CITING REFERENCES: ASA Style

This guide provides common examples of the ASA (American Sociological Association) style for citing source materials based on the American Sociological Association Style Guide, 4th ed., shelved at the Reference Desk (HM569 .A54 2010). This guide, including most examples, was originally created by Coates Library, Trinity University, Texas for the 3rd edition of ASA style. It has been modified with permission for use at UW-Whitewater, and updated for the 4th edition.

According to the American Sociological Association Style Guide, 4th ed., ASA style “follows the author-date system of citation in The Chicago Manual of Style…, which includes a brief text citation (enclosed in parentheses) and a complete list of references cited…” (p. 43). “A reference list follows the text … in a separate section headed References. All references cited in the text must be listed in the reference section, and vice versa” (p. 45).

In-Text Citation Guidelines

Include the author’s last name and the year of publication. Always include page numbers when quoting directly from a work or referring to specific passages.

If the author’s name is mentioned in the text, follow it with the publication year in parentheses. Example:

…Welch (1991) contends that this is not the case.

If the author’s name is not mentioned in the text, it should be included along with the year of publication within parentheses. Example:

…but it has been argued that this was not the case (Welch 1991).

Page numbers should be included within the parentheses when quoting directly from a work, separated from the year of publication with a colon and no spaces. Example:

…but it has been argued that this was not the case (Welch 1991:136).

For two authors in a reference, include both last names:

A recent study confirmed her belief (Johnson and Smith 1995).

For three authors in a reference, cite all three last names in the first in-text citation. After that, use the first author’s last name followed by et al. Examples:

First citation: This was reinforced by recent research on the topic (Johnson, Smith, and Marcus 1999).

Subsequent citations: Another study on the topic (Johnson et al. 1999)...

If a work has more than three authors, the term et al. follows the first author’s last name in all in-text citations. Example:

This was not accurate according to a recent study (Smith et al. 2003).

If multiple sources are cited for the same statement, the author and publication year of each source should be separated from other sources with a semicolon. Cited texts should be arranged by author name or by date; arrangement should be consistent throughout the paper. Example:

Some studies have refuted these arguments (Benson 1993; Nguyen 1999; Brown and Goggans 2000).

(For additional information on in-text citation using the ASA style, see the American Sociological Association Style Guide, 4th ed., pp. 43-45.)
References

List citations in the References list alphabetically by first authors’ last names.

List works by the same author in the order of year of publication, earliest year first.

Distinguish works by the same author in the same year by adding letters (e.g., 1993a, 1993b, 1993c); list such works in alphabetical order by title.

If no date is available, use N.d. in place of the date.

Include the state abbreviation only if the city of publication is not clear. For example, New York and Chicago do not need a state abbreviation. Also, when the publisher name includes the location, the state abbreviation is not needed. (Note: this is a change from the 3rd edition of the ASA Style Guide.)

(For additional information, see the American Sociological Association Style Guide, 4th ed., pp. 49-51.)

Always double-space the list of references. These examples are single-spaced for compactness.

Book, One Author:
Author Last, First. Year. Title. City, State of Publisher: Publisher.


Book, Two Authors:
Author Last, First and Author First Last. Year. Title. City, State of Publisher: Publisher.


Book, More than Two Authors:
Author Last, First, Author First Last, and Author First Last. Year. Title. City, State of Publisher: Publisher.


Edited Book
Editor Last, First, ed. Year. Title. City, State of Publisher: Publisher.


Electronic Book:
Author Last, First. Year. Title. City, State of Publisher: Publisher. Retrieved Month Day, Year (URL).


Chapter in a Book:
Author Last, First. Year. "Title of Chapter/Article." Pp. inclusive page numbers in Title, edited by First Initial/Middle Initial Last Name. City, State of Publisher: Publisher.

Multi-Volume Works:
Author Last, First. Year. *Title of Series*. Vol. #, *Title of Volume*. City, State of Publisher: Publisher.


Journal Article (Print or in library database):
Author Last, First. Year. "Article Title." *Journal Name* volume #(issue #):inclusive page numbers.


Journal Article (online only), without DOI:
Author Last, First. Year. "Article Title." *Journal Name* volume #(issue #). Retrieved Month Day, Year (URL).


Journal Article (online only), with DOI:
Author Last, First. Year. "Article Title." *Journal Name* volume #(issue #). doi:#.


Magazine Article (print or in library database):


Magazine Article (online only):


Newspaper Article (print or in library database):
Author Last, First. Year. "Article Title." *Newspaper Name*, Month Day, p. or pp. inclusive page numbers.


Newspaper Article (online only):

Government Document
For more information and additional examples, see Section 4.4.2 (pp. 57-59) and p. 104 of the American Sociological Association Style Guide, 4th ed.


Legal Sources
For information and examples, see Section 4.4.1 (pp. 55-56) of the American Sociological Association Style Guide, 4th ed.

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