

DOCUMENTATION OF ELECTRONIC SOURCES IN MLA

In-text Citations

In-text citations in MLA format include the author's name and the page number of the material cited. For example:

Although it has been argued that “a coherent literary theory cannot be derived from the consistent contradictions in Walt Whitman’s poetry” (Sheldon 134), one might also claim that the consistency of the contradictions are presented in a pattern from which a theory can be deduced.

Many electronic sources, however, do not provide an author or a page number. In such cases, alternative citation methods can be used. Where there is no author’s name provided, the full or abbreviated title of the source can be substituted. If no page numbers are provided, section headings (i.e. Introduction, Methods, Conclusion) or paragraph numbers can be used instead. For instance, if the web site referenced is titled *Walt Whitman Philosophy Web Site*, and the section of the web site which you have referenced is a link called, “His Theory,” the above in-text citation [(Sheldon 134)] could be rewritten as

“...from the consistent contradictions in Walt Whitman’s poetry” (*Whitman Philosophy “His Theory”*), one might also claim...

The most recent *MLA Handbook*, however, recommends avoiding parenthetical in-text citation of electronic sources altogether if possible. The above citation, for instance, could be written as

Under the heading of “His Theory,” the *Walt Whitman Philosophy Web Site* argues that “a coherent literary theory cannot be derived from the consistent contradictions in Walt Whitman’s poetry.”

This kind of direct reference avoids the complication of trying to determine exactly how the electronic source should be cited. The details of the electronic source (the web site) will then be provided in one’s Works-Cited list. (This is the case for all of the above examples.)

Works Cited List

Web Site

Author(s) (if given). Name of web site (or a description of web site, written without quotes or underline, if it does not seem to have a title). Web site date (if given, e.g., “last updated on [date]”). Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (if given). Date of access <electronic address>.

Media Awareness Network - English Home Page. 2002. Media Awareness Network. Retrieved 13 Jan. 2003 <<http://www.media-awareness.ca/eng>>.

- In this example, there is no author provided.

On-line Book

Bok, Sissela. Mayhem: Violence as Public Entertainment. Reading, MA, 1999. Questia - The Online Library. 2002. Questia Media America, Inc. Retrieved 13 Jan. 2003 <<http://www.questia.com/PageManagerHTMLMediator.qst?action=openPageViewer&docId=88988531>>.

Article on the World Wide Web

Author(s). “Article title.” Name of web site. Web site date (if given). Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site. Date of access <electronic address>.

Whittaker, Ron. “TV and Film Violence.” TV and Film Violence. 2002. CyberCollege InternetCampus. Retrieved 13 Jan. 2003 <<http://www.internetcampus.com/violence.htm>>.

Article in an On-line Journal

Rapping, Elayne. “The Politics of Representation: Genre, Gender Violence and Justice.” Genders 32 (2000): 50 pars. Retrieved 13 Jan. 2003 <http://www.genders.org/g32/g32_rapping.html>.

Article in an On-line Magazine

Cruickshank, John. “We're Not like Americans.” Macleans's. 30 Dec. 2002. Retrieved 13 Jan. 2003 <<http://www.macleans.ca/xta-doc2/2002/12/30/Canada/77612.shtml>>.

Article in a Reference Database

"TV." Microsoft Encarta Online Encyclopedia. 2002. Microsoft Corporation. Retrieved 13 Jan. 2003.
<<http://encarta.msn.com/encnet/refpages/RefArticle.aspx?refid=761559903>>.

E-mail

Author. "Title of the message (if any)." E-mail to the author. Date of the message.

Other Resources about On-line Citations

1.ONLINE! - Using MLA Style to Cite and Document Sources
<http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/online/cite5.html>

2.MLA Modern Languages Association

<http://www.mla.org/>

Choose "MLA Style," then "Frequently Asked Questions about MLA Style" to view information about citing on-line sources.

3.Using Modern Languages Association (MLA) Format

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_mla.html

4.MLA Style Electronic Formats

<http://www.westwords.com/guffey/mla.html>

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