

## A Guide to Citing Online Sources

From making communication easier to providing new forms of entertainment, the Internet revolution has provided people with a lot of benefits. One of its most important contributions is making information readily available and accessible for you and your students. When you ask your students to make a paper on the events that led to the 1986 People Power Revolution, for example, they can now research data and download images online to accompany their report.

Though relatively new and less standardized in format than books, newspapers and journals, sources from the Internet however, also need to be properly cited. Aside from giving rightful credit to the source, proper citation also makes it easier for subsequent readers to validate the information contained in your students' report or the research you'll be presenting to your co-teachers in a future conference.

As with the more traditional sources of information, there are two citation styles most commonly used and accepted when citing online sources: the American Psychological Association style and the Modern Language Association style. Though each style has its own format, there are two general guidelines followed when citing sources from the Web:

- Lead the reader as close to the information you used as possible
- Always make sure that the link you provide works

### AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (APA)<sup>1</sup>

The APA style of citation is used primarily for citing sources in scientific papers and projects.

#### Copy of printed articles published online:

Author. (date published). Title of article [Electronic version]. *Name of Publication*, page numbers.

#### Article from an Internet-based publication:

Author. (date published). Title. Name of publication, page, article number. Retrieved month day, year, from web site url.

#### Information from an Internet-based newsletter:

Author. (date published). Title. *Name of newsletter*, volume no. (issue no.). Article number. Retrieved month day, year, from web site url.

**Non-publication document with no author and no date:**

*Title*. (n.d.). Retrieved month day, year, from web site url.

**Online periodical:**

Author, A. A., Author, B. B., & Author, C. C. (date published). Title of article. *Name of Periodical*, xx, xxxxxx. Retrieved month day, year, from web site url

**Online document (includes Web sites or Web pages, newsgroups, Web- or e-mail-based discussion groups) :**

Author, A. A. (date published). *Title of work*. Retrieved month day, year, from source.

**MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION STYLE (MLA)<sup>2</sup>**

The MLA style of citation is most commonly used as a citation style in student papers and scholarly work on humanities and liberal arts subjects.

**An entire web site:**

*Name of Site*. Date of Posting/Revision. Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (sometimes found in copyright statements). Date you accessed the site <web site url>.

**A page on a web site:**

Author/Alias. "*Title of web page*." Name of web site. Date you accessed the site <web site url>

**An Image, Including a Painting, Sculpture, or Photograph on a web site:****For works housed in a museum or other institution**

Name of artist. *Title of the work*. Year the work was created. Institution where it is housed, city. Date accessed <web site url>.

**For works housed online**

Name of image owner. *Title of the work*. Date accessed <web site url>

**An Article in a Web Magazine:**

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Online Publication*. Date of Publication. Date of Access <electronic address>.

**Article on a scholarly journal:**

Author. "Title of article." *Name of Publication* volume and issue information (date published): page no. Date accessed. <web site url>.

**E-mail or Other Personal Communication:**

Author. "Title of the message (if any)." E-mail to person's name. Date of the message.

**E-mail to You:**

Name of sender. "subject." E-mail to the author. Date received.

"Entry name." Subscription service (encyclopedia database name). Subscription year. Original source. Date you accessed the information <web site url>.

**Sources:**

<sup>1</sup>"*The Official American Psychological Association Style Sheet For Citing Electronic Resources*". APastyle.org. Retrieved June 2, 2007 from <http://www.apastyle.org/electref.html>

<sup>1,2</sup>"*Who Said That? How to Cite Electronic Resources*". Education World.com. Retrieved June 2, 2007 from [http://www.education-world.com/a\\_curr/curr247.shtml](http://www.education-world.com/a_curr/curr247.shtml)

<sup>2</sup>Kunka, Jennifer Liethen and Barbato, Joe. "*MLA Formatting and Style Guide*." Retrieved June 2, 2007 from <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/09/>