Before using this referencing guide you should always consult your unit guide, which may specify variations on this style. If you are still unsure, please check with your unit chair, lecturer or tutor.
The IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers) referencing style is used widely in electrical, electronic and computing publications.

The information in this guide is based on the following sources:

IEEE. (2014). *IEEE Author Tool Box* [Online]. Available: [http://www.ieee.org/publications_standards/publications/authors/authors_journals.html](http://www.ieee.org/publications_standards/publications/authors/authors_journals.html)


Further resources:


### Table of Contents

**General principles** ............................................................................................................ 3  
How do I format in-text citations? .......................................................................................... 3  
Repeat citations ..................................................................................................................... 3  
How do I compile a reference list? ......................................................................................... 3  
Number of authors ................................................................................................................. 4  
Primary sources ..................................................................................................................... 5  
Abbreviations .......................................................................................................................... 5  
No author ............................................................................................................................... 5  
No date ..................................................................................................................................... 6  
How is IEEE different from Harvard? .................................................................................... 6  

**Books** ..................................................................................................................... 6  
Whole book .......................................................................................................................... 6  
Chapter in a book .................................................................................................................. 6  
Chapter in an edited book ................................................................................................. 7  
Dictionary or encyclopedia ............................................................................................... 7  
e-book ................................................................................................................................... 7  

**Periodicals** ............................................................................................................... 8  
Journal article ..................................................................................................................... 8  
Newspaper article ................................................................................................................. 8  

**Other** .................................................................................................................. 9  
Conference ......................................................................................................................... 9  
Patent .................................................................................................................................... 9  
Report ................................................................................................................................. 10  
Standards ............................................................................................................................ 10  
Website, webpage or web document .................................................................................. 10
General principles

The IEEE style consists of two elements:

1. **In-text citations** in the form of numbers in square brackets, e.g. [9]. Citations are numbered according to the order of their first appearance in the body of the paper. The same number is used for each work throughout a paper.

2. A **reference list** at the end of the paper. This provides full bibliographic details of all in-text citations. The references are ordered numerically.

How do I format in-text citations?

Works are cited in the body of the text, in square brackets and inside punctuation marks.

… as shown by Jones [4], [5].

… as mentioned earlier [2], [4]–[7], [9]; …


Colonna et al. [7] …

They can also be included in the narrative, where the citation acts like a noun.

… as demonstrated in [3]; according to [4] and [6]–[9].

Repeat citations

When repeating an in-text citation, use the original number as first cited. In the example below, Salzmann et al. [1] is cited in the first and last sentence.

Salzmann et al. [1] explore the established misconception that digital web-based languages are out of date before even being used. Another common opinion is that XML mark-up will be obsolete within five years [2]. However, many studies [1] [3] [4] have since challenged these opinions …

How do I compile a reference list?

- List only the works that contributed directly to your research.
- Reference numbers are enclosed in square brackets. They are set flush left and the reference list entries.
- Do not combine two sources into one reference. There must be only one source per reference number.
- Use the required abbreviations as summarised below.
- In all references, the given name of the author or editor is abbreviated to the initial and precedes the last name. Use commas around “Jr.”, “Sr.”, and “III” in names.
• List the names of all authors up to the first five authors. If there are six or more names listed, use et al. after the name of the first-listed author.
• Format book and journal titles in italics; article titles are in double quotation marks.
• When citing IEEE Transactions, if the issue number or month is not available, research IEEE Xplore to update the information.
• When referencing a patent, include the day and month.

Example of a reference list


Number of authors

One to five authors

In-text citation

As Smith noted [1] ...
As Schenk and Chan stated [2] ...

Reference list

Include the names of all authors.


Six or more authors
Where there are six or more authors, provide the name of the first-listed author followed by “et al.”

In-text citation
Wu et al. [9] describe the ...

Reference list


Primary sources
In some referencing styles, it is common to cite a source that has been cited in another source (a secondary source). However, the IEEE style requires you to cite the primary source.

For example, if you have read about Einstein’s theory of special relativity (1905) in a book by Eric Badwin (2010), you must consult and cite the original (primary) source – Einstein’s 1905 article. You do not cite Badwin.

Abbreviations
Abbreviations must be used for:

- **Months:** e.g. Jan., Feb., Mar., etc.
- **Standard IEEE terminology:** e.g. statist., automat.
- **Journal titles:** e.g. IEEE Journal on Technology in Computer Aided Design = TCAD
- **Conference proceedings:** e.g. Proceedings of the IEEE = Proc. IEEE

For further details see:


No author
If the name of the author is not provided, begin the reference list entry with the title of the work.

No date
If no date is provided, place “n.d.” in place of the date.


How is IEEE different from Harvard?

1. IEEE in-text citations are numbers in square brackets that follow the relevant text, e.g. ‘It was only discovered in 2010 [1].’ Only one reference number is used per source throughout the text. In Harvard style, the author and date are provided in-text for each citation.

2. IEEE references are numbered in-text according to the order that they first occur in the text. The IEEE reference list is also ordered numerically, not alphabetically, as is in the Harvard style.

3. In IEEE, the date of publication is placed at the end of the reference list entry, whereas in Harvard the date is placed after the author.


5. In IEEE, you are not permitted to cite a secondary source (i.e. a source cited within another source), whereas this is permitted in Harvard style.


Books

Whole book

[1] A. A. Author, Title of the Book. City of Publisher, Country if not USA: Publisher, year.


Chapter in a book

Use the following format for books where there is single author or single set of authors.

Chapter in an edited book
Use the following format where a book contains chapters written by various authors.


Dictionary or encyclopedia
Format the dictionary or encyclopedia according to the source type (e.g. book, e-book, website) and provide the relevant details.

Whole publication


Chapter or entry in publication


e-book
If you have a DOI, provide the DOI. If no DOI is available, provide the full URL or homepage URL.

[1] A. Author, Title of e-book [eBook]. City of Publisher, Country if not USA: Publisher, Date of original publication. Available: URL or DOI.


Periodicals

**Journal article**
Titles of journals are often abbreviated in IEEE style. For further details see:

**Print article**


**Online article with DOI**
It is preferable to use this format for online articles and include the DOI.


**Online article with no DOI**
- Only use this format where no DOI is available.
- Note that this format differs in use of punctuation, placement of date, absence of quotation marks around the title, and the formatting of the journal number and issue.
- Provide the full date, if available.


**Newspaper article**

Other

Conference

- If the year is given in the conference title, it may be omitted from the end of the reference.

Paper presented at a conference


Published conference proceedings

Providing the city of the conference is optional.


Patent


Report


Standards

If the year of the standard is included in the Standard reference number, then you do not have to add the year again. For an example of this, see the AS/NZS citation below.


Website, webpage or web document

Provide the full date, if available.

