
How to Cite Reference Materials in MLA Style (7th ed.) (link to [Libraries](#))

Reference books are typically cited by individual **items (articles)** within the books. When searching Palm Beach State databases for reference sources, each **article** is listed separately in a **Result List**.

Instructions for citing reference resources:

Create a **resource** list consisting of helpful sources which provide basic information about the topic of the paper, including those to be cited with **paraphrased** and **quoted** text in the research paper. *Wikipedia* and other general encyclopedias might be included in this initial list, but typically not cited in an academic research paper.

From the initial list, the final **Works Cited** list is created and consists of sources cited in the paper. This list should be arranged in alphabetical order.

Sample Works Cited

❶ Palm Beach State database

Baers, Michael. "Houdini, Harry (1874-1926)." *St. James Encyclopedia of Popular Culture*. Ed. Sara Pendergast and Tom Pendergast. Vol. 2. Detroit: St. James, 2000. 456-458. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*. Web. 23 July 2009. ❶

Bondi, Victor and Peter C. Holloran. "Lifestyles and Social Trends." *American Decades: 1970-1979*. Ed. Victor Bondi. Detroit: Manly-Gale Research, 1995. 319-358. Print.

Kitson, Michael "English Art as Objects of Patronage and Collecting" *The Oxford Companion to Western Art*. Ed. Hugh Brigstocke. Oxford University Press, 2001. *Oxford Reference Online*. Web. 23 July 2009. ❶

Koslow, Philip J. "Jackson, Michael." *The Biographical Dictionary of African Americans*. Eds. Rachel C. Kranz and Philip J. Koslow. New York: Facts On File, Inc., 2009. *American History Online*. Web. 23 July 2009.

❶ "Lake Worth, Florida." *Google Maps*. Google. 28 July 2009. Web. 28 July 2009.

"Recreational Life (17th and 18th Centuries)." *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Daily Life: A Tour Through History from Ancient Times to the Present*. Ed. Joyce E. Salisbury and Peter Seelig. Vol. 4. Westport: Greenwood, 2004. 417-61. Print.

info tips

for the informed researcher

BASIC ELEMENTS OF CITATION

Reference Book Article

AuthorLastName, FirstName MiddleNameOrInitial. "Title of Work." *Title of Reference Book*. CityOfPublication: Publisher, yyyy. Print.

Online Reference Book Article

AuthorLastName, FirstName MiddleNameOrInitial. "Title of Work." *Title of Reference Book*. CityOfPublication: Publisher [N.p. if not available], yyyy [n.d., if not available]. *Database Name*. Web. dd Month yyyy [this is access date].

Cite **paraphrased** and **quoted** sources within text of a paper according to the entries in the **Works Cited** list. Examples below are linked to the **Sample Works Cited** list on this sheet.

Signal phrase

... Koslow summarizes Michael Jackson's rise to fame from his youth to *The Wiz* and his work with Quincy Jones and beyond. ...

Paraphrase

Example 1

Holidays in England during the Baroque era. ... ("Recreational" 436-7).

Example 2

Houdini began in vaudeville, but quickly moved on to the ... (Baers).

Quotation

"... complex man, ... textbook case of repressed neurosis in which Freud would have de-lighted" (Baers).

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- For assistance with details of grammar, spelling, and other writing and speech outlining questions, visit the [SLC Writing Lab](#). Also see [The Bedford Handbook](#).
 - Several guidelines from the [MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th ed. \(2009\)](#):
 - No underlining; use italics instead (see 3.3, pp. 78-9)
 - When to include URL
 - if, without it, reader could face difficulty finding source
 - if **your instructor requires it**
 - **Flexibility of MLA style:** "improvise" when unanticipated features encountered
 - **"Be consistent..."** with styles when writing all citations
 - **Verification of websites:** chance of "disappearing sites, ... download, ... print, [or email] ..." retrieved references and save for later – just in case (5.6.1, pp. 182-3)