Vancouver Referencing Style

Guidelines

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1. Referencing

Referencing is the process of providing detailed information on all sources consulted to compile an article, book chapter, essay or dissertation both within the text (in-text citations) and at the end of your work (reference list or bibliography). This will allow readers to easily locate the original sources and consult them.

1.1   Why should I reference?

Referencing is important as it shows the reader that you have researched the subject widely and adds weight to your arguments by supporting them with relevant literature.

It also separates your ideas/results from someone else's findings by giving credit to the authors of the cited works. Referencing shows the credibility and quality of resources used and helps you avoid plagiarism.

1.2   What should I reference?

You should reference all sources that you cited in your text (reference list) as well as sources used to prepare the writing (bibliography).

1.3   What is plagiarism?

Plagiarism is a term used when an author either purposely or unintentionally presents someone else's work as if it is his/her own work. Therefore, using other people's ideas/works without citing the sources is considered as plagiarism.

Always remember that if you are quoting, paraphrasing or summarising someone else's work, you always need to acknowledge the source.

Be careful of self-plagiarism. Using your previously submitted work without acknowledging it is also considered as a form of plagiarism.

Plagiarism is treated very seriously and results in disciplinary action.

1.4   What is a Reference Management Software?

A reference management software allows you to collect, store, organise, add notes, link (to full-text, web pages and documents), cite, and create bibliographies in your preferred reference style.

2. Examples of references

The Vancouver referencing style is a numeric style where you need to allocate a number to a source. If a source is cited more than once, the same number is assigned to it.

The reference list is organised in the same numerical order as cited within the text. To numerate the reference, use Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3, 4…). This style is commonly used in medical sciences.

2.1   In-text citations

When citing your sources in-text, use a number. You may either write it in brackets (1) or as a superscript [1].

2.1.1   One source

There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so (1)
OR
In his tragedy, William Shakespeare writes[1] ….

When referencing a direct quote from the source, in addition to the number, a page number in brackets is also included

The first people on the Moon were Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin. (1 p62)
OR
The first people on the Moon were Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin. [1 (p62)]

If the citation is placed at the end of the sentence, place it after the full stop.

2.1.2   Multiple sources

If you wish to cite more than one work in the same sentence, you need to provide the citation number for each publication. To link consecutive numbers use hyphen. In case of non-consecutive numbers, separate them with a comma.

Several studies[1-4, 8] indicated that tourism is the backbone of the Maltese economy
OR
Several studies (1-4, 8) indicated that tourism is the backbone of the Maltese economy

2.2　Final list of references/bibliography

2.2.1　One Author

In Vancouver style, the references list should be arranged in the order that the works were cited. The corresponding number used within the in-text citation should be included at the beginning of each reference.

1. Borg J. Introduction to academic writing. Msida, Malta: Malta University Press; 1999.

2.2.2　Two or more authors

When citing a work by two to six authors include all names:

1. Fagerberg J, Mowery DC, Nelson RR. The Oxford handbook of innovation. Oxford: Oxford University Press; 2005.

If there are more than six authors, after the sixth author add "et al."

2. Roscini L, Vassiliou A, Corte L, Casagrande Pierantoni D, Robert V, Tascini C, et al. Yeast Biofilm as a Bridge Between Medical and Environmental Microbiology Across Different Detection Techniques. Infect Dis Ther 2018;7(1):27-34.

2.2.3　Group/corporate author

In case of group authors like government agencies, organisations, associations and corporations provide group name instead of the author.

2.2.4　Unknown author

In case the author is unidentified, use corporate/group author (name of the government agencies, organisations, associations, corporations, etc.). If the corporate/group author is unidentified, begin the reference with the title of the publication.

2.2.5　Unknown date

If there is no date available, write "no date" in brackets:

1. Fagerberg J, Mowery DC, Nelson RR. The Oxford handbook of innovation. Oxford: Oxford University Press; (no date).

2.2.6　Multiple works by the same author

In case you are citing several publications written by the same author, even if they were published during the same year, each citation needs to have its own reference number.

2.2.7 Books

Author(s) – Last name and initials (no more than 2 initials with no spaces between initials). Title of book. Edition of book if later than 1st ed. Place of publication: Publisher name; Year of publication.

Godwin P, Parker J. Information literacy beyond library 2.0. London: Facet Publishing; 2012.

2.2.8 Chapter in a non-edited book

Author(s) – Last name and initials. Title of book. edition (if not first) - ed. Place of publication: Publisher name; Year of publication. Chapter [chapter number], Chapter title; p. [page numbers of the chapter].

2.2.9 Chapter in an edited book

Author(s) – Last name and initials, Title of chapter. In: Editor(s) of book - Last name and initials, editors. Title of book. edition (if not first). Place of publication: Publisher name; Year of publication. p. [page numbers of chapter].

Vinik EJ, Vinik AI. Transcending tradition: Quality of life as the inextricable link between activities of daily living and specific organ and disease states. In: Farquhar I, Summers KH, Sorkin A, editors. The Value of Innovation: Impact on Health, Life Quality, Safety, and Regulatory Research: Emerald Group Publishing Limited; 2007. p. 29-52.

2.2.10 Journal articles

The titles of journals must be abbreviated according to the National Library of Medicine's (NLM) Catalog: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nlmcatalog/journals

Author(s) – Last name and initials. Title of article. Abbreviated journal title. Publication year, month, day (month & day only if available);volume(issue):pages.

Hajjou S, Khataby K, Amghar S, El Fahime M, El Harrak M, Fakiri M, et al. Assessment and comparison of the pathogenicity of Sheeppox Virus strains isolated in Morocco. Iran J Microbiol 2017 Dec;9(6):372-380.

In case of electronic articles, provide DOI number or URL after the page number.

No DOI:

Author(s) - Last name and initials. Title of article. Abbreviated journal title [Internet]. Publication year, month, day (month and day only if available) [cited date - year, month, day];volume number(issue number):page numbers. Available from: URL

Zhang J, Jia P, Liu Q, Cong M, Gao Y, Shi H, et al. Low ketolytic enzyme levels in tumors predict ketogenic diet responses in cancer cell lines in vitro and in vivo. J Lipid Res [Internet]. 2018 [cited 2018 Mar 23];59(4):625-634. Available from: http://www.jlr.org/content/59/4/625.long

With DOI:

Author(s) - Last name and initials. Title of article. Abbreviated journal title [Internet]. Publication year, month, day (month and day only if available) [cited date - year, month, day];volume number(issue number):page numbers. Available from: URL. DOI

Zhang J, Jia P, Liu Q, Cong M, Gao Y, Shi H, et al. Low ketolytic enzyme levels in tumors predict ketogenic diet responses in cancer cell lines in vitro and in vivo. J Lipid Res [Internet]. 2018 [cited 2018 Mar 23];59(4):625-634. Available from: http://www.jlr.org/content/59/4/625.long. DOI 10.1194/jlr.M082040

If the URL is not available, use the DOI only.

2.2.11 Webpage

Author(s) – Last name and initials/Group author. Title of the page [Internet]. Place of publication: Publisher's name; Publication date or year [updated date - year month day; cited date - year month day]. Available from: URL

Oxford Dictionaries. Hoax - definition of hoax in English [Internet]. Oxford: Oxford University Press; 2017 [cited 2017 Sep 12]. Available from: https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/hoax.

PDF files downloaded from websites are referenced in the same way as printed documents.

2.2.12 Computer programs

If you cannot find the author of the computer program, reference it as a work with no author.

Author(s) – Last name and initials/Group author. Title the program [computer program]. Version number. City: Publisher; Year of publication.

Thomson ResearchSoft. EndNote [computer program]. Version 9.0.2. Stamford (Conn.): Thomson ResearchSoft; 2007.

2.2.13 Non-text material

If there is no author, begin with the title. If there is no date, use (no date).

Images/ Photographs:

Author(s) – Last name and initials. Title [type of medium]. Place of publication: Publisher; Year.

Image found online:

Author(s) – Last name and initials. Title [type of medium]. Year of publication [cited date]. Available from: URL.

Extensive skin rash with desquamation [image]. 2013 [cited 2017 Apr 11]. Available from:
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3696307/figure/F2/

2.2.14 Audio and video resources

Audio-visual material includes motion pictures and audio or television broadcast.

Motion picture:

Producer's/Director's last name and initials, producer/director. Title [type of medium]. Title of series if available). Place of publication: Publisher/distributor; Publication date.

Smith S, producer. Excellence in teaching: Lesson *planning* [DVD]. Plainview, NY: Sunburst Media; 2009.

Online videos:

Publisher/producer/User name. Title [video file]. Year, date [cited date]. Available from: URL

O'Brien B N. Vivo 11 training - full video (5/4/17) - updated [video file]. 2017, May [cited 2018 Jan 13]. Available from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eNo-Qxsp-mk

2.2.15 Unpublished material

Lecture notes:

Author(s) – Last name and initials. Title of lecture [unpublished lecture notes]. Institution; Year Month Day when notes provided, [cited Year Month Day]. Available from: URL (if notes are available online)

2.2.16 Personal communication

Personal communication includes electronic communication (emails, messages, bulletins), letters, interviews, phone conversations, etc.

Personal communication should be cited in-text and not included in the reference list.

When citing personal communication, make sure you provide the date, type of communication (oral, written, email) and affiliation.

E.g. According to staff memo which was recently sent by the Department of Human Resources and Development at the University of Malta (email, September 2013)…

2.2.17 Government publications and reports

Reference government publications like you would reference books. If there is no author, use group author (government agency or department).

Author(s) of the publication – last name and initials or name of organisation or agency. Title. Place of publication: Publisher; Year of publication.

Gilmore J, Woollam P, Campbell T, et al. Statistical report on the health of Canadians: Prepared by the Federal, Provincial and Territorial Advisory Committee on Population Health. Charlottetown, PEI: Health Canada, Statistics Canada, Canadian Institute for Health Information; 1999.

2.2.18 Secondary referencing

Always try to cite the primary (original) source of information, however if this is not possible, provide the secondary source.

When creating the reference list, provide the details of the publication where you found the quote. When writing, make sure that you indicate that you are quoting a secondary source.

In his article, Smith[1] cited research conducted by Borg.

3. Managing your references

RefWorks

RefWorks is a software that will help you compile your bibliography with just a click of a button!

You may attend a *RefWorks* workshop to learn how to:

- add references manually into your personal *RefWorks* account
- export references from online sources such as online databases that the Library subscribes to and Google Scholar
- save references in different folders according to your assignments and research
- create a bibliography in your preferred reference style
- use *Write-n-Cite* - a tool that will help you insert in-text citations and footnotes in your assignments, dissertations, long essays, projects or articles

4. Further help

For further help you can contact us by sending an email at library@um.edu.mt or by phone on 2340 2541.

5. Useful sources

1. Collery J. Referencing, Citation & Avoiding Plagiarism: Vancouver Style Guide [Internet]. University College Dublin; 2018. Available from: http://libguides.ucd.ie/academicintegrity/vancouverstyle.

2. Sloan-McDonald M. UQ Library Guides: Vancouver referencing style: Introduction. [Internet]. The University of Queensland; 2018. Available from: http://guides.library.uq.edu.au/referencing/vancouver/introduction.