Quick & Dirty APA 6th ed. Style for References

Note: The person grading your paper/project/thesis/dissertation has the final say on whether or not your entry follows correct APA 6th style; see also final note. This handout was modified for ERHS 220/320 is heavily based on Naomi Lederer’s found at: http://lib.colostate.edu/research/design/APA6thexamples.pdf

(Note: lines are double spaced in APA [see page 229 and examples pp. 41-59]—single here and in APA book)

References within the paper are cited with an “(author, date)” citation system (see rules 6.11-6.21 for specifics). Quotes that are longer than 40 words are freestanding, left indented, and without quotation marks (rule 6.03). Note citation in text for items from the same author(s), (multiple authors see rule 6.12). Also note subsequent entries for long corporate author names (see 6.13). See Table 6.1 on p. 177 for basic citation styles nicely charted out for how much to include for first and subsequent citations in text, depending upon the number and type of author(s).

According to Bernstein, Song, and Zheng (2008) when it comes to selling there is a difference between customers who enter the store and those who shop online. Bernstein et al. (2008) give an overview of how the internet has given traditional retailers another outlet for selling. Other writers (Feitelberg & Queen 2005; Hay, 2004) discuss various aspects of retail and fashion. Do you like very brief articles with a few words? There are examples of these (Chezzi, 2004a, 2004b, 2005) that you can read to understand what I mean. Did you see what the average median household income (U.S. Census Bureau, 2007) was for the state of Colorado? Throw that in with large corporations trying to score points for virtue, and you’ve got a situation ripe for sales and promotion (Gap Inc., n.d.a, n.d.b).

*Note: Only use “n.d.” when you cannot identify the “website/webpage updated” date at the bottom of the page or on the home page.

If you want to cite a specific page or section of a source, indicate the page or chapter as shown in rule 6.19 (American Psychological Association [APA], 2009, p. 179). If you have an electronic document with specific paragraphs you would want to indicate which paragraph; there is a way to do this; examples are shown in the style book in section 6.05 (APA, 2009, pp. 171-2).

Reference list citation examples in APA style:

**Book (see 7.02):**


**Journal article (volume number after italicized journal name is also italicized):**


**Magazine article:**


**Newspaper articles found directly from a Web site** need to include a URL after the from (see APA 7.01.11 pp. 200-1):


**Government source on the Web** (long URL may be split just after a slash [\/]):

Electronic Formats (APA 6th Style Continued)

APA 6th uses digital object identifiers (DOI) to identify articles (and books, when available, see 7.02). Not all sources (especially those published before 2000) have DOIs. Electronic items without DOIs need to include the URL of the journal (or book publisher), or the beginning of the URL in the citation after “Retrieved from.” Simply complete the APA style as if the printed version was used and then add Retrieved from and the URL (see 7.01.3 p. 199): Retrieved from http://www.journal.website.com

For example (there are three of these so the above (other page) in-paper citation style can show how to document the same author with articles in the same year and also if there is an article from another year as well):


The 6th edition of APA wants you to put the URL of the journal’s home page in your citation. (See 6.32, pp. 191-2 and 7.01.3 p. 199 and other places.)

Weekly newspaper with exact date—on Reference list, single author listed first before co-authored articles:


Title entry (no author)—Use the Title, date is placed after Title:

No volume listed in database, so no volume:

Interviews, lectures or personal communications cited - Please list them in the bibliography

Web Material

APA 6th does not appear to have a format for “regular” Web pages (see 7.11 for blogs, mailing lists, etc.). One possibility is: Last, F. or Publisher or Title of art (2010). Title of page. Retrieved from http://www.url

*Note: use author first, published second and title last

Yet http://www.apastyle.org/learn/faqs/web-page-no-author.aspx includes a retrieval date, even though p. 192 next to last bullet says “Do not include retrieval dates unless the source material may change over time (e.g., Wikis).” Use 7.05.40 as a framework for items retrieved from a commercial database. See also third from final bullet on p. 192.

Chapter or section of Web (Internet) document:

Company page, without a date—indicate no date with (n.d.). Check the bottom of the page or the home page for the, “last Updated” date. Use the corporate author:

Note: Reading through pages 180-192 and 198-215 of the 6th edition of the APA style book (*Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*) is strongly recommended to learn about formatting citations—it will make this quick & dirty guide a lot clearer. Information about the library’s print and electronic copies can be found at: http://libguides.colostate.edu/styleguides

If you are going to be using the manual extensively, it would be a useful book to add to your personal collection. See also http://www.apastyle.org/ for additional information on citation on APA’s Web site.