

# Referencing internet and electronic sources

Information obtained from electronic or online sources must be correctly referenced. There are conventions for citing material from the Internet, CD-ROMS, electronic journals and databases just as there are for print resources.

References to electronic documents should contain information for the particular document version that was viewed including:

- the name of the author or editor
- the title of the page (look in the bar at the top of your browser)
- the title of the site (go to the site's homepage)
- the date the page was last updated, or the copyright date
- the name of database (if applicable – eg Business Source Premier) or type of medium (eg CD-ROM)
- the date you accessed the page
- the full internet address (URL) of the page (ie <http://etc.>) or the distributor (for CD-ROMS and networked databases). For an article from an electronic database, include the accession number if possible.

Where required information is not available, a note should be made of this factor as part of the reference, such as 'publisher not known' or 'publication date unknown'. However, alternative information can be substituted where available, such as copyright date or date viewed for publication date and electronic address for publisher or ISBN.

The Monash University Library website provides explanations and examples for a range of referencing styles used at Monash: <<http://www.lib.monash.edu/tutorials/citing/styles-common.html>>. Recommendations for citing electronic sources using the Harvard and Vancouver referencing styles are summarised in the following tables.

## Harvard referencing style

Reference type	In-text citation	Reference list
<b>Website</b>	The rehabilitation drugs are readily available (International Narcotics Control Board 2001).  'The use of a fluorescent reagent test to confirm the presence of contamination as well as a visual inspection of fuel system components for contamination products....' (Anderson 2000).	International Narcotics Control Board (2002), viewed October 16 2004, < <a href="http://www.incb.org">http://www.incb.org</a> >.  Anderson, J (2000), <i>CASA approves avgas contamination test</i> , media release, 23 January, Department of Transport and Regional Services, Canberra, viewed 7 February 2000, < <a href="http://www.dotars.gov.au/media/anders/archive/2000/jan_00/al6_2000.htm">http://www.dotars.gov.au/media/anders/archive/2000/jan_00/al6_2000.htm</a> >.
<b>Online journal</b>	<b>Same format as original PDF</b> 'Philosophy for Children is based on the idea that children can explore value and make meaning ... in a community' (Sprod 1999, p. 14).  <b>Electronic-only version</b> The table provided by Keneley (2004) illustrates the structure of business in Western District towns in 1890.  <b>Format different from print version</b> In her conclusion, Valentine (2004) stresses the importance of challenging policies which limit access to higher education.	Sprod, T 1999, 'Philosophy, young people and well-being', <i>Youth Studies Australia</i> , vol.18, no. 2, pp. 12-16, viewed 28 October 2004, < <a href="http://www.acys.utas.edu.au/ysa/articles/index.html">http://www.acys.utas.edu.au/ysa/articles/index.html</a> >.  Keneley, M 2004, 'The dying town syndrome: a survey of urban development in the Western District of Victoria 1830 - 1930', <i>Electronic Journal of Australian and New Zealand History</i> , viewed 10 December 2004, < <a href="http://www.jcu.edu.au/aff/history/articles/keneley3.htm">http://www.jcu.edu.au/aff/history/articles/keneley3.htm</a> >.  Valentine, D 2004, 'Access to higher education: a challenge to social work educators', <i>Journal of Social Work Education</i> , vol. 4, no. 2, viewed 12 December, 2004, < <a href="http://www.cswe.org/">http://www.cswe.org/</a> >.
<b>Electronic database</b>	'The processes by which Australia's water resources are allocated have undergone fundamental changes over the last two decades' (Bennett 2003, p.237).	Bennett, J 2003, 'Environmental values and water policy', <i>Australian Geographical Studies</i> , vol. 41, no. 3, pp. 237-250, viewed 8 Nov 2004, <a href="http://www.catchword.com/">http://www.catchword.com/</a>

## Vancouver referencing style

Reference type	In-text citation	Reference list
<b>Website</b>	The rehabilitation drugs are readily available. [14]	14. International Narcotics Control Board (2002), viewed October 16 2004, < <a href="http://www.incb.org">http://www.incb.org</a> >
<b>Online journal</b>	The study has shown that paediatric cardiac surgical mortality...[22]	22. Aylin P, Bottle A, Jarman B, Elliott, P. Paediatric cardiac surgical mortality in England after Bristol: descriptive analysis of hospital episode statistics 1991-2002. <i>BMJ</i> [serial on the Internet]. 2004 Oct 9;[cited 2004 October 15]; 329:[about 10 screens]. Available from: < <a href="http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/329/7470/825">http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/329/7470/825</a> >
<b>Electronic database</b> (the examples are from a fictitious source)	The legal issues raised in allowing on-line editing are discussed in this article by Bloggs. [3]	3. Bloggs, J. Writing for the masses. <i>Int Journal of Blogging</i> [serial online]. 2010 [cited 2011 Apr 1]; 234 (2). Available from: <i>Modern Times</i> .

## Frequently asked questions

### When referencing in-text what is the difference between citations of print material and web material?

For **documents from electronic sources** (eg an article from an e-journal), the rule is the same for both: enclose author, date and page number if necessary, in brackets.

If you are **citing the whole of an electronic resource**, enclose the name of the resource or the person or organization responsible for the web site, along with the date of publication or of the site's most recent update, in brackets eg (Anne Frank House: a house with a story, CD-ROM 2001), (International Narcotics Control Board, 2002).

### When referencing in-text how do you cite a page number for an electronic source?

For a website there is often no standard equivalent of a page number; an in-text reference appears as it would for an in-text reference taken from a print source minus the page reference. The URL is included only in the reference list or bibliography. For example, 'in-text referencing is an essential part of good academic writing' (Bloggs 2010). A CD-ROM often includes page numbers so an in-text reference is cited in the same way as an in-text reference from a print source. For example, 'in-text referencing is an essential part of good academic writing' (Bloggs 2010, p.78).

### How do you identify the author when there does not appear to be one?

Information is often published on the Internet by organisations without a specific author being mentioned. In such cases, ascribe authorship to the smallest identifiable organisational unit (Monash University Library 2000). If this is not possible, use the main title of the site (in the same way that you would use the title of a newspaper for an anonymous newspaper article, eg PCWorld.com 2002).

### Who is the publisher in online material?

The term publisher is used here to cover both the publisher of printed material as well as organisations responsible for maintaining sites on the Internet, such as Monash University.

## Useful references

**Harvard Style** – referencing online sources, University of Southern Queensland, <[http://www.usq.edu.au/library/help/ehelp/ref\\_guides/harvardonline.htm](http://www.usq.edu.au/library/help/ehelp/ref_guides/harvardonline.htm)>.

The International Standards Organisation (ISO) has issued a **standard** for referencing electronic documents including web pages, bulletin boards, computer programs, serial publications and articles.

**Vancouver referencing** – Curtin University, <<http://library.curtin.edu.au/referencing/vancouver.pdf>>.