CSE Name-Year Citation Style Guide

This guide is based on the Scientific Style and Format: The CSE Manual for Authors, Editors and Publishers (7th ed.). The CSE format is preferred by writers in the natural sciences including: biology, geology, chemistry, and physics.

There are three different citation systems within CSE style. The following pages will only describe the Name-Year system.

After reading this guide you will know how to structure both in-text citations and the End Reference page using the name-year system.

For further clarification, or information on the other CSE citation systems, please consult the manual located in the reference section of the library (call number: T 11. S386 2006).

In-Text References:

In the CSE name-year system, citations are provided in the main text in parentheses before the final punctuation of the sentence. The in-text references should contain the author’s name and the source’s year of publication. Do not include commas in the name-year form of citation. If authorship is unclear, use the first word or first few words of the title, followed by an ellipsis and the date. Each in-text reference should correspond to a citation in the alphabetical list of references at the end of the paper.

In-text Citations: The basic format is the author’s name and date in parentheses.

One famous inventor claimed that creativity is about connection (Jobs 1996).

Author’s name mentioned in-text: If the author’s name is mentioned in the text, only give the year in the parentheses:

Steve Jobs claimed that creativity is about connections (1996).

Author’s name and publication date mentioned in-text: If both the author and year are given in the sentence, there is no need to include a parenthetical reference:

In 1996, Steve Jobs described creativity as the ability to make and see connections.

Two authors: Give both authors’ surnames joined by “and”:

The meerkat arranges itself in complex family structures (Hartline and Silva 2004).

Several authors: For works by three or more authors, cite the first author, followed by "et al."

The distribution of bats in Prince Edward Island is largely unknown (Henderson et al. 2009).

Two works, published in the same year, by authors with the same last name: To avoid confusion in this case, you must distinguish between these authors by including the authors’ initials in each citation.

(Johnson E 2001) (Johnson L 2001)
More than one work in a citation: If a citation refers to more than one work by different authors, list the works chronologically and separate the works with a semicolon.

Bats prefer cool, moist caves (Johnson E 2001; Johnson L 2005)

Two or more works from the same author in the same year: Distinguish between citations for multiple works by the same author from the same year by adding a lowercase letter to the year in your citation. The paper published earliest in the year should be labeled "a," etc.

(Berndt 1981a) (Berndt 1981b)

Organization as author: If a cited work is authored by an organization, use its abbreviation for the in-text citation. Give the full name in the reference list entry, and precede it with the abbreviation you used in the text in square brackets, e.g. [RBC] Royal Bank of Canada.

(RBC 2010)

No author: If a work does not have an identifiable author, cite it using the first word or first few words of the title, followed by an ellipsis in place of the author's name, then the date.

(Guide to Birds…2010)

Chapter or Part of a Book: If part of a book was written by a contributing author, write the part author’s last name followed by the year in the in-text citation. If the chapter was co-authored then list the names alphabetically and follow with the year. Give the title of the book in the end reference.

(Robbins 2009)

Publication without a date: For a publication without a date, place the words “date unknown” in square brackets in the in-text reference. Remember to include [date unknown] in the end reference.

(Einstein [date unknown])

Source cited in another source: It is always best to consult an original source rather than cite a source cited in another document. However, if you cannot locate the original source, then cite the secondary source and acknowledge the author of the original idea in both the in-text citation and end reference.

(Darwin 1859, cited in Renn 2007)

Web sites (with personal author): If there is one, list the last name of the webpage creator, writer, or designer and then the last date the site was updated in brackets. If no personal author is listed, substitute the name of the organization responsible for the site.

(Rukivina [Updated 2012]) (Disney [Updated 2009])
CSE Style: Basic Rules of End References

The reference list comes at the end of your paper and must include full bibliographic information for every source used. List references alphabetically by author surnames, followed by the initials of the first and middle name (if given). The title of the list should be centered and called “References.” Treat any particles (de, la, etc.) as part of the surname and ignore all punctuation and accent marks in the name.

For titles or organization names, ignore articles (e.g. the) when alphabetizing. Reference list citations for print sources need to include the following components in this sequence: author or editor, year of publication, title, content designator (e.g. dissertation, editorial), medium designator (e.g. Internet, microfiche), edition, secondary author (e.g. editor where a work has both an author and editor), place of publication, publisher, and pagination. Electronic sources must provide access information where documents are online. CSE prefers a flush left style as opposed to a hanging indent.

The following examples illustrate how to structure end references for various sources. For more examples, consult the CSE Manual.

Book with a single author:

Book with multiple authors:

Edited Book:

Chapter in a book:

Newspaper Article from Print publication:

Newspaper Article from the Internet:

Magazine Article from the Internet:
Article in a dictionary or encyclopedia:

Thesis or Dissertation:

Journal Articles
Where journal titles are more than one word, titles are abbreviated and articles, conjunctions, and prepositions (eg. and, of) are omitted. Capitalize all the words in the title. A period should follow after the abbreviated title.

Examples:

Nature
Can Nuc As.

Synth Met.
Am Mineral.

Note: Standard journal abbreviations can be found on the following websites:

ISI Journal abbreviations index: http://library.caltech.edu/reference/abbreviations/
Frontiers in Bioscience: http://www.bioscience.org/atlases/jourabbr/list.htm

If you can’t find the abbreviation you need, ask for help from a reference librarian.

Print Journal Article:

Electronic Journal articles:


URLs and DOIs are considered non-essential and can be omitted [29.3.6.13], however, including them will take the following format:

Electronic Book:


Web Site:


Online Report with author from not for-profit Web-site:


Abstract from Conference Proceedings:


Video Clip: Retrieved from the Internet:


Blog


Motion Picture


Personal Communication

Note: CSE does not recommend formal end references for personal communications (eg. conversations, phone calls, emails, interviews). Instead, place source information in parentheses, indicating that the citation is not listed in the reference list. Authors must provide written permission from the cited person (if living), and list acknowledgements in a Notes section.

This conclusion has since been confirmed (2012 email from J Fromm to me; unreferenced, see “Notes”).