

CSE/CBE Style: In-text Citations (Name-Year System) from UNC Library's Guide to Citation, Summer 2010

CSE/CBE Style is used by biologists, chemists and other scientists when writing scientific papers to show the sources of information used by the author in the text and in the Bibliography at the end of the paper. In the Name-Year system, citations are provided in the main text through parenthetical citations.

Rule: Citations precede the final punctuation of the sentence that contains the reference. The basic elements of the in-text citation are the author's last name and the year of publication of the work. A space separates the name and the year.

Example: The discussion of this phenomenon still influences scientists today (Einstein 1931).

Rule: If the last name of the author or authors appears in the sentence, only the year of publication need be included in parentheses.

Example: Einstein provides a lengthy description of this phenomenon (1931).

Rule: If a work has two authors, provide the names of both authors separated by the word "and."

Example: Evidence of this phenomenon has been demonstrated in agrarian regions in India (Singh and Sharma 2004).

Rule: If a work has three or more authors, provide the names of the first author followed by "et al."

Example: Logic systems displaying this behavior have been shown to allow adductive reasoning (Reyes-Cabello et al. 2005).

Rule: If your paper cites two works from the same year with authors who have the same last name, distinguish between the authors by providing the authors' initials in the citation. Note that no commas or periods are used, and that the initials are not separated by a space.

Example: (Wiles NM 2007) (Wiles RV 2007)

Rule: If your paper cites two or more works from the same author in the same year, distinguish the works by appending a lowercase letter to the year in your citation. The paper published earliest in the year should be labeled "a," the next "b," etc. The publication dates for the citations in the works-cited page should be modified in the same way.

Example: (Andrews 1960a) (Andrews 1960b)

Rule: If a work has a corporation or government body as an author, use the initials of the organization's name to create a shortened form of the name. If the organization's name has a familiar abbreviated form, that form may be used as the shortened version. In your works-cited page, precede the matching citation with the initials used to refer to that organization, enclosed in square brackets.

Example:

In-text citation:

(IOM 1975)

End reference:

[IOM] Institute of Medicine (US). 1975. Legalized abortion and the public health; report of a study by a committee of the Institute of Medicine. Washington (DC): National Academy of Sciences.

Rule: If a work does not have an identifiable author, use the work in an in-text citation by using the first word or first few words of the title, followed by an ellipsis, in place of the author's name. Use only as many words as are necessary to distinguish the cited work from other works you refer to.

Example: (Library... 2007)

Rule: If a work does not have an identifiable publication date, use a copyright date. Copyright dates are immediately preceded by the letter "c" to indicate their nature. If neither publication nor copyright date is available, use the date of last modification, revision, or update, enclosed in square brackets and preceded by the expression "mod," "rev," or "updated," as appropriate, and a space. If no date is available, use "[date unknown]" in place of the date. In each of these cases, the same notation should be used when expressing the date of the cited work on the works-cited page.

Examples:

(Allen c2000)

(Morris [mod 1999])

(Lederer [date unknown])

Rule: In the Name-Year system it is permissible to refer to multiple works in the same citation. For multiple works by different authors, order the references chronologically and separate them using semicolons, within a single set of parentheses. For multiple citations from the same author, include the name only once and list the years of publication chronologically, separated by commas.

Examples:

Multiple works by different authors:

(Mulder 1997; Scully 1999; Skinner 2000)

Multiple works by the same author:

(Krycek 1996, 1999)

CSE/CBE Style: Print Sources (Name-Year System)

Presented below are a number of examples of citations for print resources as they may appear in a works-cited page using the Name-Year system. The examples are meant to be illustrative and do not encompass every possible situation. If you have questions about citing particular types of sources or dealing with particular situations, you should consult *Scientific Style and Format* or contact a reference librarian.

Note that, in CSE style, titles of periodicals (newspapers, journals, magazines) are capitalized as they normally are; book titles and article titles have only the first word of the title (and of any subtitles), as well as proper nouns, capitalized.

Also note that, throughout CSE style, no commas are used to offset the author's last name from his or her initials, no space separates the first and middle initial, and periods do not, in general, follow initials.

Book ([view detail](#))

Mech LD. 1988. The Arctic wolf: Living with the pack. Stillwater (MN): Voyageur Press. 128 p.

Edited Book ([view detail](#))

Reaka-Kudla ML, Wilson DE, Wilson EO, editors. 1997. Biodiversity II: Understanding and protecting our biological resources. Washington (DC): Joseph Henry Press. 551 p.

Chapter in a Book ([view detail](#))

Allan SA. 2001. Ticks (Class Arachnida: Order Acarina). In: Samuel WM, Pybus MJ, Kocan AA, editors. Parasitic diseases of wild mammals. 2nd ed. Ames (IA): Iowa State University Press. p 72-106.

Article from a Scholarly Journal ([view detail](#))

Note that journal titles must be abbreviated in citations in CSE style. Rules for journal abbreviation are complex and the correct abbreviation is not always obvious; a list of journals and their abbreviations may be found at the [ISI Web of Science website](#). In addition, resources for journal abbreviations by discipline can be found in Scientific Style and Format in Appendix 29.1 (p. 569). In the example below, the abbreviated form of the journal title Biological Conservation is used.

Cox J, Engstrom RT. 2001. Influence of the spatial pattern of conserved lands on the persistence of a large population of red-cockaded woodpeckers. Biol Conserv. 100(1): 137-150.

Article from a Magazine ([view detail](#))

If an abbreviation is available for a magazine title, it should be used.

Losos JB. 2001 Mar. Evolution: A lizard's tale. Sci Am. 284(3): 64-69.

Article from a Newspaper ([view detail](#))

Yoon CK. 2000 Dec 26. DNA clues improve outlook for red wolf. New York Times. Sect. F:10 (col. 1).