

## **MLA FORMAT: CITING ELECTRONIC SOURCES**

(NEW! rev. 9/22/05)

This new, updated electronic sources information and many of the examples come from Joseph Gibaldi's MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, sixth edition, copyright 2003.

### **1. HOW TO CITE A TITLED DOCUMENT or SECTION or PART of a WEBSITE (WEB PAGE)—NOT AN ENTIRE WEBSITE!**

A citation for a titled document/section/part found on a website (and most electronic sources) has 5 divisions:

1	2	3
Author's name.	"Title of the document."	Information about print publication.
	4	5
	Information about electronic publication.	Access information.

### **TIPS ON EACH OF THE FIVE DIVISIONS:**

#### **1. Author's name.**

- Look for this at the beginning or end of the document.
- Check for credentials to make the source credible.
- Example: Crawford, Danny J.

#### **2. "Title of the document."**

- Put the title of the document/sub-section of the site in quotation marks.
- If no author is available, begin with the document's title.
- Example: "Scientific Creativity."

#### **3. Information about print publication.**

- According to Gibaldi, "If the document gives information pertaining to a previous or simultaneous print publication, state that information, as indicated in the document, following the recommendations for print publications" (209). This part will often be omitted UNLESS the information has appeared in print.  
Example: Science 4 March 1999: 53-54.
- You may abbreviate the month (Example: Mar. or March).

#### **4. Information about electronic publication.**

- When you are citing an entire Internet site or an online book, underline it.  
Example: American Science Today.
- If an editor's name or a version number is given, give that information directly following the title of the site.  
Example: Ed. Edward S. King.

- Next comes the posting date or the latest update. According to Gibaldi, “The date of electronic publication is required in addition to a date of print publication because the Internet version of the document may well differ from the print version” (210).

Examples: **8 Feb. 2003.**    **OR**    **Feb. 2003.**    **OR**    **2003.**

- Next comes the name of the institution or organization that sponsors the site. Look for this at the bottom of the site’s home page.  
Example: **Amer. Assn. for the Advancement of Science.**

## 5. Access information.

- **Date of access** is the date you viewed the material.  
Example: 10 Dec. 2003
- **URL:** The sixth edition of the MLA Handbook recommends including the URL (uniform resource locator). Give the URL immediately after the date of access. Enclose the URL in angle brackets. According to Gibaldi, “If a URL must be divided between two lines, break it **ONLY** after a slash” (211).  
Example: **<http://pwl.crawford.org/~pain422/aas/history.html>.**

Clarification on a long URL (This info. is adapted from Gibaldi, p. 215):

If a URL is impractically long and complicated, use the URL of the site's search page where you began. You may need to delete part of the URL starting from the right to determine the main search page if you used links to get to the information. You must know the sponsor or "front page" of any source you use as reliable.

- FOR DATABASES OF ARTICLES SUBSCRIBED TO BY A LIBRARY, complete the citation by stating the name of the database used (underlined), the name of the service that owns the database (usually at the top of the web page), the name of the library system through which you accessed the data base, and the date you accessed it. End the citation with the URL of the library page where you first clicked on the database to enter it.
- *Example:*  
**Youakim, Sami. "Work-Related Asthma." American Family Physician July 2001: 1839-52. Infotrac OneFile. ELM. EPHS Media Center. 12 Jan. 2002 <http://www.edenpr.org/ephs/departments/media/index.html>.**

Clarification on use of page numbers in electronically reproduced articles:  
According to Gibaldi (p. 229), “If the service provides only the starting page number of an article's original print publication (e.g. "p192"), give the number followed by a hyphen, a space, and a period: "192-.”

**Examples for how to do a titled document/section/part  
found on a website**

**IF THERE IS A PREVIOUS PRINT PUBLICATION:**

Crawford, Danny J. "Scientific Creativity." Science 4 March 1999: 53-54.

American Science Today. Ed. Edward S. King. 8 Feb. 2003. Amer.

Assn. for the Advancement of Science. 10 Dec. 2003

<<http://pwl.crawford.org/~pain422/aas/science.html>>.

**IF THERE IS NO PREVIOUS PRINT PUBLICATION:**

Crawford, Danny J. "Scientific Creativity." American Science Today. Ed.

Edward S. King. 8 Feb. 2003. Amer. Assn. for the Advancement of

Science. 10 Dec. 2003 <<http://pwl.crawford.org/~pain422/aas/>

science.html>.

## **OTHER COMMON ONLINE SOURCES**

**Note:** The MLA handbook (6<sup>th</sup> edition) states that if you cannot find some of the information, cite what is available.

### **ENTIRE INTERNET SITE**

**NOTE:** The MLA Handbook, 6<sup>th</sup> edition, section 5.9.2, p. 216, states that the typical entry for an entire internet site (online scholarly project, information database, journal, or **professional site**) consists of the following items:

1. Title of the site (underlined)
2. Name of the editor of the site (if given)
3. Electronic publication information, including version number (if relevant and if not part of the title), date of electronic publication or of the latest update, and name of any sponsoring institution or organization.
4. Date of access and URL.

**Note!** If you cannot find some of this information, cite what is available.

*Example 1:*

**The Cinderella Project. Ed. Michael N. Salda. Vers. 1.1. 15 Dec. 1997.**

**Grummond Children's Lit. Research Collection, U of Southern**

**Mississippi. 12 May 2005 <<http://www-dept.usm.edu/~engdept/>**

**Cinderella/ Cinderella.html>.**

*Example 2:*

**Scandinavian Culture. Ed. Carin Runn. 1998. Scandinavian Studies**

**Department, University of Uppsala. 25 Dec. 2002 <<http://www.scssd/>**

**uppsala.edu/swe/se>.**

**3. AN ONLINE ENCYCLOPEDIA**

(example from MLA Handbook, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., p. 216)

“Romanticism.” Encyclopaedia Britannica Online. 2002. Encyclopaedia Britannica. 8 May 2003 <<http://www.britannica.search.eb.com/>>.

**4. A TERM/DEFINITION FOUND ONLINE**

(example from MLA Handbook, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., p. 214)

“Symbolism.” Glossary of Literary Terms. Ed. Glenn Collins et al. 16 June 2002. U of Notre Dame English Department. 23 Sept. 2003 <<http://www.und.English.edu/glossary/gloss7ecol.html>>.

**5. A HOME PAGE FOR A COURSE**

(example from MLA Handbook, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., p. 223)

Thorstensson, Roland. Ibsen and Strindberg. Course home page. Sept. 2000-May 2001. Dept. of Scandinavian Studies, Gustavus Adolphus College. 13 Dec. 2002 <<http://www.ibsen.gac.mn/~thorstensson/SCAN301/Index.htm>>.

**6. A HOME PAGE FOR AN ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT**

(example from MLA Handbook, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., p. 217-8)

Scandinavian Studies. Dept. home page. May 2002. Gustavus Adolphus College. 13 Dec. 2002 <<http://scand.gac.mn/scandstudies>>.

**7. A PERSONAL HOME PAGE**

(example from MLA Handbook, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., p. 218)

Magnusson, Ida. Home page. 23 Mar. 2001. 7 Sept. 2001. <<http://www.magna.ucalberk.ca/~im/>>.

**8. AN ENTIRE ONLINE BOOK**

(example from MLA Handbook, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., p. 218-219)

Shelley, Mary. Frankenstein. Ed. Johanna M. Smith. 1994. Mary Shelley Information Page. 6 Oct. 2003 <<http://www.somr.edu/Maryinfo/frankproj.html>>.

**OR ANOTHER ONLINE BOOK POSSIBILITY:**

Shelley, Mary. Frankenstein. Ed. Ross Murfin. New York: Bedford, 1888. 8 Mar. 2003. <<http://www.bartleyby.com/165franken/>>.

**9. PART OF AN ONLINE BOOK**

(example from MLA Handbook, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., p. 220)

Coleridge, Samuel Taylor. "Kubla Khan." Poetical Works. 1875. Bartleby.com: Great Books Online. Ed. Steven Adams. 2002. 4 Apr. 2003 <<http://www.bartleyby.com/114/coler.htm>>.

**10. AN ONLINE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION**

(example from MLA Handbook, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., p. 220-1)

United States Dept. of Justice. Office of Juvenile Prevention. Juvenile Crime. By Hans Hedrik. May 2002. 27 July 2003 <<http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles3/ojdpp/199352.pdf>>.

**11. ONLINE SCHOLARLY JOURNALS**

(example from MLA Handbook, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., p. 222)

Blomquist, Chris. "Understanding Ophelia's Dilemma." English Journal 93.1 (September 2003) 30 Oct. 2003 <<http://www.ncte.org/english/engjournal/blomq.undoph.htm>>.

**12. ONLINE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE**

(example from MLA Handbook, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., p. 222-3)

Holm, Mike. "Are Teachers Sane?" New York Times on the Web 27 Feb. 2000. 25 May 2002 <<http://www.nytimes.com/2000/05/14/education/teach/17hol.html>>.

**13. ONLINE MAGAZINE ARTICLE**

(example from MLA Handbook, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., p. 223)

Hamson, Jennifer. "Positive Energy." Newsweek 27 May 2002. 5 Nov. 2002 <<http://www.msnbs.com/news/754333.asp>>.

**14. ONLINE REVIEW**

(example from MLA Handbook, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., p. 223)

Ebert, Roger. Rev. of Memento, dir. Christopher Nolan. Chicago Sun-Times Online 13 Apr. 2001. 18 May 2002 <[http://suntimes.com/ebert/ebert\\_reviews/2001/04/041302a/html](http://suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/2001/04/041302a/html)>.

**15. A WORK FROM A LIBRARY SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE**

(example based on MLA Handbook, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., p. 229)

Youakim, Sami. "Work-Related Asthma." American Family Physician July 2001:1839-52. Infotrac OneFile. ELM. EPHS Media Center. 12 Jan. 2002 <<http://www.edenpr.org/ephs/departments/media/index.html>>.