MLA STYLE – Electronic Media

The correct way to cite electronic resources is not yet set in stone. As technology evolves, so do the research tools that we must use. This guide explains how to format parenthetical documentation and how to write a “Work Cited” list for electronic media. The information in this guide is from the MLA (Modern Language Association). Two copies of the manual are available to students; one is on general reserve and the other copy is located in the reference section. The call number of the book is R 808.027 G35m 2003. Page listings in bold refer to location of specific information in the MLA manual. Students are encouraged to use the Little Brown Handbook – Brief Version for additional information. Some of the samples are from LB pages 474-477.

Citing Article Databases

Parenthetical Documentation

For electronic sources follow the same example as with print periodicals, place authors name and page number in parenthesis.

- For electronic sources that are available in PDF format follow the example for periodicals. (author page)
Example: Business forecasts for the fourth quarter tended to be optimistic (White 4).

- For a source with no paging here are your alternatives:
Section 6.4 (page 242) states that if you are citing a work whether in print or electronic, that has no pagination, it is usually preferable to include the author’s name in the text.
Page 245 states that when a cited work has no page number or other reference number, the work should be cited in its entirety.
- For journal articles from electronic sources that do not offer paging either place the author’s name is parenthesis or incorporate the author’s name in the text.
Examples: Denise Noe has offered another view.
Almost 20 percent of commercial banks have been audited for the practice (Friis).
- If paragraphs or screen are numbered, then cite with “par” for one paragraph and “pars” for more than one paragraph.
Example: Twins reared apart report similar feelings (Palfrey, pars. 6-7).

Formatting Articles from Article Database for the Work Cited List


Examples:

(Please note that for popular magazines you can ignore the volume, issue.)


- Place the title of article in quotation marks, capitalize all important words.
- Omit A, An or The from the beginning of the title of periodical.

Formatting Internet Sources for the Work Cited List

Check with your professor before including Internet sources in your work.

Author’s name (last name, first name) OR Organization. “Title of work” (in quotes). Title of complete work (if available) underlined. Date of publication or update (if known).

Date that website was used for research <URL, in angle brackets>

Examples:

Organization/title:

Author/title:

Review:

Entire Internet Site:

Entire Online Scholarly Project:

The above site contains title of academic site, name of the editor, date of publication or most recent update, name of organization or institution that sponsors the site (if available), date of access. <web address>. 