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.
# Table of Contents

**About this guide** ........................................................................................................................................... 3

**General principles** ........................................................................................................................................ 3
  - How do I format in-text references? ........................................................................................................ 3
  - How do I compile a reference list? ............................................................................................................... 4
  - Citing multiple sources ............................................................................................................................... 5
  - Repeat citation ........................................................................................................................................ 5
  - Secondary source ..................................................................................................................................... 6
  - Group author .......................................................................................................................................... 6
  - No author ............................................................................................................................................... 6
  - No date .................................................................................................................................................. 6
  - No page numbers ................................................................................................................................ 7
  - Abbreviations of journal titles ................................................................................................................ 7

**Books** ........................................................................................................................................................ 7
  - Books – general principles ....................................................................................................................... 7
  - Print book .............................................................................................................................................. 8
  - e-book .................................................................................................................................................... 8
  - Chapter in a book .................................................................................................................................. 9
  - Chapter in an edited book ....................................................................................................................... 9
  - Dictionary or encyclopedia entry .......................................................................................................... 10
  - Different editions .................................................................................................................................. 10

**Periodicals** ................................................................................................................................................ 11
  - Journal article – general principles ....................................................................................................... 11
  - Journal article – print .............................................................................................................................. 11
  - Journal article – online ............................................................................................................................ 12
  - Journal article – forthcoming .................................................................................................................. 12
  - Newspaper article – print ....................................................................................................................... 12
  - Newspaper article – online ..................................................................................................................... 13

**Online, multimedia** .................................................................................................................................... 13
  - Website .................................................................................................................................................. 13
  - Wiki ......................................................................................................................................................... 14
  - Blog ......................................................................................................................................................... 15
  - Podcast and streaming video ................................................................................................................. 15
  - DVD, CD-ROM and other hardcopy audiovisual material ..................................................................... 16

**Government, legal sources** .......................................................................................................................... 16
  - ABS publication ...................................................................................................................................... 16
  - Legal sources ......................................................................................................................................... 17
  - Government publications ......................................................................................................................... 17
  - Government reports ............................................................................................................................... 18
About this guide

The Vancouver style of referencing was developed by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE). ICMJE produces the guidelines for publication, which are known as the ICMJE Recommendations (formerly known as the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts). The United States National Library of Medicine (NLM) has further developed these citation standards.

This introductory guide to Vancouver style is based on the NLM publication *Citing medicine*, as well as sample references from the ICMJE Recommendations:


General principles

The Vancouver style consists of:

1. **In-text references in the form of numbers in parentheses** that follow the relevant section of the text. The same number is used for a work throughout a paper.

2. A **numerically ordered reference list** at the end of the paper giving full details of each source referred to in text. There is only one reference list entry for each individual work.

**How do I format in-text references?**

For all sources cited in the body of the paper, provide a reference number in parentheses (round brackets).

... and biomedical authorship continues to have important academic, social, and financial implications. (1) In the past, readers were rarely provided with information about contributions to studies from those listed as authors and in acknowledgments. (2) Some journals now request...
Note that numbers in square brackets and superscript numbers are also acceptable formats used in biomedical journals. It is important to be consistent in the style you adopt and you may need to consult your unit guide or academic staff in your unit to determine the preferred style.

Reference numbers are usually placed outside full stops and commas, but journals vary in their practice. Again, consult your unit guide or academic staff in your unit to determine the preferred style.

The same number is used for a source throughout a paper. This number is determined by the first citation of the source, e.g. if a work is the fourth source cited in a paper, it will be referred to as (4) throughout the paper.

When two or more sources are referred to at the same point in the text, the relevant numbers are separated by commas:

Recognition of the importance of symptom control has been growing. (4, 8, 21)

Three or more consecutive citations are joined by a hyphen:

Many studies have shown that 30 minutes of moderate physical activity per day is good for your wellbeing. (6-8)

You must reference all material you use from sources each time you use a fact, a conclusion, an idea or a finding from someone’s work. It is necessary to cite a source each time you:

- summarise (explain or discuss someone’s idea in your own words)
- paraphrase (closely re-word what someone has said)
- quote (reproduce an author’s exact words).

No quotation marks are required if you are summarising or paraphrasing. Place direct quotes within double quote marks.

How do I compile a reference list?

The reference list includes only the works cited in text. It appears at the end of the paper and provides the full bibliographic information of the sources cited. Only one reference list entry should be provided for each work cited. The reference list is ordered numerically.

If an article appears in both print and electronic form, it is important to cite the source type that you have read.

- Reference list entries are ordered numerically and reference numbers are followed by a full stop.
- Authors’ family names are followed by their two-letter initials with no space or full stops between initials, e.g. Halpern SD, Ubel PA, Caplan AL.
- Commas are used to separate each author’s name. Note that ‘and’ is not used to separate the last two names.
- Journal titles are abbreviated unless the title is a single word or very short. Read more about the abbreviations of journal titles.
Sample reference list


Citing multiple sources

When citing two or more sources at the same point in the text, the relevant numbers are separated by commas:

Recognition of the importance of symptom control has been growing. (4, 8, 21)

Three or more consecutive citations are joined by a hyphen:

Many studies have shown that 30 minutes of moderate physical activity per day is good for your wellbeing. (6-8)

Repeat citation

The same number is used for a source throughout a paper and only one entry in the reference list should be provided for each work cited. This number is determined by the first citation of the source, e.g. if a work is the fourth source cited in a paper, it will be referred to as (4) throughout the paper and in the reference list.
Secondary source

When citing a work that cites another source, provide the author of both the author of the secondary source (the source you have read) and the primary source (original source cited in the secondary source) in text, followed by a reference number.

Mishriki discusses Banja's work on… (18)

In the reference list provide details of the source you have read. So in this example, the bibliographic details for Mishriki (the secondary source) would be provided in reference 18 in the reference list.

Group author

For works that list an organisation, corporation or agency as the author, provide the name of the group in the author position.


No author

If a person or organisation cannot be identified as the author but there are editors, revisers or translators named in the publication, begin the reference with the names of the editors/revisers/translators followed by their role.


If no author, authoring organisation, editor, reviser or translator is given, begin the reference with the title of the book.

21st century heart solution may have a sting in the tail. BMJ. 2002;325(7357):184.


No date

If no date is provided, enter [date unknown] in place of the date.

If no date is provided, but can be reliably estimated, place the estimated year with a question mark in square brackets.

Deakin University guide to referencing: Vancouver 6
No page numbers

If no page numbers are provided, which is often the case with online sources, you may provide the total number of paragraphs, or estimated number of printed pages or screens. Provide in square brackets before the URL, e.g. [3 paragraphs], [about 3p.], [about 4 screens].

Number of paragraphs (webpage)


Estimated number of printed pages (online newspaper article)


Estimated number of screens (online newspaper article)


Abbreviations of journal titles

Journal titles are usually abbreviated unless they consist of a single word or are very short. There are conventions on how specific titles are abbreviated. See links below for more information.

- Citing medicine: Appendix A: abbreviations for commonly used English words in journal titles
- NLM's list of journals indexed for Medline
- Australasian medical index
- ISI journal title abbreviations

Books

Books – general principles

Authors

- For one to six authors, list all authors.
- If there are more than six authors, list the first six authors followed by "et al."
- Authors’ family names are followed by their two-letter initials with no space or full stops between initials, e.g. Halpern SD, Ubel PA, Caplan AL.
- Commas are used to separate each author’s name. Note that "and" is not used to separate the last two names.
- If there are no author names provided, but an editor/reviser/translator’s name is provided, begin the entry with the name of the editor/reviser/translator followed by their role, e.g. Court FG, editor.
- If relevant, in addition to authors, place the names of editors, revisers, translators or illustrators after the title of the book, followed by their role.
Titles

- Titles of books and book chapters should use minimal capitalisation, that is, only the first word is capitalised except for words that would normally be capitalised, such as proper nouns, acronyms and initialisms.

Other publication details

- Include the edition number for all editions other than the first.
- A relatively unknown city/place of publication is followed by an abbreviation of the state or country in parentheses, e.g. White Plains (NY).
- Provide the year of publication or copyright e.g. c2005.
- For e-books, provide the medium as [Internet], the date cited, and the URL or DOI. Do not add an additional full stop after the URL or DOI.

Print book

For works with one to six authors, provide the names of all of the authors.

**Author Initials, Author Initials. Title of book. edition number. Place of publication: Publisher; year.**


For works with more than six authors, provide the names of the first six authors followed by "et al."

**Author Initials, Author Initials, ... Author Initials, et al. Title of book. edition number. Place of publication: Publisher; year.**


e-book

When citing an e-book, include the details as for a print book and in addition provide:

- date last updated
- date cited
- URL or DOI.

**Author Initials. Title of book [Internet]. edition number. Place of publication: Publisher; year [updated year month day; cited year month day]. Available from: URL DOI**


Chapter in a book

When citing a chapter in a book with a single author or single set of authors, include the details as for a book source, and in addition:

- provide the chapter number, title and page range at the end of the citation
- do not repeat digits unnecessarily in the page range, e.g. 124–7 not 124–127
- place a "p." before the page range of the chapter (Note that the "p." is not used for page numbers of periodicals).

Author Initials. Title of book. edition number. Place of publication: Publisher; year. Chapter number, Chapter title; page range.


When citing a chapter in an e-book, add:

- medium as [Internet]
- date last updated
- date cited
- URL and DOI, if available.

Author. Title of book [Internet]. edition number. Place of publication: Publisher; year. Chapter number, Chapter title; [updated year month day; cited year month day]; page range. Available from: URL DOI


Chapter in an edited book

For a chapter in an edited book (a book with chapters written by different authors), provide the details as for a book source and in addition:

- place the title of the chapter after the author(s), followed by the word 'In' and a colon, then the editor's name and then the book title
- do not repeat digits unnecessarily in the page range, e.g. 124–7 not 124–127
- place a "p." before the page range of the chapter. (Note that the "p." is not used for page numbers of periodicals).

Author Initials. Title of chapter. In: Editor Initials, editor. Title of book. edition number. Place of publication: Publisher; year. page range.


When citing a chapter in an edited e-book, add:

- medium as [Internet]
- date last updated
- date cited
- URL and DOI, if available.

Dictionary or encyclopedia entry


Periodicals

Journal article – general principles

Authors

- For one to six authors, list all authors.
- If there are more than six authors, list the first six authors followed by "et al."
- Authors' family names are followed by their two-letter initials with no space or full stops between initials, e.g. Halpern SD, Ubel PA, Caplan AL.
- Commas are used to separate each author's name. Note that 'and' is not used to separate the last two names.

Titles

- Titles of journal articles should use minimal capitalisation, that is, only the first word is capitalised except for words that would normally be capitalised such as proper nouns, acronyms and initialisms.
- Journal titles should be abbreviated. See section above on abbreviations of journal titles.

Other publication details

- Months are abbreviated to the first three letters.
- There are no spaces between the date, volume, issue and page numbers. The date is followed by a semicolon, the volume number, the issue number in brackets, a colon and the page range.
- When providing the page range, do not repeat unnecessary numbers unless followed by a letter, e.g. 284-7 not 284-287, but 331A-333A is correct.
- For online articles provide URL and DOI, if available. Do not add a full stop after a URL or DOI.

If a database's unique identifier is provided, it can be added at the end of the reference list entry.


Journal article – print

For journal articles with up to six authors, provide the names of all of the authors.

Author Initials, Author Initials. Title of article. Abbreviated title of journal. year month day;volume(issue):page range.


Many medical journals use continuous pagination through the issues that make up a volume. Page numbers are sufficient to indicate the location of articles in such volumes, so the month and issue number may be omitted.


For articles that have more than six authors, provide the names of the first six authors followed by "et al."

Journal article – online
If a journal article is available in both print and electronic formats, cite the source that you have read.
For journal articles accessed online also include:
- medium as [Internet].
- date cited.
- page number range. If the article is not paginated, give an indication of the length of the article in square brackets. This can be provided as print pages, screens or paragraphs e.g. [about 1 p.], [about 5 screens], [8 paragraphs].
- URL and DOI, if available.

Bertino E, Milani S, Fabris C, De Curtis M. Neonatal anthropometric charts: what they are, what they are not. Arch Dis Child (Fetal Neonatal Ed) [Internet]. 2007 Jan [cited 2007 Jan 9];92(1):F7-10. Available from: http://fn.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/92/1/F7


Journal article – forthcoming
"Forthcoming" journal articles refer to articles that have been accepted for publication but are not yet published. (Previously the term "in press" was used.)
Include the date, volume and issue number of journal, if known.


Newspaper article – print
For newspaper articles:
- only the first word of newspaper article titles are capitalised as well as words that would normally be capitalised, such as proper nouns, acronyms and initialisms.
- all major words are capitalised in newspaper titles. Titles are never abbreviated.
- provide the name of newspaper section, if applicable.
- only the first page number of the article is cited.
- provide the column number (col.), if applicable.

Newspaper article – online
In addition to information provided for print newspaper articles, include:

- medium as [Internet]
- date last updated, if applicable
- date cited
- estimated length of the article in terms of print pages, screens, or paragraphs (if no pagination)
- URL.


Online, multimedia

Website
For websites and webpages provide:

- author, if available
- medium as [Internet]
- name of the website/webpage
- publisher and place of publication, if known
- copyright date
- date last updated/revised
- date cited
- URL. No additional full stop after URL.

Website with author:

Author Initials. Title of website [Internet]. Place of publication: Publisher; date of copyright [revised/updated year month day; cited year month day]. Available from: URL

Website with no identified author:

Title of website [Internet]. Place of publication: Publisher; date of copyright [revised/updated year month day; cited year month day]. Available from: URL


Webpage with author:

Author Initials. Title of website [Internet]. Place of publication: Publisher; date of copyright. Title of webpage. year month day of webpage [revised/updated year month day; cited year month day]; [estimated length]. Available from: URL


Webpage with no identified author:

Title of website [Internet]. Place of publication: Publisher; date of copyright. Title of webpage. year month day of webpage [revised/updated year month day; cited year month day]; [estimated length]. Available from: URL


Wiki

Wikis have multiple authors and their content may change frequently. Use your discretion when citing wikis: for example, we do not recommend citing Wikipedia. Read this guide on using electronic sources.

For wikis provide:

- medium as [Internet] if 'wiki' is in the title, or as [wiki on the Internet] if 'wiki' is not in the title
- title of the wiki
- publisher and place of publication, if known
- date the wiki began or [date unknown] if not known
- date of last revision/update
- date cited
- URL. No additional full stop after URL.
Title of wiki [Internet or wiki on the Internet]. Place of publication: Publisher. beginning date - [revised year month day; cited year month day]. Available from: URL


Blog
For a blog provide:
• author of the post and/or blog
• medium as [Internet]
• title of the post and the blog
• publisher and place of publication, if known
• date the blog began
• date of the last revision/update
• date the material was cited
• URL. No full additional full stop after URL.

For blog posts where the author is also the owner of the blog, provide the author of the post.
Author Initials. Title of blog [Internet]. Place of publication: Publisher. first year of blog - . Title of post; year month day of post [cited year month day]; [estimated length]. Available from: URL


Where the blog post is written by a contributor other than the blog owner, provide the author of the post and the owner/editor of the blog. In some cases this may be the same as the publisher.

Author Initials of post. Title of post. year month day of post [cited year month day]. In: Author or Editor of blog. Title of blog [Internet]. Place of publication: Publisher. first year of blog - [estimated length]. Available from: URL


Podcast and streaming video
For podcasts and streaming videos, accessed online or via a database, provide:
• author, if known
• title of the individual podcast or video
• medium as [podcast on the Internet] or [video on the Internet]
• place of production and the producer
• full date of production or date of copyright
• date cited
• URL. No additional full stop after URL.


**DVD, CD-ROM and other hardcopy audiovisual material**

For referencing hardcopy audiovisual material, such as DVDs, CD-ROMs, audiotapes, videocassettes, slides or films, provide:

- author
- title
- medium in square brackets
- place of publication and the publisher
- year of copyright.

**Author Initials. Title [medium]. Place of publication: Publisher; year.**


**Government, legal sources**

**ABS publication**

For Australian Bureau of Statistics releases accessed online, cite as you would other webpages, with the addition of the ABS catalogue number.

**Australian Bureau of Statistics [Internet]. Canberra: ABS; year. Title of release. Catalogue number. [updated year month day; cited year month day]. Available: URL**

Legal sources

No specific information is provided by NLM on how to cite legal sources in the Vancouver style. The following examples are based on the Australian Guide to Legal Citation (AGLC). For more information on referencing legal sources, including legal abbreviations, see the Deakin referencing guide to AGLC.

Note that:

- titles of Acts and cases are in italics
- there are no full stops at the end of reference list entries.

Act of Parliament:

*Title of Act year (Jurisdiction) section number*

*Health Records Act 2001 (Vic) s. 25*

Case (law report series organised by year):

*Title of Case (year) Volume number Abbreviation of report series First page of case*

*Psalidis v Norwich Union Life Australia Ltd (2009) 29 VR 123*

Case (law report series organised by volume):

*Title of Case [year] Volume number Abbreviation of report series First page of case*

*Beattie v Ball [1999] 3 VR 1*

Case (unreported judgement):

*Title of case [year] Court abbreviation Judgement number (day month year) [paragraph]*

*Royall v Croydon Hospital Pty Ltd [2013] VSC 453 (26 Aug 2013) [27]*

Government publications

Cite according to the source type and also provide:

- the name of the author or if not identified the name of all relevant authoring agencies/departments and the jurisdiction, if not evident from other publication details
- titles should appear as they occur in the publication and capital letters in all titles are maintained.


Government reports
To reference a government report published on the internet, provide:

- government agency/department
- medium as [Internet]
- year of publication
- date cited
- catalogue number
- place of publication and publisher
- URL. No additional full stop after the URL.

**Government Agency/Department. Title of report [Internet]. year [cited year month day]; catalogue number. Place of publication: Publisher. Available from: URL**


Other sources
Conference paper
Conference paper published in proceedings:

**Author Initials. Title of paper. In: Editor Initials, editor. Title of publication. Proceedings of Title of Conference; date of conference; Place of conference. Place of publication: Publisher; date of publication. page range.**


Conference proceedings published online:

**Author Initials. Title of paper. In: Editor Initials, editor. Title of publication [Internet]. Proceedings of Title of Conference; date of conference; Place of conference. Place of publication: Publisher; [cited day month year]. page range [or estimate]. Available from: URL DOI**


Unpublished conference paper:

**Author Initials. Title of paper. Paper presented at: Title of conference; year month day; Place of conference.**

**Personal communication**

Personal communications include letters, emails, private social media posts, personal interviews and telephone conversations. It is always important to get the permission of the person concerned before referring to them in an assignment. No entry in the reference list is required. Provide all relevant information **in text**. Written permission should always be obtained from the person being cited. Such information can also be included in an acknowledgements section.

In an interview on 8 October 2013, J Robinson, Manager, Heathville Community Centre, confirmed ...

Dr A Smith (email, 8 January 2014) indicated ...

**Table, figure, appendix**

After the main bibliographic information, add the descriptor Table/Figure/Appendix, the number and the title. Provide the page number if the source is paginated.


If no number or title is given, place Table/Figure/Appendix and a descriptive title in square brackets.


For electronic sources, place the relevant details after the date of publication, followed by the date cited, the page number and the URL.


**Thesis**

**Author Initials. Title of thesis [thesis type]. Place: University; year. Available from: URL/database/collection**