CSE Documentation Style

For Scientific Papers

When you use the words or original ideas of another person in your writing, you must cite the sources. If the exact words of the original source are used, quotation marks are necessary. Though paraphrasing or rewording of an original source does not require quotation marks, documentation of the source is still required. Failure to cite sources of information is PLAGIARISM.

There are several documentation formats. Be sure to use the one prescribed by your instructor. This handout explains the CSE format (named after the Council of Science Editors, which developed it). The CSE format is widely used for documentation in the natural sciences: biologists, zoologists, earth scientists, geneticists, and other scientists.

CITING YOUR SOURCES

In the CSE format, you identify in the text of your paper the sources of information (references) you have used. This serves the same purpose as "footnotes," but is integrated smoothly into the text of your paper, rather than listed separately. The CSE style offers several methods of citing your references. You may pick one of the methods listed below or ask your instructor which method is preferred.

METHOD 1: The Name-and-Year Method.

List the last name(s) of the author(s) and the year of publication. These should be listed inside parentheses without being separated by commas. Some examples are:

One author, or editor: (Gribbin 1986)
Two authors: (Dotto and Schiff 1978)
Three or more authors: (Campbell et al. 1983) -or- (Campbell and others 1983)
Organization as author: (National Research Council 1982)
No author?: Use the first two or three words of the title and the year
No date?: Use "n.d."
Placement of the parentheses depends on whether you use the author's name in your text. For example:

It is estimated that a 10% reduction in ozone would cause a 20% - 40% increase in skin cancer (Dotto and Schiff 1978).

Dotto and Schiff (1978) estimated that a 10% reduction in ozone would cause a 20% - 40% increase in skin cancer.

**Method II: The Number Method.**

As each source is used in the text, it is indicated by a number in parentheses. For example:

It is estimated that a 10% reduction in ozone would cause a 20% - 40% increase in skin cancer (1).

If a source is used again later, reuse the original number. The complete references are listed at the end of the paper in the order they were numbered in your paper.

**LISTING YOUR REFERENCES**

The list of references (or bibliography) at the end of your paper should include all of the sources that contributed ideas and information to your paper. The heading CITED REFERENCES should be centered one inch from the top of the page. The arrangement of references in your list depends upon the method you used to cite sources in the text. In the name-and-year methods references are arranged *alphabetically* by the first word in the reference, whether it's a person's last name, organization name or the first word of a title (ignore "A," "An," and "The"). If you have two or more references by the same author, arrange them alphabetically according to author, then by date. In the number method, each reference appears in the same order as it is first mentioned in your paper.
LITERATURE CITED

If you are using Methods I: Arranged alphabetically

EXAMPLE OF PAMPHLET, NO AUTHOR, NO CITY OF PUBLICATION, NO DATE


EXAMPLE OF BOOK WITH TWO AUTHORS


EXAMPLE OF BOOK WITH ORGANIZATION AS AUTHOR


EXAMPLE OF SECOND BOOK BY SAME AUTHOR (the date determines the order)


If you are using Method II: Numbered as they first appear in text

EXAMPLE OF AN ARTICLE IN AN ONLINE PERIODICAL


Example OF NEWSPAPER ARTICLE WITH AUTHOR

EXAMPLE OF JOURNAL ARTICLE WITH AUTHOR, SUBTITLE, DISCONTINUOUS PAGES


EXAMPLE OF MAGAZINE/JOURNAL ARTICLE, NO AUTHOR


If you have a type of source not covered by the examples above, ask a SLAC tutor to show you the CSE Style Manual or visit the following website http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/index.htm for further information.

All examples are from the CBE Style Manual.
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