

QUICK GUIDE TO REFERENCING IN ACS STYLE

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The ACS Style Guide

The 3rd edition of “The ACS style guide: Effective communication of scientific information” is available online for McGill University students and staff. Visit the Library catalogue record at mcgill.worldcat.org/oclc/880403085. Full style conventions for references are found in Chapter 14 of the guide.

There are three ways to represent in-text citations (explained below), while the reference list should be arranged and numbered in order of appearance. Journals that use ACS style can differ considerably in their requirements so it is important to review a journal’s reference guidelines. Alternatively, discuss with your professor how references should be cited in text when submitting a work as an assignment.

The EndNote citation management software can facilitate referencing in ACS style. The software is made available to McGill University students and staff through the Library at www.mcgill.ca/library/services/citation/software/endnote.

In-Text Citations

Citations should be placed in a sentence where they make the most sense. They can be represented in one of three ways:

- 1) Superscript numbers, outside the punctuation if at the end of a sentence. List the numbers in order, separated by commas and without spaces.^{1,3-5} Use the same number if a reference repeats.
- 2) Italic numbers in parentheses, inside the punctuation. List the numbers in order, separated by commas with spaces (*1, 3-5*). Use the same number if a reference repeats.
- 3) Author-date in parentheses, inside the punctuation. List multiple references alphabetically and separate with a semicolon (Coleman, 2011; White, 2013).

When there are two authors, separate the names with “and”

- 1) Coleman and White¹
- 2) Coleman and White (*1*)
- 3) (Coleman and White, 2014)

When there are more than two authors, use “et al.” after the first author name

- 1) Coleman et al.¹
- 2) Coleman et al. (*1*)
- 3) (Coleman et al., 2014)

Reference List

Journal Articles

It is important to check journal reference guidelines, as some journals differ in reference list formatting.

Articles accessed from print journals (may also be published online)

Author Name; Author Name; Author Name; etc. Article Title. *Abbreviated Journal Title* **YEAR**, *Volume*, Pagination.

Articles accessed online (may also be published in print)

Author Name; Author Name; Author Name; etc. Article Title. *Abbreviated Journal Title* [Online] **YEAR**, *Volume*, Pagination or other identifying information. URL (accessed Month Day, Year).

Author names*

- List all authors, surnames first followed by initials and qualifiers, separated with a semicolon (check journal guidelines on inclusion of all authors).

Article title

- Not always included, depending on the journal.
- Capitalize the main words.

Journal title*

- Italicize journal titles.
- If the journal title is more than one word, abbreviate according to Chemical Abstracts Service Source Index (CASSI). The CASSI Source Index Search Tool is available from cassi.cas.org/.

Year of publication*

- Include the publication year in bold, followed by a comma in bold.
- Include [online] immediately before the publication year if you accessed the article online.

Volume number

- Include the volume number, followed by a comma, all in italic.
- Issue information should also be included if each issue begins with page 1. Add a space after the volume with the issue number or date in parentheses. Add a comma after closing the parentheses.

Pagination*

- The first page of the cited article is the minimum required but provide the page range if available.
- Include the article number or other identifying information for online articles.

URL and Access date

- Not always included, depending on the journal.
- Access date is written as a three-digit month (ex: Oct 23, 2014).

* Denotes a minimum requirement

Examples

Article Accessed in Print

Quek, S. Y.; Choi, H. J.; Louie, S. G.; Neaton, J. B. Length Dependence of Conductance in Aromatic Single-Molecule Junctions. *Nano Lett.* **2009**, *9*, 3949–3953.

Article Accessed Online

Quek, S. Y.; Choi, H. J.; Louie, S. G.; Neaton, J. B. Length Dependence of Conductance in Aromatic Single-Molecule Junctions. *Nano Lett.* [Online] **2009**, *9*, 3949–3953.

Article in arXiv

Xia, K.; Wei, G.-W. Persistent Homology Analysis of Protein Structure, Flexibility and Folding. 2014, arXiv:1412.2779. arXiv.org e-Print archive. <http://arxiv.org/abs/1412.2779> (accessed Dec 12, 2014).

Print Book

Dreizler, R. M.; Gross, E. K. U. *Density Functional Theory*; Springer: Berlin, 1990.

Edited Print Book

CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics, 55th ed.; Weast, R. C., Ed.; CRC Press: Cleveland, OH, 1974–1975.

Online Book

Coghill, A. M.; Garson, L. R. *The ACS Style Guide* [Online]; American Chemical Society: Washington, DC, 2006. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1021/bk-2006-STYG> (accessed April 19, 2014).

Website

McGill University. Schulich Library of Science and Engineering. <http://www.mcgill.ca/library/branches/schulich> (accessed Nov 5, 2014)

Patent

Ke, X.; Yang, X.; Mao, X.; Liu, Y.; Chen, Y.; Bai, Y. Interactive System for Human Facial Expression Imitating Robot, its Method and Method of Human Face Detecting and Tracking. CN102566474A, 2012.