In: Craven I, editor. Australian cinema in the 1990s. London (GB): Frank Cass; 2001. p. 175-88.
8. Storey KB. Functional metabolism regulation and adaptation [Internet]. Hoboken (NJ): John Wiley & Sons; 2004 [cited 2009 Apr 2]. Available from: <https://www.proquest.com/>
9. Younger P. Using the internet to conduct a literature search. Nurs Stand. 2004 Oct 20;19(6):45-51.
10. Jackson D, Firtko A, Edenborough M. Personal resilience as a strategy for surviving and thriving in the face of workplace adversity: a literature review. J Adv Nurs [Internet]. 2007 [cited 2009 Apr 2]; 60(1):1-9. Available from: <https://onlinelibrary-wiley-com/doi:10.1111/j.1365-2648.2007.04412.x>
11. Von Der Luhe I. I without guarantees: Ingeborg Bachmann's Frankfurt lectures on poetics. Kraus MT, translator. New Ger Crit. 1982 Oct 1; 8(27):31-56.
12. Berkovic N. Handouts may not be sent: tax office seeks quick resolution of High Court challenge. The Australian. 2009 Mar 31:5.
13. Wentworth WC. Why we need a permanent base on the moon. The Sydney Morning Herald [Internet]. 1984 Jan 24 [cited 2008 Dec 19]:11. Available from: <https://archives.smh.com.au>

## ELECTRONIC ITEMS

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When referencing electronic resources, it is necessary to give details of where an item is available. This may be a direct URL. For sources that are not freely available and require a login, use the URL of the database or journal homepage. If a DOI number is available it must be placed at the end of the reference.

1. Atkin M. Bermagui forest disputed turf. The Hack Half Hour [Internet]. 2008 Nov 13 [cited 2009 April 2]. Available from: <http://www.abc.net.au/triplej/hack/notes/>
2. Jackson D, Firtko A, Edenborough M. Personal resilience as a strategy for surviving and thriving in the face of workplace adversity: a literature review. *J Adv Nurs* [Internet]. 2007 [cited 2009 Apr 2];60(1):1-9. Available from: <https://onlinelibrary-wiley-com/> doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2648.2007.04412.x

Cited dates (i.e. the dates on which the publications were viewed) are required for sources accessed online where the material is subject to change. See examples below and [Citing Medicine](#) for more information.

## REFERENCING SECONDARY SOURCES

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Authors should always consult the primary source of information and should not cite through a secondary source unless the primary source is not readily available. Although not preferable, you may sometimes need to quote or paraphrase a source (A) that is referred to within another source (B). The original source should be mentioned in the text of your paper along with the secondary source. The original source is not cited in the reference list entry.

For example, the book you are using is written by Smith who quotes another author called Jones. In your essay you wish to use Jones' idea. Acknowledge the primary source (Jones) as follows:

Jones as cited in Smith<sup>1</sup>, agreed that the experiment failed to confirm this hypothesis.

or

Smith<sup>1</sup> cites the experiment by Jones in 2008 that failed to confirm this hypothesis.

Provide the details of the secondary source only in your reference list:

1. Smith J. *Analysing hypotheses*. Penrith (AU): University of Western Sydney; 2009.

## BOOKS, BOOK CHAPTERS AND BROCHURES

**The standard reference list format for citing entire books is as follows:**

Author AA. Book Title: subtitle. Edition number. Place of publication: Publisher; year.

or

Editor AA, editor. Book Title: subtitle. Edition number. Place of publication: Publisher; year.

### SINGLE AUTHOR

Reference list	1. Andreasen NC. Brave new brain: conquering mental illness in the era of the genome. Oxford (GB): Oxford University Press; 2001.
In-text citation	Andreasen <sup>1</sup> stated that... or It is suggested that... <sup>1</sup>

### TWO AUTHORS

Reference list	2. Copstead LE, Banasik JL. Pathophysiology. 3rd ed. St Louis (MO): Elsevier Saunders; 2005.
In-text citation	...is demonstrated <sup>2</sup> . or ...as stated by Copstead and Banasik <sup>2</sup> .

### THREE OR MORE AUTHORS

Reference list	3. Schneider Z, Whitehead D, Elliott D. Nursing and midwifery research: methods and appraisal for evidence-based practice. 3rd ed. Marrickville (AU): Elsevier Australia; 2007.  <i>Note: List all authors. Vancouver does not use et al. in the reference list.</i>
In-text citation	This finding indicated... <sup>3</sup> or Schneider et al. <sup>3</sup> found....  Note: List only the first author in the text, followed by et al.

**NO AUTHOR**

Title. Edition number. Place of publication: Publisher; year.

Reference list	4. Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary. 10th ed. Springfield (MA): Merriam Webster; 1993.
In-text citation	The Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary <sup>4</sup> defines... or This can be defined as... <sup>4(p11)</sup>

**EDITED BOOK**

Reference list	5. Craven I, editor. Australian cinema in the 1990s. London (GB): Frank Cass; 2001.
In-text citation	Craven <sup>5</sup> discussed the successful... or The film starred actors... <sup>5</sup>

**CHAPTER OR ARTICLE IN BOOK**

Reference list	6. Knowles MS. Using learning contracts. San Francisco (CA): Jossey-Bass; 1986. Chapter 4, Independent study; p. 73-90.
In-text citation	Knowles <sup>6</sup> demonstrated that... or This independent study showed... <sup>6</sup>

**CHAPTER OR ARTICLE IN AN EDITED BOOK**

Reference list	7. Ferres K. Idiot box: television, urban myths and ethical scenarios. In: Craven I, editor. Australian cinema in the 1990s. London (GB): Frank Cass; 2001. p. 175-188.
In-text citation	Ferres <sup>7</sup> discussed the television episode... or The television episode... <sup>7</sup> .

**E-BOOK**

Reference list	8. Storey KB. Functional metabolism regulation and adaptation [Internet]. Hoboken (NJ): John Wiley & Sons; 2004 [cited 2009 Apr 2]. Available from: <a href="https://www.ebscohost.com/ebooks">https://www.ebscohost.com/ebooks</a>
In-text citation	Storey <sup>8</sup> stated that... or Functional metabolism is... <sup>8</sup>



## JOURNAL ARTICLES, NEWSPAPER ARTICLES AND CONFERENCE PAPERS

The titles of journals should be abbreviated. A search can be carried out to locate the details and abbreviations of journal titles at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nlmcatalog/journals>. If the title cannot be located in the NLM catalogue follow the abbreviation rules for journal titles in *Citing Medicine*

The format for more than one author is the same for all sources including journal articles, therefore, refer to the examples for books in this guide.

### The standard reference list format for journal articles is as follows:

Author AA, Author BB, Author CC. Article title. Journal/Periodical Abbreviation. Year Month Day;Volume(Issue):pages

Note: If a journal is continuously paginated throughout a volume, the month and day of publication may be omitted.

For more journal and newspaper article examples see *Citing Medicine* chapters [1](#), [8](#), and [23](#)

### JOURNAL ARTICLE (PRINT VERSION)

Reference list	9. Younger P. Using the internet to conduct a literature search. Nurs Stand. 2004 Oct 20;19(6):45-51.
In-text citation	Younger <sup>9(p46)</sup> stated that the ... or The internet can be used to conduct a literature search <sup>9</sup> .

### JOURNAL ARTICLE (FULL-TEXT FROM ELECTRONIC DATABASE)

Reference list	<i>Provide the URL of the database or journal homepage if it is not freely available (for example, access is not free when a login is required).</i> <i>When a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) number is available for the journal article place it after the URL.</i> 10. Jackson D, Firtko A, Edenborough M. Personal resilience as a strategy for surviving and thriving in the face of workplace adversity: a literature review. J Adv Nurs [Internet]. 2007 [cited 2009 Apr 2];60(1):1-9. Available from: <a href="https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2648.2007.04412.x">https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2648.2007.04412.x</a>
In-text citation	Jackson et al. <sup>10</sup> found that..... or ...was therefore conclusive <sup>10</sup> .

**NON-ENGLISH JOURNAL ARTICLE TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH**

Reference list	11. Von Der Luhe I. I without guarantees: Ingeborg Bachmann's Frankfurt lectures on poetics Kraus MT, translator New Ger Crit. 1982 Oct 1;8(27):31-56.
In-text citation	Von Der Luhe <sup>11</sup> concludes that both states are essential or ...that both states are essential <sup>11</sup> .

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLE (AVAILABLE IN PRINT)**

Reference list	12. Berkovic N. Handouts may not be sent: tax office seeks quick resolution of High Court challenge. The Australian. 2009 March 31:5.
In-text citation	Berkovic <sup>12</sup> explained that handouts.... or It was suggested that handouts may not be sent <sup>12</sup> .

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLE (FROM ELECTRONIC DATABASE)**

Reference list	13. Wentworth WC. Why we need a permanent base on the moon. The Sydney Morning Herald [Internet]. 1984 Jan 24 [cited 2008 Dec 19]:11. Available from: <a href="https://archives.smh.com.au">https://archives.smh.com.au</a>
In-text citation	Wentworth <sup>13</sup> stated that... or ...the engineered apple <sup>13</sup> .

**ARTICLE (FROM THE INTERNET, NOT AVAILABLE IN PRINT VERSION)**

Reference list	14. Cooper D. Native ant may stop toad in its tracks. ABC Science [Internet]. 2009 Mar 31 [cited 2009 Apr 2]. Available from: <a href="http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2009/03/31/2530686.htm?site=science&amp;topic=latest">http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2009/03/31/2530686.htm?site=science&amp;topic=latest</a> <i>Provide the direct URL for articles freely available on the internet.</i>
In-text citation	Cooper <sup>14</sup> stated that a ferocious ant... or ...that meat ants may be able to help control toad numbers <sup>14</sup> .

## PROCEEDINGS OF MEETINGS AND SYMPOSIUMS, CONFERENCE PAPERS

Reference list	<p>15. Chang, SS, Liaw, L, Ruppenhofer, J, editors. Proceedings of the Twenty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society, February 12-15, 1999: General Session and Parasession on Loan Word Phenomena; University of California. Berkeley (CA): Berkeley Linguistics Society; 2000.</p> <p>16. Rice AS, Farquhar-Smith WP, Bridges D, Brooks JW. Canabinoids and pain. In: Dostorovsky JO, Carr DB, Koltzenburg M, editors. Proceedings of the 10th World Congress on Pain; 2002 Aug 17-22; San Diego, CA. Seattle (WA): IASP Press: 2003. p. 437-68.</p> <p>Note, in example 15 above, if conference information is included in the published title, do not repeat after the title. Where location of conference and place of publication are the same, do not repeat. If the institution where the conference was held is useful to the reader it may be included before the location.</p> <p>For more example of conference publications see <i>Citing Medicine</i>.</p>
In-text citation	<p>Chang<sup>15</sup> stated that...which was further supported by Rice et al.<sup>16</sup>...</p> <p>or</p> <p>It has been found that...<sup>15</sup>, which is also supported by later research<sup>16</sup>.</p>

## SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS

Reference list	<p>16. Osborn DA, Sinn JKH. Soy formula for prevention of allergy and food intolerance in infants. 2006 Oct 18 [cited 2007 Jun 7]. In: Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews [Internet]; (4). [place unknown]: John Wiley &amp; Sons, Ltd. Available from: <a href="https://www.cochranelibrary.com">https://www.cochranelibrary.com</a> Art. No.: CD003741. doi: 10.1002/14651858.CD003741.pub4.</p>
In-text citation	<p>Osborne and Sinn<sup>16</sup> stated that...</p> <p>or</p> <p>It has been found that allergens are present<sup>16</sup>...</p>

## OTHER MATERIALS

### GOVERNMENT REPORT (ONLINE)

Reference list	<p>17. Australian Government, Department of Health and Ageing. Ageing and aged care in Australia [Internet]. [place unknown]: Australian Government, Department of Health and Ageing; 2008 [cited 2008 Nov 10]. Available from: <a href="http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ageing">http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ageing</a></p> <p><i>Place the two letter country code in parentheses after the author, if it is not part of the title.</i></p>
In-text citation	<p>The Australian Government, Department of Health and Ageing<sup>17</sup> reported that...</p> <p>or</p> <p>...was shown in the report<sup>17</sup>.</p>

**LECTURE (UNPUBLISHED) / PERSONAL COMMUNICATION**

Reference list	<i>Note: When you cite information spoken about in a lecture that has gone unpublished it is treated as a personal communication and you do not need to provide a reference list entry. Provide all information in text. Include the nature and source of the information followed by ‘unreferenced’ in parentheses.</i>
In-text citation	... H. Dwyer stated that “neutrons are dangerous” (H0379 Lecture, Western Sydney University, 2016 January 10; unreferenced).

**THESIS**

Reference list	27. Fayadh KH. The legal regulation of assisted reproductive technology in Iraq: lessons from the Australian approach [dissertation on the internet]. [Penrith (AU)]: Western Sydney University; 2015 [cited 2015 Nov 24]. Available from: <a href="http://handle.uws.edu.au:8081/1959.7/uws:32383">http://handle.uws.edu.au:8081/1959.7/uws:32383</a>
In-text citation	Fayadh <sup>27</sup> showed that... or It was found... <sup>27</sup> .

**WEB PAGE**

Reference list	<p><b>Document on the Internet:</b></p> <p>28. Este J, Warren C, Connor L, Brown M, Pollard R, O’Connor T. Life in the clickstream: the future of journalism [Internet]. Redfern (AU): Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance; 2008 [cited 2009 May 27]. Available from: <a href="http://www.alliance.org.au/documents/foj_report_final.pdf">http://www.alliance.org.au/documents/foj_report_final.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Document on the Internet, no author, no date:</b></p> <p>33. Developing an argument [Internet]. New Jersey (NJ): Princeton Writing Center; [cited 2009 Mar 30]. Available from <a href="http://web.princeton.edu/cites/writing/Writing_Center/WCWritingResources.html">http://web.princeton.edu/cites/writing/Writing_Center/WCWritingResources.html</a></p> <p><i>Note: If the webpage includes a date of revision or update, include the date along with the cited date within square brackets [updated 2009 Jan 15; cited 2009 May 27]</i></p> <p><i>For further information, on date of publication refer to <a href="#">Citing Medicine</a>.</i></p>
In-text citation	Este et al. <sup>28</sup> suggest that... or ...is necessary to develop an argument <sup>33</sup> .

For further assistance with referencing please contact the library on 02 98525353.