The Owens Community College Writing Center's Quick Guide to APA Common Citations
Edited March 25, 2016
Uses APA 6th edition and
The Little Seagull (LS) *Handbook*

In-Text Citation Basics:
Your parenthetical (or in-text) citations within your paper link back to the References entries at the end of your paper by giving **enough information to tell** your readers
- **which source** from your reference list they are looking at
- **publication date** of the source **and**
- **where in the source** the information can be found.

It is usually best to reference the source in text—usually by the **author's last name**, followed by the **publication date** (in parentheses) and **a past tense signal verb**. If present in the source, also include a **page or paragraph number** in parentheses at the end of the sentence. APA also allows writers to include all of these pieces of information together in a parenthetical citation, with a comma and a space between each piece.

Examples (In-text citation models from LS, highlights added for clarity):

Model 1: Author named in a signal phrase (using past tense):
Author Quoted
Grady (2015), a notable dinosaur expert, stated, "Dinosaurs have become popular lately since they have been released into the wild" (p. 5).

In this example, the author's last name is mentioned in a signal phrase, the publication date is shown in a parenthetical citation directly following the author's name, and the page number is given in a parenthetical citation as close as possible to the quotation itself. Notice the location of the period.

Author Paraphrased or Summarized
People have recently become more interested in dinosaurs due to their increased presence, according to Grady (2015, p. 5).

In this example, the date in parentheses immediately follows the author's last name; the page number then follows the date. Notice the location of the period.

Model 2: Author named in parentheses:
Author Quoted
One notable dinosaur expert (Grady, 2015) has stated, "Raptors do not think of people as Alphas, but food; they don't make good pets" (p. 17).

Author Paraphrased or Summarized
Raptors regard humans as prey rather than predators; therefore, raptors would not be easily domesticated (Grady, 2015, p. 17).

The first example references the author, publication date, and page number split between two parenthetical citations around the quoted words. The second example references the author, publication date, and page number in one parenthetical citation at the end of the paraphrase.

In-Text Citation Examples (continued):

A work with two authors:

> Grant and Sattler (1993) shared the results of their archaeological digs in hopes of bringing dinosaurs to life for everyone, not just scientists (p. 55).
>
> **-OR-**
>
> Two experts in the field (Grant & Sattler, 1993, p. 55) shared the results of their archaeological digs in hopes of bringing dinosaurs to life for everyone, not just scientists.

The names of both authors are required. Use the word "and" between them when you mention the authors in a signal phrase, but use the symbol ampersand (&) between the names in a parenthetical citation.

A work with three to five authors:

> Smith, Doe, and Brown (2014) stated, "As a result of recent catastrophic events, parents need to exercise extreme caution when taking their children to visit raptor habitats" (p. 336).

In the first citation, name all the authors. After that, just give the first author's name, followed by et al. (which means "and others").

A work with six or more authors:

> Hammond et al. (1993) had high hopes for the creation of a park where humans could safely watch dinosaurs in their natural habitats (p. 57).

Give only the first author's name, followed by et al.

Organization or government as author:

> The Society for the Study of Prehistoric Creatures (2015) sternly warned, "Recklessness will ruin the undertaking of this most important area of study" (p. 22).

If the organization is commonly known by its abbreviation, give the full name along with the abbreviation the first time you reference the organization, and simply use the abbreviation in later references. If the organization does not have a recognizable abbreviation, always use the full name of the organization.

Author unknown:

> An interesting new article explained how the idea of releasing dinosaurs into the wild first came about ("Born Free to Live Free," 2016).

For a work written by an anonymous author or authors, use the work's title or a shortened version of the title (for long titles) in the citation.

Source quoted in another source (indirect source):

> Adrian Desmond claimed that Richard Owen "did not simply recognize dinosaurs, giving taxonomic expression to an objective fact, he designed them – invented them" (as cited in Torrens, 2014, p. 664).

When you are quoting text that you found quoted in another source, use the words "as cited in" to let your reader know you used an indirect source.

Work without page numbers:

> Similarities in amino acid sequences provide evidence of the evolutionary relationship between dinosaurs and birds ("Dinosaurs and Chickens Look to Be Linked," 2007, para 2).

Many online sources do not include page numbers, so you cannot report them. It is essential to cite the author (or, if the author is anonymous, the title) and date of publication. If the source has paragraph numbers, use them with the abbreviation "para." If the source has neither page nor paragraph numbers, try to refer readers to a specific part of the source, such as a heading and the paragraph number under that heading to report the location of the source material you are using.

An entire website:

> One source that has helped to rekindle public interest in dinosaurs is the website of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, which provides ample information on the habits and habitats of the creatures (http://naturalhistory.si.edu/).

When citing an entire website, give the URL in a parenthetical citation. Please **note** that you should ***not*** list the website on your reference list.

Reference List Citation Models

Each of your reference list entries in APA should follow a model. Each model has a collection of different elements of information, typically separated by a punctuation mark. Usually, we should follow the models in a writing handbook, though sometimes we need to consult online sources, such as the *Purdue OWL* website (http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/), for the most up-to-date information.

Note: For instructions about how to format the reference list in Microsoft Word, see the Writing Center's APA Formatting Handout.

To create a reference list entry:

- Identify what type of source you have.
    - Book vs. Newspaper, Magazine, Journal Article, etc.
    - Medium of access (Print vs. Online)
- Identify what types of information you have about your source.
    - Number of authors?
    - Volume/Issue numbers?
    - Page numbers available?
    - Date of publication available?
    - DOI (Digital Object Identifier) or URL?
- Find the model(s) that most closely match(es) the information you have for your source.
- Follow the formatting (including punctuation!) for each element, according to the model(s).

Note: There may be more than one correct way to create an entry for certain types of sources.

Reference list example (Follows LS reference list model 3, highlights added for clarity):

Basic Format for a Book (Print) with Two or More Authors:

Brusatte, S., & Benton, M. (2010). *Dinosaurs.* New York, NY: Quercus.

- Give the authors' names (Last Name, Initials) in the order provided on the title page of the book. Since this example has two authors:
  - Separate the authors' names with commas **and**
  - Insert an ampersand (&) before the final author's name.
    Note: When creating a reference list entry for a source with **eight or more authors**, name the first six authors (using the guidelines listed in the bullet points above), followed by three ellipses (…), and the name of the final author.
- Then, give the year of publication in parentheses.
  Note: If more than one year is listed, use the most recent one.
- Then, give the entire title of the book, including subtitles, in *italics*.
  Note: Capitalize only the first word, proper nouns, and proper adjectives in titles and subtitles in all reference list entries.
- Then, give the place of publication.
  Note: Give the city of publication, followed by the state abbreviation or name of the country (if outside the United States). Use the first city listed if more than one is given. If the publisher is a university whose name includes the state or country of publication, do not include that information separately in your reference list entry.
- End your entry with the name of the publisher.
  Note: Shorten the publisher's name, but be sure to keep words like *Association, Books,* and *Press* in the name of the publisher.

Online Sources

Examples (Follow LS reference list models, highlights added for clarity):

An article in an online newspaper:
Simpson, D. M. (2016, January 4). Amateur sleuths on the dinosaur trail. *The New York Times.*

Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com

An article in an online magazine:
Lewis, D. (2016, January 8). Dinosaurs may have dug trenches to woo mates. *Smithsonian.*

Retrieved from http://www.smithsonianmag.com/

Elements:
- author(s),
- the date the article was published or most recently updated (Year, Month Day),
- title of the article,
- title of the newspaper or magazine in *italics,*
- *volume*(issue) numbers for a magazine when available (not shown in this example),
  Note: See LS p. 176 for an example showing volume, issue, and DOI.
- and Retrieved from URL of the newspaper or magazine's home/menu page if no DOI is available.

An article in an online scholarly journal:
Langer, M. C. (2014). The origins of Dinosauria: Much ado about nothing. *Palaeontology*, *57*(3),

469-478. doi:10.1111/pala.12108

Elements:
- author(s),
- the year of publication in parentheses,
- title of the article
- title of the journal in *italics,*
- *volume*(issue) numbers,
- the page numbers, *without* the abbreviation "pp."
- and DOI or Retrieved from URL of the journal's home/menu page if no DOI is available.

E-books

Examples (Based on LS model 24, highlights added for clarity):

Electronic book:
Ring, C. B. (2010). *Dinosaur party.* Retrieved from http://www.storyjumper.com/book/index

/11210272/Dinosaur-Party#

Elements:
- author(s),
- the year of publication in parentheses,
- title of the book in *italics,*
- and DOI or Retrieved from URL

Ebook based on a print version:
Grady, O. (2015). *Raptors are not pets* [Kindle version]. Retrieved from http://www.amazon

.com/sub/KindleBooksDinosaurs.html?sec_big_link=1

Elements:
- author(s),
- the year of publication in parentheses,
- title of the book in *italics* followed by the type of digital format in brackets,
- and DOI or Retrieved from URL

Notes on Working with Online Sources in APA

Based on LS's Online Sources (p. 175)

Dates
	• Use the year of original publication online **or** the year of the most recent revision.
	• If you are unable to find either of these years, use the abbreviation "n.d." (without quotation marks) to mean "no date."
	• For content without a date or content that might be frequently updated, include the month, day, and year you retrieved the document.
DOI or URL
	• Include the DOI rather than the URL whenever possible.
	• When it is not possible to use the DOI, give the URL of the website's home page or menu page.
	• If a URL won't fit on one line, break it before most punctuation, but do not break up *http://*.

Other Resources for APA Citations

For further help with APA citations, check out the resources listed below.

Bullock, S., Brody, M., & Weinberg, F. (2014). *The Little Seagull handbook with exercises* (2nd ed.). New York, NY: Norton.

Paiz, J.M., Angeli, E., Wagner, J., Lawrick, E., Moore, K., Anderson, … Keck, R. (2013, March 1). APA formatting and style guide. *Purdue Online Writing Lab.* Retrieved from http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/