

## APA Style for Citing References

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### Within the Text

The most common style for citing works within a medical paper is the citation style of the American Psychological Association or APA. Within the text, this citation style uses the author's last name and the cited works' publication date. These can be cited in three ways.

1. If the author's name appears within the sentence, then the publication date of the source material is placed in parentheses right after the author's name:

"Anderson (2012) proved that by using acupuncture . . ."

2. If the author is not mentioned, but their ideas, theories, or studies are used to make a point, then you must give them credit. This is done by putting both the author's name and the source's publication date in parentheses right after the material is mentioned in the paper:

"The study showed that the medicinal properties of the new herb had astounding results (Chan, 2011)."

NOTE: In papers authored by multiple people, list each author's name, followed by a comma, and use an ampersand (&) before the final name (Chan, Yin, & Mah, 2010). In the case of six or more authors, use "et al." (Yang et al., 2009).

3. Finally, if both the author and publication date are used within the sentence, then there is no need to repeat that information in an in-text citation, but a full citation should still appear in your reference list at the end of the paper:

"In 2010, Kirkland's study led to breakthroughs in how autism is treated."

### Reference List

References listed at the end of your paper should contain the following information:

1. Author(s) name
  - a. in Roman type
  - b. use full last names and initials of first names
  - c. use an ampersand (&) before the final name in a list of multiple authors
  - d. followed by a period (.)
2. Publication date
  - a. in Roman type
  - b. within parentheses
  - c. followed by a period (.)
3. Title of the work
  - a. in Roman type
  - b. capitalize only the first word, the beginning of any sub title, and proper names
  - c. followed by a period (.)

4. Publication information
  - a. Journal name
    1. in *italics*
    2. followed by a comma (,)
  - b. Volume number
    1. in *italics*
    2. followed by a comma (,) -- unless there is an issue number (then see letter "c")
  - c. Issue number (if used by the journal)
    1. in Roman type
    2. in parentheses immediately after the Volume number, no space between the two (yes, the volume number is in *italics*, the issue number & parens are in Roman type)
    3. followed by a comma (,)
  - d. Page numbers
    1. in Roman type
    2. followed by a period (.)
  - e. Web site uniform resource locator (URL) or digital object identifier (doi)\*
    1. in Roman type
    2. preceded by the words "Retrieved from"
    3. **NOT followed by a period!**

\*As more electronic information is cited in papers, the instability of URLs has become problematic. In response to this, a group of international publishers came up with a more permanent system of tracking online articles by registering them with agencies that provide citation-linking services (<http://search.apastyle.org/style?query=issue+number> pdf #8). Scholarly publishers have therefore started assigning a digital object identifier (doi) to their online articles in order to ensure a link no matter where the material resides. Therefore, APA style for citing electronic material has adopted the doi as well.

## Reference List Examples

*For an article in a print journal:*

Chan, S., Yin, D., & Mah, L. (2010). New Himalayan herb found to have immune-boosting properties. *Journal of Tibetan Medicine*, 15(2), 235-267.

*For information gained solely from a Web page include the URL:*

Kirkland, R., (2010). A new understanding of autism. Retrieved from <http://www.autismsociety.org>  
[NOTE: No period is used after a URL]

NOTE: The prior practice for Web page citations was to include a "retrieval date" as well as the site locator. If you feel this information may be useful (due to information that may be updated or that may change), then by all means include it, for example: Retrieved July 28, 2012, from <http://www.usefuldata.com>

*For an article in an online journal, include the URL:*

Kirkland, R., (2010). A new understanding of autism. *Mental Health Journal*, 44, 23-35. Retrieved from <http://www.autismsociety.org> [NOTE: o period is used after the URL]

*More current online articles are being registered and given a doi to take the place of less stable URLs:*

Kirkland, R., (2010). A new understanding of autism. *Mental Health Journal*, 44, 23-35. doi: 10.1037/0278-6133.24.2.225 [NOTE: No period is used after the doi]