CITATION GUIDES AND STYLE MANUALS FOR GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

SUGGESTED CITATION IN DOCUMENT

Occasionally the publication itself will offer a suggested citation, usually on the front or back of the title page, or linked from a menu bar in a Web page. When available, this is by far the quickest easiest way to obtain a citation, but some adjustments may be necessary to make the citation match the requirements of your style manual.

QUICK CITATION GUIDES

Several libraries have provided selected examples of citations for several types of government information. These examples can be used as models for constructing your own citation.

Basic Citation Form for Government Publications (UCLA – Asian American Studies Center)
http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/aascpress/nexusguidelinescitinggovpublications.pdf

Concise list of sample citations in Garner/Smith style for the most commonly used types of Congressional publications. Doesn’t indicate which edition they are using, and some samples are in Chicago style.

Guide: Citing U.S. Government Publications (Indiana University – Bloomington)
https://libraries.indiana.edu/guide-citing-us-government-publications

Extensive list of sample citations in Garner/Smith style, but uses the 1993 edition.

Cite Source (Trinity College Library)
http://citesource.trincoll.edu/

Provides sample citations for a variety of formats in APA, MLA, Chicago, and other selected styles

APA Citation Style, 6th edition: Government Publication (The George Washington University, Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library)
http://libguides.gwumc.edu/c.php?g=27779&p=170369

Provides sample citations, usually to Canadian government publications, in APA format.

Chicago-Style Citation Quick Guide for Government Documents (Bowdoin College Library)

Provides sample footnotes and bibliographic citations in Chicago style. The examples are based on the 15th edition of the Chicago Manual of Style, since the 16th edition doesn’t have as detailed instructions for citing government publications.

How to Cite US Government Documents in MLA, APA Citation Style (Cornell University Libraries)
http://guides.library.cornell.edu/c.php?g=134360&p=880403
Provides sample citations, mostly for legal and congressional materials, in APA and MLA styles. When the specific case is not addressed by the pertinent style manual, they provide suggested examples based on THE BLUEBOOK guidelines adapted to MLA or APA style.

“Basic Legal Citation,” by Peter Martin (Cornell University Library)
https://www.law.cornell.edu/citation/

Provides sample citations of legal materials in Bluebook and related styles. Based on a thorough review of the actual citation practices of judges and lawyers, the relevant rules of appellate practice of federal and state courts, and the latest edition of The Bluebook. Includes cross-references to The Bluebook, the ALWD Citation Manual, and state-specific manuals.

CITATION GENERATORS

Obtain a citation by specifying the style desired and entering a title or filling in a blank form. These can be great time-savers, but think of the results as a “rough draft” of your citation. They are only as reliable as the information entered into the record. Be sure to check each citation for typos and other errors, and check for missing elements, such as a series number. Also note that some of these generators only provide a citation in bibliography format, not in footnote format. Consult a reference for how to convert bibliographic entry to a footnote, endnote, or inline citation.

STANDALONE CITATION GENERATORS

These citation generators are available for free on the Internet.

DocsCite (ASU Libraries)
https://www.asu.edu/lib/hayden/govdocs/docscite/docscite.htm

Focuses on government publications, but provides fill-in form option only, is limited to two styles (APA and MLA), and uses outdated versions of both those styles.

Son of Citation Machine (Imagine Easy Solutions)
http://www.citationmachine.net/

Automatically generates citations in thousands of styles. Other online citation generators that appear to be using the same software as Son of Citation Machine include EasyBib and bibme.

ONLINE CATALOGS

Many online catalogs will create citations based on the information in the bibliographic record. These tend to be more successful with monographs, and not very useful for citing periodicals and legal materials.

Catalog of U.S. Government Publications
http://catalog.gpo.gov

Finding tool for U.S. federal government documents. Includes links to online documents and locates depository libraries that have each item.

WorldCat
http://www.worldcat.org/
Select Cite/Export from the bibliographic record to generate a citation in APA, MLA, Chicago, Turabian, or Bluebook (which they call Harvard) styles; export results to a bibliographic management program such as RefWorks, EndNote, or EasyBib. Not as useful with periodical articles or legal materials.

UNT Library Catalog
http://iii.library.unt.edu/search/

Select “Cite This” from the left menu bar of the catalog record to generate citations in APA, MLA, Chicago, Turabian, and Bluebook (which they call “Harvard”) styles. Select “Add to RefWorks” to generate a citation and add it to the RefWorks bibliographic management program.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

Bibliographic Management Programs such as RefWorks, Zotero, EndNote, and EasyBib can generate a citation and import it into a bibliography.

COMMERCIAL DATABASES WITH CITATION SERVICES

Some commercial databases that contain government information will generate citations on the fly for the articles or other information being currently viewed.


ProQuest Congressional: How to Cite
http://congressional.proquest.com/help/congressional/gh_howtocite.html

CQ Press Library: How to Cite

How to Cite CQ Researcher

How to Cite CQ Magazine (formerly CQ Weekly)

NewsBank: How to Cite an Article
http://newsbank.com/videos/learning-center/how-cite-article

STYLE MANUALS

GENERAL

http://www.apastyle.org/manual/

Used in social sciences.

https://www.mla.org/Publications/Bookstore/Nonseries/MLA-Style-Manual-and-Guide-to-
**Scholarly-Publishing-Third-Edition**

https://style.mla.org/

Used in liberal arts and humanities.

**Chicago:**

http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html

Notes-Bibliography System (NB) is used for government publications. Website includes 15th and 16th editions.

http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html

Chicago style simplified for students and researchers.

**U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS**


The standard guide for citing government publications. Format is based on ANSI standards, which may need to be adapted to the requirements of a different style manual.

The 2nd edition is summarized online at “Citing U.S. Government Publications” (University of Indiana – Bloomington) https://libraries.indiana.edu/guide-citing-us-government-publications

*Apsa Style manual for Political Science* (2006)

Based on Chicago style, adapted for manuscripts submitted to *American Political Science Review* (APSR).


Suggested citations for data obtained from the Census Bureau database, including tables generated on the fly.

**FOREIGN AND INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS**

Frequently-Cited Treaties and Other International Instruments (University of Minnesota Law School) http://libguides.law.umn.edu/c.php?g=125786&p=823459

As an aid to law review citation-checking, this guide provides a list of treaties frequently cited in law review articles, along with available sources of hard copy.


Concise instructions, list of resources, and sample citations of UN documents from the staff at the Dag Hammarskjöld Library.

**United Nations Editorial Manual Online**
http://dd.dgacm.org/editorialmanual/

Official style manual for drafting UN documents. Includes information on how to cite UN documents, but format may need to be adapted to a different style manual.

**Best Guide to Canadian Legal Research: Legal Citation**
http://legalresearch.org/writing-analysis/legal-citation/

General rules for citing Canadian legal documents according to the 8th edition of the Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation (the McGill Guide).

**Citing Documents in the National Archives (TNA—United Kingdom)**

Information on how to cite items from the National Archives of the United Kingdom.

**LEGAL MATERIALS**

*The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation*, 20th ed. (2015)
https://www.legalbluebook.com/

Most commonly-used citation manual for law reviews and court documents. Summarized online in “*Basic Legal Citation,*” by Peter Martin (Cornell University Library)
https://www.law.cornell.edu/citation/

*ALWD Guide to Legal Citation*, 5th ed. (2015)
http://www.alwd.org/publications/citation-manual/

A consistent and flexible system of legal citation designed to be easy to use by students, teachers, practitioners, and judges.


Free, Creative Commons-dedicated implementation of The Bluebook’s Uniform System of Citation.

*Prince’s Bieber Dictionary of Legal Abbreviations* (6th ed.)

Formerly called *Bieber’s Dictionary of Legal Abbreviations*. Comprehensive list of Bluebook-style legal abbreviations. Useful for creating citations and for interpreting abbreviations in citations.

**MAPS**

Based mainly on Chicago style manual. Lists citation elements, provides several examples for paper and electronic maps, and defines key terms.

Summarized online in “Citing Maps” (Ohio Wesleyan University) [http://library.owu.edu/citing-maps.html](http://library.owu.edu/citing-maps.html)

These online guides provide examples in APA and MLA styles:

- **Citing Maps** (NCSU Libraries)
  [https://www.lib.ncsu.edu/maps/citingmaps.html](https://www.lib.ncsu.edu/maps/citingmaps.html)

- **Citation Quick Guides and Style Manuals: Citing Maps** (Western Washington University)

  This online guide provide examples in ACMLA style:
  **ACMLA recommended best practices in citation of cartographic materials** (Waterloo University)

- **How to Cite GIS Materials** (GIS Lounge)
  [https://www.gislounge.com/how-to-cite-gis-materials/](https://www.gislounge.com/how-to-cite-gis-materials/)

  This quick citation guide provides brief instructions and examples for citing maps, GIS data, and other geospatial materials.

**UNPUBLISHED MATERIALS**

- **Citing Records in the National Archives of the United States** (NARA)

  Guidelines for citing unpublished documents held by the National Archives and all its affiliates. For citations to published federal documents, they recommend the Garner/Smith manual (the 1984 edition!).

- **How to Cite Digitized Primary Sources** (Library of Congress)
  [http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/citing.html](http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/citing.html)


- **“Citing Historical Legislative Materials”** (American Memory—Library of Congress)
  [http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwcite.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwcite.html)

  Sample citations in Chicago and Bluebook style for several early American legislative works contained in the American Memory collection. Citations will work for the paper or electronic versions.

Bobby Griffith, June 2016
University of North Texas Libraries
bobby.griffith@unt.edu