Scientific Citation Format for UGS303 by Dr. M. Poteet (modified by Dr. De Lozanne)

Please use these formats for the Science Inquiry in OAS

LITERATURE CITED

There are many different formats for scientific citations, but they mostly include the same information in the same order:

1. Authors (usually last names & first initials)
2. Year of publication
3. Title (in plain text; capitalize first word and proper nouns only; not underlined, italicized (unless species name), or in quotation marks, even if it is a book)
4. Journal name and volume OR publisher & place of publication (if a book)
5. Page numbers (write them all the way out).

You should list your references in alphabetical order (by last name of first author – see end of document for example using references below). Within each citation, indent every line but the first (in Word, you can format this automatically by selecting “Home” “Paragraph” and then choosing special indent “hanging”). If two references in a row have the same author, then list the most recent citation first. Remember to italicize and capitalize genus and italicize (lower case) specific epithet names, e.g., *Homo sapiens*. Be sure to look at the Literature Cited sections in the papers you find. This will give you a feel for how to write your own Literature Cited – but use the specific format provided below.

Pay attention to location of author initials, periods, commas, placement of date and page numbers.

TO FACILITATE GRADING YOUR INQUIRY PLEASE PROVIDE A LINK TO THE PUBLICATION AS SHOWN BELOW. Make sure your link works correctly.

Books:


Dissertations:


Journal Articles:

[http://sysbio.oxfordjournals.org/content/38/4/406.extract](http://sysbio.oxfordjournals.org/content/38/4/406.extract)

Commented [MFP1]: note that all words in the title are lower case except the first word and any proper noun.

Commented [AL2]: Please add a direct link to the articles you are citing. You would normally not do this for publication but we need these to check your citations.

A chapter in an edited volume: (Notice "In" is italicized.)


Software:


Web page: Only cite if you can find no other sources. Web pages are not permanent, so they are a poor choice for a reference and are not peer reviewed. Oftentimes, sources found on the web either suggest the citation for their resource (e.g., data sources), or have publication information that you can use instead of a URL (e.g., USGS publications).

If you must cite a website, use the following structure:

Structure: Last, F. M. (Year, Month Date Published). Article title. Website Title. Retrieved Month Date, Year, from URL.

Example:


When you start writing your proposals and research papers, use the following formats for in-text citations:

IN-TEXT CITATIONS

Internal citations used to indicate the source of information within the sentence or paragraph in which the information is used. The form of the internal citation is usually the last name of the author followed by the publication date; e.g., "(Jones 1995)".

• format for one author: (Smith 1997)
• format for two authors: (Contreras and Jones 2008)
• format for more than two authors: (Moldov et al. 1997)
• To list multiple citations by the same author, place commas between the years; e.g., (Smith and Kennedy 1999, 2002)
• To cite multiple papers, place a comma in between citations; e.g., (Brown 1988, King 2000, 2001)
• For multiple citations by the same author(s) in the same year, use lower case letters to distinguish them; e.g., (Hodge et al. 1999a,b).
  o Here are examples of how this would look in the reference section of your paper:
Hodge, B., S. Birder, and B. Custer. 1999a. This is an example of a paper with three authors that was written in the same year as the next paper, but has different authors: even so, when cited in text, it will look the same unless you add the letter ‘a’ to the year published: also note that this citation goes first because the second author of this paper is earlier in the alphabet than the 2nd author of the next paper. Ecology 47:345-365.

Hodge, B., D. Silven, and F. Manger. 1999b. This is another example of a paper with the same first author, but different last authors in the same year: if you are confused, please come ask Dr. Poteet for help. American Naturalist 123:45-57.

**Example using in-text citation – these citations are made up!**: Stream ecosystems that undergo frequent flooding are reset each year to a more complex trophic web (Smith 1997, Moldov et al. 1997). In the Stasis River of northeast Maine, flooding frequency is low, which has led to decreased trophic links (Contreras and Jones 2008, Hodge et al. 1999a, 1999b).

This is all you need to refer to internally because the full citation will be listed in the References (full bibliographic citations of the sources that you used in your paper) section of your paper.

When you discuss information or ideas, include internal citation(s) at the end of the ideas being cited. The Introduction, Methods, and Discussion sections of most scientific papers include multiple/many/A LOT of internal citations.

**Example**

**References (http links should be provided for all citations).**


