AIP referencing

This information has been adapted from the AIP referencing guide.

Referencing guides are updated regularly in line with guidance from the institution on which the style is based. In order to make sure you are using the most up to date version of this guide, check the University Library’s referencing page for the latest version.

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Introduction

AIP referencing style is a numerical style designed by the American Institute of Physics. Within the AIP style, sources are cited in references at the end of the assignment, with a corresponding reference number placed in the text. Further details of AIP referencing can be found in the document Preparing Your Manuscript.

AIP is a much simpler style than Harvard and, with the exception of Websites, online sources should be cited the same as their print counterparts. For example, an electronic book would be referenced in the same way as a print book.

Some elements of the standard offer a choice of approaches and/or for some sources, the standard does not provide official guidance. The examples given in this tutorial are based on the University Library's interpretation of the Preparing Your Manuscript documentation.

It is essential that you use a consistent style in your own work.

Referencing in the AIP style is a two-part process:

- **A number in the text**: a numerical reference in the text, relating to a numbered reference in the reference list. The citation number should be placed directly after the reference and should be included inside the punctuation within a sentence.

- **Reference list**: a complete list of all the cited references, numbered sequentially and with full bibliographic details.

It is important to be consistent and accurate when citing references. The same set of rules should be followed every time you cite a reference.

Creating in-text citations and references

Why Reference Correctly?

In academic writing it is important to read around the subject to gather ideas, theories and facts about your assignment topic. It is not about making statements which are not backed up by evidence.

Referencing correctly is important for a number of reasons:

- It is evidence of the reading you have done when preparing for your assignment.
- It provides support for your own arguments.
- It allows you to show your understanding of the issues involved in your subject and your ability to critically apply that understanding.
- You avoid plagiarism by acknowledging the ideas, opinions and quotations that you have used in your own work.
- It provides sufficient information for someone to follow up your reference and chase the item.
Referencing is also known as citing; the two words can be used interchangeably.

Creating an in-text citation
Each time you introduce an idea, thought, or theory in your work that belongs to another person, a reference number should be given, enclosed in square brackets, e.g. [1], [2]. This number should refer to an entry in a reference list at the end of your piece of work, giving full details of the sources you have cited. See Creating a Reference List for more information.

The general rules for creating an in-text citation are:

- Numbers are added sequentially by the order they appear in the text.
- The number should be included inside the punctuation of the sentence.
- If you are using the same reference more than once, it will keep the same number all the way through your piece of work.

Examples

The photoelectric effect can be used to determine the value of Planck's constant [1].

"All elements heavier than lithium are created by fusion or neutron capture in stellar interiors" [2].


Quoting and Paraphrasing

A quotation is where you use the exact phrase or words of the original author. Indicate quotations by typing quotation marks around the exact words, phrase or sentence followed by the numerical marker in square brackets. A full reference should be included in your reference list at the end of your piece of work.

It is unusual for science students to quote significant amounts of material directly. You should read the literature - making notes in your own words and recording the source of the information - and then write, in your own words, a synthesis or summary of the material based on your understanding of the subject.

Try not to over rely on quotations, as this may show a lack of understanding of the information. You should summarise the key points you wish to make in your assignment in your own words.

Quoting a definition

According to the SI standard, "The second is the duration of 9 192 631 770 periods of the radiation corresponding to the transition between the two hyperfine levels of the ground state of the cesium 133 atom." [3].
Quoting an opinion
(With which you do not necessarily agree)

Eddington stated, "If the contraction theory were proposed to-day as a novel hypothesis, I do not think it would stand the slightest change of acceptance" [4].

Quoting a first-hand account

Morgan recalled the mapping of spiral arms by means of H II regions as "a jewel all the way. It was absolutely perfect." [5].

References


Creating a Reference List

The reference list comes after the main body of your work, starting on a new page. It must list all the sources you have cited in your assignment.

General rules for creating a reference list

- The references in the reference list provide the full citation for those works referenced by numerical markers within the text.
- References are listed by the number you have assigned the reference in the text.
- List up to four authors in the reference list. For items with more than four authors, list the name of the first author followed by ‘et al’.
- Each reference should end with a full stop.
- Certain materials, such as dictionaries and encyclopedias, may not have one person or persons as the main originator. These items can be referenced using the title first.
- Use abbreviations for titles of journals. You can use the Web of Science Journal Titles Abbreviations.
- When referencing a journal, the part number may be omitted if the volume has a continuous paging sequence.

Example reference list


Book with one author – Print or Online

In the reference list


Notes

- Only list the edition of the book if it is any edition other than the first.

- For more information about in-text citations, quotations, and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and references and click on the relevant section.

Book with two to four authors – Print or Online

In the reference list


or


or


Notes

- Only list the edition of the book if it is any edition other than the first.
For more information about in-text citations, quotations, and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and references.

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**Book with four or more authors – Print or Online**

In the reference list

[ ] INITIAL(S). Surname et al., *Title of book*, Edition (if not the first edition). (Publisher, Place of publication, Year of publication).


**Notes**

- Only list the edition of the book if it is any edition other than the first.
- For more information about in-text citations, quotations, and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and references.

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**Book - Chapter – Print or Online**

In the reference list

[ ] Author's INITIAL(S). Surname, in *Title of book*, edited by Editor's initial(s). Surname. Edition (if not the first edition). (Publisher, Place of publication, Year of publication), starting page number.


**Notes**

- Only list the edition of the book if it is any edition other than the first.
- For more information about in-text citations, quotations, and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and references.

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**Book – Edited – Print or Online**

In the reference list


Notes

- Only list the edition of the book if it is any edition other than the first.
- For more information about in-text citations, quotations, and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and references.

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Code

It’s important to acknowledge the source of code just like you would acknowledge the source of any work that is not your own. Referencing correctly will help to distinguish your work from others, give credit to the original author and allow anyone to identify the source.

See Referencing Code for guidance. You will need to adapt the guidance to your referencing style.

For more information about in-text citations, quotations, and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and references.

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Computer Programme

In the reference list

[ ] INITIAL(S). Surname, Title of software and version. Type of software (if needed) (Publisher, Place of Publication, Year).


Notes

- The author of an item may be a corporate author.
- For more information about in-text citations, quotations, and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and references.

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Conference Paper – Print or Online

In the reference list

[ ] INITIAL(S). Surname, Paper title. In: Title of conference including number of conference, location and date of conference (if appropriate), Ed. by INITIALS. Surname. (Publisher, Place of publication, Year of publication), starting page number (if available).

Notes

- For more information about in-text citations, quotations, and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and references.

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Conference Proceeding – Print or Online

In the reference list

[  ] Editor's INITIAL(S). Surname, (Ed.), Title of conference including number of conference, location and date of conference (if appropriate), (Publisher, Place of Publication, year of publication).


Notes

- For more information about in-text citations, quotations, and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and references.

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Dataset

In the reference list

[  ] INITIAL(s), Surname (Year dataset was made publically available). Title of dataset, Name of publisher/dataset holder and archive, Version (if needed), Dataset. DOI


Notes

- For more information about in-text citations, quotations, and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and references.

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Dictionary or Encyclopedia – Print or Online

In the reference list


Notes

- Certain types of material, such as dictionaries and encyclopedias, may not have one person or persons as the main originator. These items can be referenced by title first.
- Only list the edition of the book if it is any edition other than the first.
- For more information about in-text citations, quotations, and creating a reference list see *Creating in-text citations and references*.

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Images and Figures

This guidance is for citing and referencing images and figures that you are referring to in your work. If you have inserted an image or figure into your work please see the "Guidance for taught course students inserting images and figures into university work."

In the reference list

From an online collection/social media site, e.g. Flickr, Instagram, etc.

[ ] Artist/Creator INITIAL(S). Surname, *Title of image/figure* [description]. Name of site, Month Day Year of publication, (URL)

[32] N. Spence, *NGC 7027 or the “Jewel Bug” nebula* [online image], Flickr, September 26 2021, (https://www.flickr.com/photos/terraform-mars/51519480421/in/pool-35468155413@N01/)

From a museum/gallery (either viewed in person or online)

[ ] Artist/Creator INITIAL(S). Surname, *Title of image/figure* (Year) [description]. Name of museum/gallery, City, [If online] (URL)


From a journal

[ ] Artist/Creator INITIAL(S). Surname, *Title of image/figure* [description]. Title of Journal. Volume(Part), page (Year), [If online] (URL/DOI)

From a book/ebook

[ ] Artist/Creator INITIAL(S). Surname, Title of image/figure [description], in *Title of book* Author of book (if different to Artist/Creator) Initial(s) Surname (Publisher, Place of publication, Year of publication), Page number. [If online] (URL or DOI)


Notes

- In some cases you may need to use the screen name of the creator if their real name is not available, which may be the case with image sharing or social media websites.

- If a person or corporation cannot be identified as the artist/creator, omit the artist/creator and start the reference with the title.

- If a title cannot be identified, add a description with enough details to make a meaningful title and enclose in square brackets, e.g. [Quantum tunnel].

- Some online journal articles group multiple figures together as one downloadable image. If you are only referring to one of the figures within the image, make this clear by using the title of that particular figure in your citation/reference.

- Include a description of the image/figure, e.g. [poster], [photograph], [print], [diagram], [table], etc.

- If you are referencing an image or figure from a source other than those listed above, include the details of the source in the usual format for that item type after the details of the image.

- You don’t need to include a citation and reference for any images or figures that you have created yourself. Everything in your work is assumed to be your own work unless you state otherwise, i.e. by citing someone else’s work.

- For more information about in-text citations, quotations, and creating a reference list see [Creating in-text citations and references](#).

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Journal Article – Print or Online

In the reference list

[ ] INITIAL(S). Surname, Title of Journal. Volume(Part), Starting page (Year).


Lecture notes, lecture recordings, handouts and other unpublished teaching materials

Citing informal or unpublished materials, such as handouts, lecture recordings and lecture notes is not generally recommended. Instead you should look to cite a primary source (such as a textbook or journal article) which describes or summarises the idea you are referring to. You may wish to ask your lecturer for recommended reading.

Notes

- Use abbreviations for titles of journals.
- The part number may be omitted if the volume has a continuous paging sequence.
- Articles from arXiv, the open access electronic archive, has a well-defined citation format. The date is not necessary, the version number specifies which version of the paper has been accessed.
- arXiv articles may not have all publishing information available, omit as necessary.
- If an article has been accepted for publication, use ‘(accepted)’ after the title of the journal.
- For more information about in-text citations, quotations, and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and references.

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Report – Print or Online

In the reference list

[ ] INITIAL(S). Surname, OR Organisation, Title of Report. (Publisher, Place of publication, Year of publication).


Notes

- For a report, follow the guidance for referencing a book.
- If the report was published by a learned society or organisation, e.g. CERN, include them as both the author and publisher in the reference.
- For more information about in-text citations, quotations, and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and references and click on the relevant section.

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Standards – Print or Online

In the reference list

[ ] Standard title, Standard number, Year.


Notes

- For more information about in-text citations, quotations, and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and references.

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Thesis and Dissertation – Print or Online

In the reference list

Author's initial(s). Surname, Title, Type and level of award. (Awarding body, Place of awarding body, Year).


Notes

- For more information about in-text citations, quotations, and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and references.

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Unpublished Handout and Discussion

Citing informal or unpublished materials, such as handouts and lecture notes is not recommended. Instead you should look to cite a primary source (such as a textbook, journal article or pre-print) which describes or summarises the idea you are referring to. You may wish to ask your lecturer for recommended reading.

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Web Page

Whilst there is a lot of useful information online, the information you may find through search engines is not necessarily reliable, up to date or accurate. It's best to stick to sources of information that have been fact-checked such as peer-reviewed journals and books from reputable publishers. With the exception of ‘professional’ websites such as pre-print databases (e.g. arXiv) and official web pages of scientific collaborations or organisations such as the ATLAS Experiment website, you should think very carefully before using web pages as source material for academic assignments.

In the reference list

[ ] INITIAL(S). Surname, Title of Web page, WWW document, (URL).


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Notes

- There may be a corporate author of a website, rather than a person.
- For more information about in-text citations, quotations, and creating a reference list see [Creating in-text citations and references](#).

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Summary
You have reached the end of this resource.

Why not look at some of our other Research Skills and Critical Thinking resources?

Book onto a workshop or take an online tutorial: Research Skills and Critical Thinking workshops and online tutorials.

Visit our FAQs: Library FAQs

Get in touch: library@sheffield.ac.uk

Full URLs
AIP referencing guide: https://librarydevelopment.group.shef.ac.uk/referencing/aip.html

University Library’s referencing page: https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/library/study/research-skills/referencing

Preparing Your Manuscript: https://aip.scitation.org/adv/authors/manuscript

The Web of Science Journal Titles Abbreviations: https://images.webofknowledge.com/images/help/WOS/J_abrvjt.html

Referencing Code: https://librarydevelopment.group.shef.ac.uk/Assets/pdfs/referencing/referencing-code.pdf

Guidance for taught course students inserting images and figures into university work: https://xerte.shef.ac.uk/play.php?template_id=836

Research Skills and Critical Thinking workshops and online tutorials: https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/library/study/research-skills/index

Library FAQs: https://libraryhelp.shef.ac.uk/

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