

Columbia Online Style (COS)

Columbia Online Style (COS) offers an “umbrella” style for documenting electronic sources that can be used when other styles such as MLA, APA, and CMS (Chicago Manual of Style or “Turabian”) are used for the printed sources in a document.

COS uses two basic formats. The “Humanities” version is employed for documenting electronic sources when you cite print sources with MLA or CMS. Use the “Scientific” version when you use APA or another scientific style (e.g. CBE) for print sources. Both versions are given below with examples of the format for parenthetical citations used in the text with each.

The basic format for a citation in the Humanities version of COS is as follows:

Author's last name, first name [or name of corporate or institutional author]. "Title of document." *Title of Complete Work or site*. File or version number. Date of publication or last revision. Electronic address (date of access).

The basic format for a citation in the Scientific version of COS is as follows:

Author's last name, Initial(s) [or name of corporate or institutional author]. Date of publication. Title of document. *Title of complete work or site*. Edition or revision. Electronic address or name of database and its publisher. (Access path or file number) (date of access).

Omit any of the elements included above that are not found in your source. Use italics rather than underlining for titles of complete works (including Web sites) with COS, even when using MLA as your basic style for printed sources. MLA style's underlining does not mix well with some word-processing programs' automatic underlining of URLs. Allow the word processor to make line breaks in long URLs. Do not add them yourself.

Examples of parenthetical citations to be used within the text follow the citations for Humanities and Scientific versions are below.

Sample Formats

3.1 World Wide Web site with individual authorship. *Personal home page.*

Humanities:

Ball, Cheryl E. Home Page. 20-21 Aug. 2003.

<http://www.hu.mtu.edu/~ceball/> (7 June 2004).

(Ball)

Scientific:

Ball, C.E. (2003, Aug. 21-23.). Home page.

<http://www.hu.mtu.edu/~ceball/> (7 June 2004).

(Ball, 21-23 Aug. 2003)

3.2 World Wide Web page with corporate, organizational, or institutional authorship.

Humanities:

Purdue University. *Online Writing Lab*. 1995-2003.

Maint. Erin Karper and David Neyhart.

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/> (8 June 2004).

(Purdue)

Scientific:

Purdue University. (1995-2003). *Online Writing Lab*.

(Karper & Neyhart, Maint.)

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu> (8 June 2004).

(Purdue, 2003)

3.3 Article in an online periodical

Humanities:

King, Kathleen P. "Exploring Feminist Research and Pedagogy in a Crucible of Tragedy: International Perspectives Creating Meaning and Response."

Radical Pedagogy 5.2 (2003).

<http://radicalpedagogy.icaap.org/> (7 June 2004).

(King)

Scientific:

King, K.P. (2003). Exploring feminist research and pedagogy in a crucible of tragedy: International perspectives creating meaning and response.

Radical Pedagogy 5(2).

<http://radicalpedagogy.icaap.org/> (7 June 2004).

(King, K. P., 2003)

If a work has first been published elsewhere, give information on the original publication before adding the current publication data.

3.4 Electronic book

Humanities:

If previously printed, give original source, then location on Web.

MacAvoy, Paul, and Ira Millstein. *The Recurrent Crisis in Corporate Governance*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003. *NetLibrary*.
<http://www.netlibrary.com/Reader> (7 June 2004).

(MacAvoy and Millstein 11)

Scientific:

MacAvoy, P. & Millstein, I. (2003). *The recurrent crisis in corporate governance*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. *NetLibrary*.
<http://www.netlibrary.com/Reader> (7 June 2004).

(MacAvoy, P. & Millstein, I., 2003)

3.5 Article in an online newspaper.

Humanities:

"Thousands Wait Hours to Pay Respects at Ronald Reagan Library." *USA Today*.

http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2004-06-08-reagan-tuesday_x.htm (8 June 2004).

("Thousands Wait")

Scientific:

Thousands Wait Hours to Pay Respects at Ronald Reagan Library. *USA Today*.

http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2004-06-08-reagan-tuesday_x.htm (8 June 2004).

(Thousands wait, 8 June 2004)

3.6 Article from an online database. Give file number.

Humanities:

Rahjen, Friedhelm. "James Joyce as a Cyclist." *Joyce Studies Annual*. 14 (Summer 2003): 175-82.

Academic Search Premier. File #12904166 (7 June 2004).

(Rahjen)

Scientific:

Rahjen, F. (2003). James Joyce as a cyclist. *Joyce Studies Annual*, 14: 175-182. Academic Search Premier File # 12904166 (7 June 2004).

(Rahjen, F., 2003)

3.7 E-mail.

Personal e-mail should be included in the list of Works Cited or References, as should postings to electronic discussion lists, even if they are not archived.

Humanities:

McAdow, Lewis H., "NCAA/Academic Penalties." Personal email (6 June 2004).

(McAdow)

Scientific:

McAdow, L.H., (2004, June 6). NCAA/Academic penalties. [personal email]. (6 June 2004).

(McAdow, L.H., 6 June 2004)

Humanities:

Hochman, Will. "Argument by Collage." 28 Apr. 2004.
Tech Rhet. TechRhet@interiversity.org (June 6,
2004).

(Hochman)

Scientific:

Hochman, W. (28 Apr. 2004). Argument by collage.
TechRhet. TechRhet@interiversity.org (June 6,
2004).

(Hochman, W., 28 Apr. 2004)

3.8. Software.

Humanities

ArcView 9.0. San Diego, CA: ESRI, 2004.

(Arcview)

Scientific

ArcView 9.0. (2004). San Diego, CA: ESRI.