

Citing references: Vancouver style

When writing course work you will refer to ideas that have been written or produced by someone else. It is vital that you acknowledge all the resources you have used and enable people who read your work to find these resources themselves. Failure to provide references may expose you to charges of plagiarism.

This guide will give you brief advice on how to reference commonly used resources using the Vancouver system. The Vancouver style of referencing is often used in medical journals but can vary between journals. The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors list of sample references is the authoritative style. For more detail please visit http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html or access *Citing Medicine* at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK7256/>.

- **General points on citing references in your course work:**

Citing references in your text

All works written or produced by others which you refer to must be referenced, whether they are books, journal articles, web pages, conference papers or other material.

Superscript numerals e.g.¹ are given to in-text citations. These numbers are assigned in the order in which the reference appears in your text. The numbers link directly to the reference list at the end of the work.

If you cite the same piece of work several times, you should use the number that was first assigned to it. For example;

.... the virus has now spread to several European countries.³ There are concerns that the death rate will rise significantly and pandemic plans have been activated across the continent.⁴ The cost of such work has reached £29bn so far this year, and the cost of so many people being absent from work has tripled.³

To cite a specific page number:

...the cost of so many people being absent from work has tripled.^{3 (p89)}

To cite a page range:

...the cost of so many people being absent from work has tripled.^{3 (pp89-97)}

To cite several references at once:

...the cost of so many people being absent from work has tripled.^{3 9}

Reference list

The reference list at the end of your document should list your references in the order they appear in your work, using the same numbers as the citations.

Authors:

Authors are listed in the order they appear in the text. Surname/family name comes first followed by initials – there is no punctuation within an author's name (For example, the librarian for Health at Medway would be listed as **Bedford D**). Names of individual authors are separated by commas. If an item has more than six authors, list only the first six followed by "et al".

Secondary references:

In some cases you may want to quote a piece of work that has been cited in something you have read. Ideally, you should read the original work. If this is not possible, you cannot cite the quote directly if you have not read the original piece. In your reference list, you must make it clear where you found the quote by adding "In:" followed by the reference for the source you have read. For example:

³ Wilson K. Absenteeism during the flu pandemic. *BMJ* 2009; 444: 822-9. In: Smith P. Workforce planning. *J Cell Sci* 2009; 12: 99-113.

When compiling your reference list please ensure you follow the punctuation & abbreviations given in the following examples, as these form part of the referencing style. Italics are not necessary in the Vancouver style.

Examples

Journal article - printed

Format = Authors. Title of article. Title of journal. Date; volume(part):pages.

Olsen M, Avery N, Khurana S, Laing R. Pneumoperitoneum for neonatal laparoscopy: how safe is it? *Paediatr Anaesth*. 2013 May;23(5):457-9.

Journal article - online

Format = Authors. Title of article. Title of journal [internet]. Date [cited date – i.e. date you accessed the item]; volume(part):pages. Available from: URL.

Green G, Shaikh I, Fernades R, Wegstapel H. Emergency laparotomy in octogenarians: a 5-year study of morbidity and mortality. *World J Gastrointest Surg* [internet]. 2013 Jul 27 [cited 2015 Dec 11]; 5(7):216-21. Available from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3715657/>

Notes for journals:

The titles of journals should be abbreviated to the style used in the *Medline* database (also known as Pubmed). In the example above, the title World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery is abbreviated to World J Gastrointest Surg.

Many medical journals have continuous pagination throughout an entire volume. If this is the case the part/issue number can be omitted from the reference. For online journals the [cited...] entry should be the date on which you looked at the article online.

Book

Format = Authors. Title. Edition. Place of publication: publisher; year of publication.

Katz AM, Konstam MA. Heart failure: pathophysiology, molecular biology and clinical management. 2nd ed. Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams and Wilkins; 2009.

If a book has **editors** rather than authors, indicate this as follows:

Henein MY, editor. Heart failure in clinical practice. London: Springer; 2010.

For **electronic books**, use the following:

Henein MY, editor. Heart failure in clinical practice [ebook]. London: Springer; 2010. Available from: <https://www.dawsonera.com/abstract/9781849961530> [cited 2015 Dec 11]

The cited date is the date you viewed the book online.

Chapter in book

Picano E. Stress echocardiography. In: Henein MY, editor. Heart failure in clinical practice. London: Springer; 2010. p. 205-17.

Newspaper article

Format = Authors. Article title. Newspaper title. Date; page number.

Robehmed S. Night shifts at Amazon 'harm workers' health'. The Independent. 2013 Nov 25; p.24.

Webpage

Format = Title of homepage [internet]. Place of publication: Publisher, date of publication according to site homepage with a c in front of the year to indicate this is the copyright date. Title of individual page; date of publication of individual page [cited date – date you viewed the page]; [length of page in screens]. Available from: URL.

BMA [internet]. London: British Medical Association; c2015. EU maintains minimum length of medical training; 2013 Nov 21 [cited 2015 Dec 11]; [about 1 screen]. Available from: <http://bma.org.uk/news-views-analysis/news/2013/november/eu-maintains-minimum-length-of-medical-training>

Notes for webpages:

You must always include the URL of the webpage and the cited date. The cited date is the date that you viewed the website.

It is not always possible to find all of the relevant information about a website. Often, this can indicate that the site may not be of sufficient quality to cite in an academic context. However, if the site is of good quality and you cannot locate a specific item needed for the reference, you should note this as unknown, e.g. [place unknown], [publisher unknown].

Audio-visual material: DVD

Format = Authors. Title [format, e.g. DVD]. Place of publication: publisher; date.

Davies F. Spotting the sick child: an educational tool for health care practitioners, to aid in recognition of serious illness in children [DVD]. Leicester: OBC Media; 2004.

Can't find the example you need?

Consult the ICMJE http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html

For more detailed information see:

Patrias K. Citing medicine: the NLM style guide for authors, editors, and publishers [Internet]. 2nd ed. Wendling DL, technical editor. Bethesda (MD): National Library of Medicine (US); 2007 - [updated 2015 Oct 2; cited 2015 Dec 11]. Available from: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/citingmedicine>