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Reference

Samples of Formatted References for Authors of Journal Articles

The [International Committee of Medical Journal Editors \(ICMJE\)](#) offers guidance to authors in its publication [Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals \(ICMJE Recommendations\)](#), which was formerly the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts. The recommended style for references is based on the National Information Standards Organization [NISO Z39.29-2005 \(R2010\)](#) Bibliographic References as adapted by the National Library of Medicine for its databases.

Details, including fuller citations and explanations, are in [Citing Medicine](#). (Note [Appendix F](#) which covers how citations in MEDLINE/PubMed differ from the advice in Citing Medicine.) For datasets ([Item 43 below](#)) and software on the Internet ([Item 44 below](#)), simplified formats are also shown.

Reference Types

- [Articles in Journals](#)
- [Books and Other Monographs](#)
- [Other Published Material](#)
- [Unpublished Material](#)
- [Electronic Material](#)

Articles in Journals

See also [#36. Journal article on the Internet](#) and [#43. Dataset description article](#).

1. Standard journal article

Halpern SD, Ubel PA, Caplan AL. Solid-organ transplantation in HIV-infected patients. *N Engl J Med*. 2002 Jul 25;347(4):284-7.

List the first six authors, followed by et al. If there are more than six authors, list the first six authors, followed by et al. (Note: NLM now lists all authors.):

Rose ME, Huerbin MB, Melick J, Marion DW, Palmer AM, Schiding JK, et al. Regulation of interstitial excitatory amino acid concentrations after cortical contusion injury. *Brain Res*. 2002;935(1-2):40-6.

Optional: If a journal carries continuous pagination throughout a volume (as many medical journals do), omit the month and issue number.

Halpern SD, Ubel PA, Caplan AL. Solid-organ transplantation in HIV-infected patients. *N Engl J Med*. 2002;347:284-7.

Optional: Addition of a database's unique identifiers, such as the PubMed PMID, for the citation:

Forooghian F, Yeh S, Faia LJ, Nussenblatt RB. Uveitic foveal atrophy: clinical features and associations. *Arch Ophthalmol*. 2009 Feb;127(2):179-86. PubMed PMID: 19204236; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC2653214.

Optional: Addition of a clinical trial registration number:

Trachtenberg F, Maserejian NN, Soncini JA, Hayes C, Tavares M. Does fluoride in compomers prevent future caries in children? *J Dent Res*. 2009 Mar;88(3):276-9. PubMed PMID: 19329464. ClinicalTrials.gov registration number: NCT00065988.

2. Organization as author

Diabetes Prevention Program Research Group. Hypertension, insulin, and proinsulin in participants with impaired glucose tolerance. *Hypertension*. 2002;40(5):679-86.

3. Both personal authors and organization as author (List all as they appear in the byline.)

Vallancien G, Emberton M, Harving N, van Moorselaar RJ; Alf-One Study Group. Sexual dysfunction in 1,274 European men suffering from lower urinary tract symptoms. *J Urol*. 2003;169(6):2257-61.

4. No author given

21st century heart solution may have a sting in the tail. *BMJ*. 2002;325(7357):184.

5. Article not in English

Ellingsen AE, Wilhelmsen I. Sykdomsangst blant medisin- og jusstudenter. *Tidsskr Nor Laegeforen*. 2002;122(8):785-7. Norwegian.

Optional: Translation of article title (MEDLINE/PubMed practice):

Ellingsen AE, Wilhelmsen I. [Disease anxiety among medical students and law students]. *Tidsskr Nor Laegeforen*. 2002 Mar 20;122(8):785-7. Norwegian.

6. Volume with supplement

Geraud G, Spierings EL, Keywood C. Tolerability and safety of frovatriptan with short- and long-term use for treatment of migraine and in comparison with sumatriptan. *Headache*. 2002;42 Suppl 2:S93-9.

7. Issue with supplement

Glauser TA. Integrating clinical trial data into clinical practice. *Neurology*. 2002;58(12 Suppl 7):S6-12.

8. Volume with part

Abend SM, Kulish N. The psychoanalytic method from an epistemological viewpoint. *Int J Psychoanal*. 2002;83(Pt 2):491-5.

9. Issue with part

Ahrar K, Madoff DC, Gupta S, Wallace MJ, Price RE, Wright KC. Development of a large animal model for lung tumors. *J Vasc Interv Radiol*. 2002;13(9 Pt 1):923-8.

10. Issue with no volume

Banit DM, Kaufer H, Hartford JM. Intraoperative frozen section analysis in revision total joint arthroplasty. *Clin Orthop*. 2002;(401):230-8.

11. No volume or issue

Outreach: bringing HIV-positive individuals into care. *HRSA Careaction*. 2002 Jun:1-6.

12. Pagination in roman numerals

Chadwick R, Schuklenk U. The politics of ethical consensus finding. *Bioethics*. 2002;16(2):iii-v.

13. Type of article indicated as needed

Tor M, Turker H. International approaches to the prescription of long-term oxygen therapy [letter]. *Eur Respir J*. 2002;20(1):242.

Lofwall MR, Strain EC, Brooner RK, Kindbom KA, Bigelow GE. Characteristics of older methadone maintenance (MM) patients [abstract]. *Drug Alcohol Depend*. 2002;66 Suppl 1:S105.

14. Article containing retraction

Feifel D, Moutier CY, Perry W. Safety and tolerability of a rapidly escalating dose-loading regimen for risperidone. *J Clin Psychiatry*. 2002;63(2):169. Retraction of: Feifel D, Moutier CY, Perry W. *J Clin Psychiatry*. 2000;61(12):909-11.

Article containing a partial retraction:

Starkman JS, Wolder CE, Gomelsky A, Scarpero HM, Dmochowski RR. Voiding dysfunction after removal of eroded slings. *J Urol*. 2006 Dec;176(6 Pt 1):2749. Partial retraction of: Starkman JS, Wolter C, Gomelsky A, Scarpero HM, Dmochowski RR. *J Urol*. 2006 Sep;176(3):1040-4.

15. Article retracted

Feifel D, Moutier CY, Perry W. Safety and tolerability of a rapidly escalating dose-loading regimen for risperidone. *J Clin Psychiatry*. 2000;61(12):909-11. Retraction in: Feifel D, Moutier CY, Perry W. *J Clin Psychiatry*. 2002;63(2):169.

Article partially retracted:

Starkman JS, Wolter C, Gomelsky A, Scarpero HM, Dmochowski RR. Voiding dysfunction following removal of eroded synthetic mid urethral slings. *J Urol*. 2006 Sep;176(3):1040-4. Partial retraction in: Starkman JS, Wolder CE, Gomelsky A, Scarpero HM, Dmochowski RR. *J Urol*. 2006 Dec;176(6 Pt 1):2749.

16. Article republished with corrections

Mansharamani M, Chilton BS. The reproductive importance of P-type ATPases. *Mol Cell Endocrinol*. 2002;188(1-2):22-5. Corrected and republished from: *Mol Cell Endocrinol*. 2001;183(1-2):123-6.

17. Article with published erratum

Malinowski JM, Bolesta S. Rosiglitazone in the treatment of type 2 diabetes mellitus: a critical review. *Clin Ther*. 2000;22(10):1151-68; discussion 1149-50. Erratum in: *Clin Ther*. 2001;23(2):309.

18. Article published electronically ahead of the print version

Yu WM, Hawley TS, Hawley RG, Qu CK. Immortalization of yolk sac-derived precursor cells. *Blood*. 2002 Nov 15;100(10):3828-31. Epub 2002 Jul 5.

Books and Other Monographs

19. Personal author(s)

Murray PR, Rosenthal KS, Kobayashi GS, Pfaller MA. *Medical microbiology*. 4th ed. St. Louis: Mosby; 2002.

20. Editor(s), compiler(s) as author

Gilstrap LC 3rd, Cunningham FG, VanDorsten JP, editors. Operative obstetrics. 2nd ed. New York: McGraw-Hill; 2002.

21. Author(s) and editor(s)

Breedlove GK, Schorfheide AM. Adolescent pregnancy. 2nd ed. Wiecezorek RR, editor. White Plains (NY): March of Dimes Education Services; 2001.

22. Organization(s) as author

American Occupational Therapy Association, Ad Hoc Committee on Occupational Therapy Manpower. Occupational therapy manpower: a plan for progress. Rockville (MD): The Association; 1985 Apr. 84 p.

National Lawyer's Guild AIDS Network (US); National Gay Rights Advocates (US). AIDS practice manual: a legal and educational guide. 2nd ed. San Francisco: The Network; 1988.

23. Chapter in a book

Meltzer PS, Kallioniemi A, Trent JM. Chromosome alterations in human solid tumors. In: Vogelstein B, Kinzler KW, editors. The genetic basis of human cancer. New York: McGraw-Hill; 2002. p. 93-113.

24. Conference proceedings

Harnden P, Joffe JK, Jones WG, editors. Germ cell tumours V. Proceedings of the 5th Germ Cell Tumour Conference; 2001 Sep 13-15; Leeds, UK. New York: Springer; 2002.

25. Conference paper

Christensen S, Oppacher F. An analysis of Koza's computational effort statistic for genetic programming. In: Foster JA, Lutton E, Miller J, Ryan C, Tettamanzi AG, editors. Genetic programming. EuroGP 2002: Proceedings of the 5th European Conference on Genetic Programming; 2002 Apr 3-5; Kinsdale, Ireland. Berlin: Springer; 2002. p. 182-91.

26. Scientific or technical report

Issued by funding/sponsoring agency:

Yen GG (Oklahoma State University, School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Stillwater, OK). Health monitoring on vibration signatures. Final report. Arlington (VA): Air Force Office of Scientific Research (US), Air Force Research Laboratory; 2002 Feb. Report No.: AFRLSRBLTR020123. Contract No.: F496209810049.

Issued by performing agency:

Russell ML, Goth-Goldstein R, Apte MG, Fisk WJ. Method for measuring the size distribution of airborne Rhinovirus. Berkeley (CA): Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Environmental Energy Technologies Division; 2002 Jan. Report No.: LBNL49574. Contract No.: DEAC0376SF00098. Sponsored by the Department of Energy.

27. Dissertation

Borkowski MM. Infant sleep and feeding: a telephone survey of Hispanic Americans [dissertation]. Mount Pleasant (MI): Central Michigan University; 2002.

28. Patent

Pagedas AC, inventor; Ancel Surgical R&D Inc., assignee. Flexible endoscopic grasping and cutting device and positioning tool assembly. United States patent US 20020103498. 2002 Aug 1.

Other Published Material

29. Newspaper article

Tynan T. Medical improvements lower homicide rate: study sees drop in assault rate. The Washington Post. 2002 Aug 12;Sect. A:2 (col. 4).

30. Audiovisual material

Chason KW, Sallustio S. Hospital preparedness for bioterrorism [videocassette]. Secaucus (NJ): Network for Continuing Medical Education; 2002.

31. Legal Material

Public law:

Veterans Hearing Loss Compensation Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-9, 115 Stat. 11 (May 24, 2001).

Unenacted bill:

Healthy Children Learn Act, S. 1012, 107th Cong., 1st Sess. (2001).

Code of Federal Regulations:

Cardiopulmonary Bypass Intracardiac Suction Control, 21 C.F.R. Sect. 870.4430 (2002).

Hearing:

Arsenic in Drinking Water: An Update on the Science, Benefits and Cost: Hearing Before the Subcomm. on Environment, Technology and Standards of the House Comm. on Science, 107th Cong., 1st Sess. (Oct. 4, 2001).

32. Map

Pratt B, Flick P, Vynne C, cartographers. Biodiversity hotspots [map]. Washington: Conservation International; 2000.

33. Dictionary and similar references

Dorland's illustrated medical dictionary. 29th ed. Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders; 2000. Filamin; p. 675.

Unpublished Material

34. Forthcoming and Preprints

(Note: NLM prefers "Forthcoming" rather than "In press" because not all items will be printed.)

Tian D, Araki H, Stahl E, Bergelson J, Kreitman M. Signature of balancing selection in Arabidopsis. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. Forthcoming 2002.

Alvarez R. Near optimal neural network estimator for spectral x-ray photon counting data with pileup. arXiv:1702.01006v1 [Preprint]. 2017 [cited 2017 Feb 9]: [11 p.]. Available from: <https://arxiv.org/abs/1702.01006>

Bar DZ, Atkatsk K, Tavaréz U, Erdos MR, Gruenbaum Y, Collins FS. Biotinylation by antibody recognition- A novel method for proximity labeling. BioRxiv 069187 [Preprint]. 2016 [cited 2017 Jan 12]. Available from: <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/069187v1>

Kording KP, Mensh B. Ten simple rules for structuring papers. BioRxiv [Preprint]. 2016 bioRxiv 088278 [posted 2016 Nov 28; revised 2016 Dec 14; revised 2016 Dec 15; cited 2017 Feb 9]: [12 p.]. Available from: <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/088278v5> doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/088278>

Rupprecht C. Ready for more-than-human? Urban residents' willingness to coexist with animals and plants. Version: 1. SocArXiv [Preprint]. [posted 2016 Jul 13; revised 2016 Dec 07; cited 2017 Feb 15]: [22 p.]. Available from: <https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/hbcmz/>.

Electronic Material

35. CD-ROM

Anderson SC, Poulsen KB. Anderson's electronic atlas of hematology [CD-ROM]. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2002.

36. Journal article on the Internet

Aboud S. Quality improvement initiative in nursing homes: the ANA acts in an advisory role. Am J Nurs [Internet]. 2002 Jun [cited 2002 Aug 12];102(6):[about 1 p.]. Available

from: https://journals.lww.com/ajnonline/Fulltext/2002/06000/Quality_Improvement_Initiative_in_Nursing_Homes.31.aspx Subscription required.

Optional presentation (omits bracketed phrase that qualifies the journal title abbreviation):

Abood S. Quality improvement initiative in nursing homes: the ANA acts in an advisory role. Am J Nurs. 2002 Jun [cited 2002 Aug 12];102(6):[about 1 p.]. Available from: https://journals.lww.com/ajnonline/Fulltext/2002/06000/Quality_Improvement_Initiative_in_Nursing_Homes.31.aspx Subscription required.

Article published on the Internet ahead of the print version:

[See # 18.](#)

Optional formats used by NLM in MEDLINE/PubMed:

Article with document number in place of traditional pagination:

Williams JS, Brown SM, Conlin PR. Videos in clinical medicine. Blood-pressure measurement. N Engl J Med. 2009 Jan 29;360(5):e6. PubMed PMID: 19179309.

Article with a Digital Object Identifier (DOI):

Zhang M, Holman CD, Price SD, Sanfilippo FM, Preen DB, Bulsara MK. Comorbidity and repeat admission to hospital for adverse drug reactions in older adults: retrospective cohort study. BMJ. 2009 Jan 7;338:a2752. doi: 10.1136/bmj.a2752. PubMed PMID: 19129307; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC2615549.

Article with unique publisher item identifier (pii) in place of traditional pagination or DOI:

Tegnell A, Dillner J, Andrae B. Introduction of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination in Sweden. Euro Surveill. 2009 Feb 12;14(6). pii: 19119. PubMed PMID: 19215721.

37. Monograph on the Internet

Foley KM, Gelband H, editors. Improving palliative care for cancer [Internet]. Washington: National Academy Press; 2001 [cited 2002 Jul 9]. Available from: <https://www.nap.edu/catalog/10149/improving-palliative-care-for-cancer>.

38. Homepage/Web site

eatright.org [Internet]. Chicago: Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics; c2016 [cited 2016 Dec 27]. Available from: <https://www.eatright.org/>.

39. Part of a homepage/Web site

American Medical Association [Internet]. Chicago: The Association; c1995-2016 [cited 2016 Dec 27]. Office of International Medicine; [about 2 screens]. Available from: <https://www.ama-assn.org/about/office-international-medicine>

40. Database on the Internet

Open database:

Who's Certified [Internet]. Evanston (IL): The American Board of Medical Specialists. c2000 - [cited 2001 Mar 8]. Available from: <https://www.abms.org/verify-certification/>

Closed database:

Jablonski S. Online Multiple Congenital Anomaly/Mental Retardation (MCA/MR) Syndromes [Internet]. Bethesda (MD): National Library of Medicine (US); c1999 [updated 2001 Nov 20; cited 2002 Aug 12]. Available from: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/archive/20061212/mesh/jablonski/syndrome_title.html

41. Part of a database on the Internet

MeSH Browser [Internet]. Bethesda (MD): U.S. National Library of Medicine; 2002 - . Meta-analysis; [cited 2017 Dec 1]; [about 1 p.]. Available from: <https://meshb.nlm.nih.gov/record/ui?ui=D017418> MeSH Unique ID: D017418.

42. Blogs

Holt M. The Health Care Blog [Internet]. San Francisco: Matthew Holt. 2003 Oct - [cited 2009 Feb 13]. Available from: <http://thehealthcareblog.com/blog/category/matthew-holt/>.

Contribution to a blog:

Mantone J. Head trauma haunts many, researchers say. 2008 Jan 29 [cited 2009 Feb 13]. In: Wall Street Journal. HEALTH BLOG [Internet]. New York: Dow Jones & Company, Inc. c2008 - . [about 1 screen]. Available from: <https://blogs.wsj.com/health/2008/01/29/head-trauma-haunts-many-researchers-say/>.

Campbell A. Diabetes and alcohol: do the two mix? (Part 2). 2008 Jan 28 [cited 2009 Feb 13]. In: Diabetes Self-Management Blog [Internet]. New York: Diabetes Self-Management. [2006 Aug 14] - . 2 p. Available from: https://www.diabetesselfmanagement.com/blog/Amy_Campbell/Diabetes_and_Alcohol_Do_the_Two_Mix_Part_2

43. Datasets

Dataset description article:

Kraemer MU, Sinka ME, Duda KA, Mylne A, Shearer FM, Brady OJ, Messina JP, Barker CM, Moore CG, Carvalho RG, Coelho GE, Van Bortel W, Hendrickx G, Schaffner F, Wint GR,

Elyazar IR, Teng HJ, Hay SI. The global compendium of *Aedes aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus* occurrence. *Sci Data*. 2015 Jul 7 [cited 2015 Oct 23];2:150035. Available from: <http://www.nature.com/articles/sdata201535> doi: 10.1038/sdata.2015.35 eCollection 2015. PubMed PMID: 26175912; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC4493829.

Dataset deposit record: Citing Medicine format

Kraemer MUG, Sinka ME, Duda KA, Mylne A, Shearer FM, Brady OJ, Messina JP, Barker CM, Moore CG, Carvalho RG, Coelho GE, Van Bortel W, Hendrickx G, Schaffner F, Wint GRW, Elyazar IRF, Teng H, Hay SI. The global compendium of *Aedes aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus* occurrence [dataset]. 2015 Jun 30 [cited 2015 Oct 23]. In: Dryad Digital Repository [Internet]. Durham (NC): Dryad. 2008 Jan - . 3 files: 3.406 MB; 1.549 MB; 1.815 MB. Available from: <https://datadryad.org/stash/dataset/doi:10.5061/dryad.47v3c> Referenced in doi: 10.7554/eLife.08347

Dataset deposit record: Simplified format

Kraemer MUG, Sinka ME, Duda KA, Mylne A, Shearer FM, Brady OJ, Messina JP, Barker CM, Moore CG, Carvalho RG, Coelho GE, Van Bortel W, Hendrickx G, Schaffner F, Wint GRW, Elyazar IRF, Teng H, Hay SI. The global compendium of *Aedes aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus* occurrence [dataset]. 2015 Jun 30 [cited 2015 Oct 23]. Dryad Digital Repository. Available from: <https://datadryad.org/stash/dataset/doi:10.5061/dryad.47v3c> Referenced in doi: 10.7554/eLife.08347

Dataset repository: Citing Medicine format

Dryad Digital Repository [Internet]. Durham (NC): Dryad. 2008 Jan - [cited 2014 Oct 3]. Available from: <https://datadryad.org/stash/>.

Dataset repository: Simplified format

Dryad Digital Repository. Durham (NC): Dryad. [cited 2014 Oct 3]. Available from: <https://datadryad.org/stash/>.

Dataset: Citing Medicine format

RxNorm [dataset on the Internet]. April 4, 2016 Full Monthly Release. Bethesda (MD): U.S. National Library of Medicine; 2016 Apr 4 [cited 2016 Apr 18]. Available from: <https://www.nlm.nih.gov/research/umls/rxnorm/docs/rxnormfiles.html>

Dataset: Simplified format

RxNorm [dataset]. April 4, 2016 Full Monthly Release. 2016 Apr 4 [cited 2016 Apr 18]. Available from: <https://www.nlm.nih.gov/research/umls/rxnorm/docs/rxnormfiles.html>

44. Software on the Internet

A full citation for software on the Internet can follow the general guidelines in Item #43 for datasets or in [Citing Medicine, Chapter 24](#) for databases and retrieval systems. Software in other media such as CD-ROM is detailed in [Citing Medicine, Chapter 21](#).

Software: Simplified format

Publisher is **optional** and place of publication is not needed. Strive to include an Available from: note with a URL or a doi: xxxxxxxx note. Other helpful notes can be added at the end such as a System Requirements note.

Hayes B, Tesar B, Zurow K. OTSoft: Optimality Theory Software. Version 2.3.2 [software]. 2013 Jan 14 [cited 2015 Feb 14]. Available from: <https://linguistics.ucla.edu/people/hayes/otsoft/>.

Golda TG, Hough PD, Gay G. APPSPACK (Asynchronous Parallel Pattern Search). Version 5.0.1 [software]. Sandia National Laboratories. 2007 Feb 16 [cited 2016 Apr 4; downloaded 2010 Jan 5]. Available from: <https://dakota.sandia.gov/packages/hopspack>