NSCI 100: Citation style

Background

For your essay and any media source that you reference on your website we would like you to use the Council of Scientific Editor’s format 7th edition (CSE 7th). CSE or close derivatives of it are widely used citation styles used in the biological sciences. The format is designed to allow a reader to quickly retrieve articles from commonly used biomedical literature databases. It uses minimal punctuation and relies on standard journal abbreviations.

There are two flavors of CSE style. Annotated list, and name-year format. We will use the name-year format of CSE 7th.

Why cite?

There are two ways to think about citing others work. First, citation properly assigns credit to someone else’s ideas, words, drawings, compositions. Second, citing work forms a connection between you the author and a community of scholars. Accurate citation invites your reader to explore the scholarship you worked hard to analyze and present. When I think of the latter I find the task of making accurate citations more meaningful.

Paraphrasing

Text in direct quotes means the text was written or spoken by someone else. In the humanities you may be used to writing an essay that makes use of direct quotes of a piece of literature. In the sciences we rarely use direct quotes. Instead when referencing a work, we paraphrase a piece of work. Paraphrasing does not mean you don’t need to cite; you need to cite paraphrased work that is not yours. To paraphrase, you need to turn the ideas over in your head and express the idea or concept in your own words; it is not a simple matter rearranging the same original words or substituting a few words with similar words.

In-text citation

In general

Insert an in-text near the information that you reference. Place the citation in CSE name-year format before any punctuation. All in-text citations are in parentheses.
**Single author**

Cite the author name followed by a space and the year of publication.

Examples:

The first genetic mutants in the nematode *C. elegans* were studied in the early 1960's and 1970's (Brenner 1974).

As we will discuss in this paper, Prozac blocks the re-uptake of serotonin (Smith 2011).

**Two authors**

If there are two authors, use the last name separated by “and” followed by a space and the year.

(Smith and Johnson 2008)

**Three or more authors**

(Smith et al. 2009)

**Organization as author**

Use the initial letter of each part of the name or a readily recognizable abbreviation to create a shortened form of the in-text reference.

The landmark report on legalized abortion (IOM 1975) …

These letters or the acronym, within square brackets, become the initial element in the end-reference. Alphabetize these letters within or acronyms within the end references as if they were spelled out:

End reference:


**No authors can be found**

If neither a personal nor an organization author or editor can be found, begin the reference with the title of the book, article, or site.

In-text:

… as found in the Directory of AIDS resources (DAR 1988).

End reference:
The reference section.

CSE reference sections should begin with the header: “References”.

Full end-references that contain essential bibliographic information must be alphabetized and single-spaced. Separate each entry by a line break.

Citation types. The most common sources you will find are journal articles, books, and websites. CSE style for journal articles and books can be found. For others consult the official hard copy of the CSE 7th style manual available in the library. I also have a copy in my office.

Journal articles.

Essential elements:

[Author(s)]. [Year]. [Title]. [Journal]. [Volume(Number):] [Pages].


Use et al. after the tenth author in works with more than 10 authors.


A note about journal abbreviations. Use the ISO journal abbreviation which can be found. You can look up the official, standardized journal abbreviation for biomedical journals here: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nlmcatalog/journals.

Books.

Essential elements:

[Author(s)]. [Year]. [Title]. [Place of publication:] [Publisher]. [Page numbers referenced]


An book with different chapter authors with editors of the book looks like:

**General Rules and Guidelines for Homepages and Other Internet Material**

[Author(s)]. [Dates]. [Title [Internet]]. [Place of Publication]. [modification date (if available); cited (in Year-Month-Day e.g.2014 Nov 14 format). [Available from: URL].

A homepage is defined as the first or introductory page of a Web site and usually provides a table of contents or index of the contents of the site. A citation to a Web site as a whole is made primarily from information found on its homepage.

**Authors of Homepages and other Internet Material**

If a personal author is present, use the surname (family or last name) followed by initials of the given names.

If the author is an organization see above.

**Dates of Homepages and other Internet Material**

Because of the volatile nature of Internet publications, there are 3 dates of importance in citing them:

1. the date the publication was placed on the Internet, or alternatively, was copyrighted.
2. the latest date of any update or revision occurred.
3. the date the person doing the citing actually saw the publication on the Internet.

The date of the publication must always be included in a citation if available.

Unfortunately, the dates of the publication and the dates of any update or revision are often absent from the Internet site, making the third date all the more important.

Dates should be expressed in the format “year month day”. For example “1995 Jan 3”. Various words may be found on an Internet site to express the fact that a document has been updated or revised, such as amended, modified, or reviewed. Use whatever wording provided on the site. For example: “[modified 1996 Feb 4]”. Dates of modification and citation dates are placed in square brackets. **The date of citation must always be included in a reference.**

To accommodate the name-year system, date information must be split to avoid long strings of dates interrupting the text. Place the date of publication after the author list (or after the title if there is no author) and the dates of update/revision and citation following the publisher.
As indicated the report (Lawrence 1997) ...


Bans for use of pluripotent stem cells for research have been lifted (SCROC 2009).


For open databases (records are still being added), provide the beginning date of the database followed by the a hyphen and 3 spaces.

As found in the rat genome database (RGD 1996 - ) ...