Documenting Sources in APA

APA IS OFTEN REFERRED TO AS the "author-date" system of citation because in-text citations require the author's last name and date instead of the author and page number as in MLA. APA is commonly used in fields like design where the currency of research sources (how recently they've been published) is very important.

In this handout, we offer examples of the most commonly cited sources in media and design courses: for other sources not covered here, please see the APA Formatting and Style Guide on the Purdue Online Writing Lab.

Formatting In Text Citations

If you use an author's name in your sentence, the date of the author's text must appear immediately after the author's name:

> Craig (2006) stated that "we tend to forget that the alphabet is composed of symbols, each representing sounds made in speech" (p. 8).

If you don't use the author's name within your sentence, the name, date and page number must appear in parentheses at the end of the sentence.

> Some researchers argue that we often forget the way alphabetic symbols actually correspond to speech sounds (Craig, 2006, p.8).

If the author and date of a source are unknown, use the first word or two of the title of the piece and n.d. (for "no date").

> The Bauhaus curriculum combined crafts with fine art ("Bauhaus", n.d.).

For sources with more than two authors, list all authors the first time you mention the work, and after that use only the first author's name followed by "et al.": (Fitzgerald et al., 2016)

Quotations that are 40 words or longer must be written as a "block quote" where you do not use quotation marks, and indent each line of the quote. Place a parenthetical citation after the last punctuation mark.

Page numbers are only required if you are including a direct quotation in your text. If you are paraphrasing information, no page number is technically required, though individual instructors may want you to use page numbers. It's safest to include page numbers unless instructed otherwise.

References

In APA, the list of sources that appears at the end of your paper is titled "References" rather than "Works Cited."

Entries in the References list are sorted alphabetically by the last name of the *first* author of each source. Use initials for first and middle names.

Emails and other texts that are not publicly available do not need to be cited in your References list; just include the information in parentheses within your text:

> Many students at Emily Carr still struggle to understand how to cite sources in APA (L. St. Pierre, Personal Communication, February 26, 2013).

Examples

Books
Winger, J. L., & Dunn, P. (2004). *Designing advertisements for the 21st century*. New York, New York: Hunter Press.

An edited book with no author
Shaoqiang, W. (Ed.). (2001). *Type player: Type as experiment, type as image*. Berkeley, CA: Gingko Press.

An article from a journal
Agrawala, M., Li, W., & Berthouzoz, F. (2011). Design principles for visual communication. *Communications of the ACM*, 54(4), 60-69.

An article from a newspaper
Perkel, C. (2013, March 11) Doomed Elliot Lake mall design left architect 'uncomfortable.' *Globe and Mail*. Retrieved from http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/architect-elliot-lake-mall-design-left-him-uncomfortable/article9595775/

An article from an electronic database
Yoon, J., Desmet, P. & van der Helm, A. (2012). Design for interest: exploratory study on a distinct positive emotion in human-product interaction. *International Journal of Design, 6*(2), 67-80. Retrieved from http://web.ebscohost.com.ezproxy.eciad.ca:2048

A film, DVD or video
Hustwit, G. (Producer & Director). (2007). *Helvetica* [Motion Picture]. United States: Plexifilm.

A page or article on a website
Halvorson, H.G. (2013, March 13). Creativity is about self-confidence. *Design sojourn*. Retrieved from http://www.designsojourn.com

A blog
Moll, C. (2012, December 6). Presenting is the art of directing attention [Blog post]. Retrieved from http://www.cameronmoll.com

An online lecture or video
Dubberly, H. (2012, October 12). A system perspective on design practice. *How do you design the future lecture series.* CMU School of Design. Retrieved from http://www.design.cmu.edu/designthefuture/hugh_dubberly/

An online audio podcast
Rotolo, A. (2010, June 4). Design guy [episode 40]. *The design guy show* [Audio podcast]. Retrieved from https://itunes.apple.com/podcast/design-guy/id261789246?mt=2

An advertisement with title
Hostess. (1988, March 9). Eat twinkies. [Advertisement]. *Newsweek*, 12.

An advertisement without title
Hostess. (1988, March 9). [Advertisement for twinkies]. *Newsweek*, 12.