Cell referencing

This information has been adapted from the Cell 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.

Contents

Cell referencing ................................................................................................................................................. 1

Contents .............................................................................................................................................................. 1

Introduction ....................................................................................................................................................... 2

Creating in-text citations and references ........................................................................................................ 2

Why reference correctly? .................................................................................................................................. 2

Creating an in-text citation ............................................................................................................................... 3

Quoting and Paraphrasing ............................................................................................................................... 4

Creating a reference list .................................................................................................................................... 4

Alphabetical list of items .................................................................................................................................. 5

Audio Visual Media ........................................................................................................................................... 5

Book with one author ........................................................................................................................................ 6

Book with two or more authors ........................................................................................................................ 7

Book - Chapter .................................................................................................................................................. 8

Book – Edited .................................................................................................................................................... 9

Code ................................................................................................................................................................. 9

Conference Paper .......................................................................................................................................... 10

Conference Proceeding ................................................................................................................................. 10

Dataset ............................................................................................................................................................ 11

Dictionary and Encyclopedia .......................................................................................................................... 12

Journal Article – In Press ............................................................................................................................... 12

Journal Article – Preprint ............................................................................................................................... 13

Journal Article – Published ........................................................................................................................... 14

Lecture notes, lecture recordings, handouts and other unpublished teaching materials ......................... 16

Report ............................................................................................................................................................. 16

Thesis and Dissertation ................................................................................................................................. 17

Web Page .......................................................................................................................................................... 17

Summary .......................................................................................................................................................... 19
Introduction

Cell referencing is an author/date style of referencing designed for the journal Cell. This tutorial details the Cell style of referencing based on the advice given by Cell Publications Information for Authors.

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 Cell Publications Information for Authors documentation.

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

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

- **Citation in the text:** this is the brief indication of the source within the text of your work immediately following the use of the material whether quoted or paraphrased.

- **Reference list:** a complete list of all the cited references used in your work with full bibliographic details to allow the reader to follow up these references and find the original text.

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.

[Back to Contents]
Creating an in-text citation

Each time you introduce an idea, thought, or theory in your work that belongs to another person, you should cite the author of the original work and the date of publication.

One author or creator

**Author Surname (Year) or (Author Surname, Year)**

e.g.:

Smith (1987) found that wide variations in temperature reduced egg viability.

Wide fluctuations in temperature reduce egg viability (Smith, 1987).

Two authors or creators

**Author Surname and Author Surname (Year) or (Author Surname and Author Surname, Year)**

e.g.:

Johanssen and Rowe (1999) altered larval perceptions by introducing a light regime.

Larval perceptions were altered by introducing a light regime (Johannsen and Rowe, 1999).

Three or more authors or creators

**First Author Surname et al. (Year) or (First Author Surname et al., Year)**

e.g.:

Kingsolver et al. (2001) concluded that more than 80% of estimates were morphological traits.

It was found that more than 80% of estimates were morphological traits (Kingsolver et al., 2001).

- When an author has published more than one cited document in the same year, these will be distinguished by adding a lower case letters after the year within the brackets, e.g. Smith (1987a), Smith (1987b).

- If more than one citation is referred to within a sentence, list them all in the following form by date and then alphabetically, e.g. The behaviour is generally considered to be a display of male quality (Fredenholm, 1978; Agassiz and Moore, 1980; Summers, 1991).

- This system **does not** use ‘ibid’ (in the same place) or ‘op cit’ (in the work previously cited).

[Back to Contents](#)
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 author's surname, year of publication and the page number of the quote in brackets. A full reference should be given in your reference list at the end.

It is unusual for science students to quote significant amounts of materials directly. You should read the literature - making notes in your own words and recording the sources of information - and then write, in your own words, a synthesis of the material based on your understanding of the subject. Longer quotations should only be used to emphasise key points in their original context.

Short quotations, up to two lines in length, can be included in the body of the text:

   Kingsolver et al. (2001, p.254) found that, "selection via survival tends to be weaker than selection via fecundity or mating success". Similar studies also suggest that...

Longer quotations should be indented in a separate paragraph:

   "Linkage analysis can reveal the chromosomal location of the genes of interest by identifying polymorphic genetic markers of known location that are coinherited with the disease in families."

   (Hall et al. 1990, p.1684)

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.

Creating a reference list

The reference list must list all of the sources you have cited in your assignment that have been published or are in press.

If you have referred to any unpublished data, submitted manuscripts, abstracts, or personal communications in your work, these should be cited within the text only and not included in your reference list.

If you are not citing specific information or a specific page from a website you do not need to create an in-text citation or reference for it. When mentioning a website within your text, provide the name of the website followed by the URL in parentheses, e.g.

   The BLAT Search Genome (https://genome.ucsc.edu/cgi-bin/hgBlat) was used to find similar sequences...

Include up to ten authors for an item in the reference list. If there are more than ten, list the first ten authors followed by "et al".

Back to Contents
For an edited book, place the editor's names in the author position and put ed. or eds. after the last editor's name.

The author may be a corporate body or organisation. Spell out the full name of a corporate author rather than using an acronym or abbreviation.

The reference list gives the full citations for those works cited briefly within your text. For journal articles and book chapters, you must provide the page numbers for the full page range.

All of the references must be listed in alphabetical order by author's surname, and then by date (most recent first) if there is more than one reference for the same author. If more than one item by the same author has been published during a specific year they should be listed by letter, e.g. (2013a, 2013b).

Whenever possible, details should be taken from the title page of a publication and not from the front cover, which may be different.

Back to Contents

Alphabetical list of items

Audio Visual Media

In the text

For an in-text citation in your work, you would cite the reference as follows:

Attenborough (2009)...
...(Attenborough, 2009)

In the bibliography/reference list

Presenter or Director's Surname, Initial(s). (Year). Title [Format]. (Place of publication: Publisher/Distributor/Broadcaster).


Notes

- The Presenter or Director is the name of the person who has overall responsibility for the production, such as the director of a film; narrator of an audio file; conductor of music, etc. If the work is a collaboration between many individuals and no one clear person can be attributed, then start the reference with the title of the work.

- The Year is the year that the film was released, broadcast was shown, etc.

- The Title should be given in italics, with the first word capitalised.

- Give the Format of the audio visual work in square brackets, such as [CD], [DVD], [TV], etc.
• Give the place of recording and the name of either the publisher, distributor or broadcaster as appropriate.

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.

Back to Contents

Book with one author

In the text

For an in-text citation in your work, you would cite the reference as follows:

Allison (2012)...
...(Allison, 2012)

In the bibliography/reference list

Author Surname, Initial(s). (Year). Title of publication, Edition or Series Statement (Place of publication: Publisher).


Notes

• Electronic books are referenced in the same way as print books, it is not necessary to include a URL.

• An Author may be a corporate body or organisation and, if so, the name of the corporate body or organisation should be written out in full.

• Put the Year of publication in brackets, using the date of copyright rather than a reprint date. If no date is given use (n.d.) for "no date". If the date can only be estimated, add a small "c" for "circa" before the date, e.g. (c1995).

• Only include the Edition if it is any edition other than the first.

• The Series Statement is included if the work is part of a series.

• The Place of publication is the town/city of publication rather than the country. If the book has more than one place of publication, only include the first one.

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.

Back to Contents
Book with two or more authors

Book with two authors

In the text

For an in-text citation in your work, you would cite the reference as follows:

Rosenberg and Rosenberg (2012)...
...(Rosenberg and Rosenberg, 2012)

In the bibliography/reference list

Author Surname, Initial(s), and Author Surname, Initial(s). (Year). Title of publication, Edition or Series Statement (Place of publication: Publisher).


Book with three or more authors

In the text

Author Surname, Initial(s), Author Surname, Initial(s), and Author Surname, Initial(s). (Year). Title of publication, Edition or Series Statement (Place of publication: Publisher).


Notes

• Electronic books are referenced in the same way as print books, it is not necessary to include a URL.

• Include both authors in an in-text citation for two authors, but for three or more authors only include the first author followed by "et al".

• Include up to ten authors for an item in the reference list. If there are eleven or more authors, include the first ten followed by "et al".

• An Author may be a corporate body or organisation and, if so, the name of the corporate body or organisation should be written out in full.

• Put the Year of publication in brackets, using the date of copyright rather than a reprint date. If no date is given use (n.d.) for "no date". If the date can only be estimated, add a small "c" for "circa" before the date, e.g. (c1995).

• Only include the Edition if it is any edition other than the first.

• The Series Statement is included if the work is part of a series.

• The Place of publication is the town/city of publication rather than the country. If the book has more than one place of publication, only include the first one.
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.

Back to Contents

Book - Chapter

In the text

For an in-text citation in your work, you would cite the reference as follows:

Allendorf and Ryman (2002)...
...(Allendorf and Ryman, 2002)

In the bibliography/reference list

Author(s) of chapter Surname, Initial(s). (Year). Title of chapter. In Title of book, Edition, Editor’s Initial(s). Surname, ed(s). (Place of publication: Publisher), page numbers.


Notes

• Electronic books are referenced in the same way as print books, it is not necessary to include a URL.

• Include both authors in an in-text citation for two authors, but for three or more authors only include the first author followed by "et al".

• Include up to ten authors for an item in the reference list. If there are eleven or more authors, include the first ten followed by "et al".

• An Author may be a corporate body or organisation and, if so, the name of the corporate body or organisation should be written out in full.

• Put the Year of publication in brackets, using the date of copyright rather than a reprint date. If no date is given use (n.d.) for "no date". If the date can only be estimated, add a small "c" for "circa" before the date, e.g. (c1995).

• Only include the Edition if it is any edition other than the first.

• The Series Statement is included if the work is part of a series.

• The Place of publication is the town/city of publication rather than the country. If the book has more than one place of publication, only include the first one.

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.

Back to Contents
Book – Edited

In the text

For an in-text citation in your work, you would cite the reference as follows:

Krebs and Davies (1997)...
...(Krebs and Davies, 1997)

In the bibliography/reference list

Editor's Surname, Initial(s), and Editor's Surname, Initial(s), ed or eds. (Year). Title of publication, Edition or Series Statement (Place of publication: Publisher).


Notes

• Electronic books are referenced in the same way as print books, it is not necessary to include a URL.

• Include both authors in an in-text citation for two authors, but for three or more authors only include the first author followed by "et al".

• Include up to ten authors for an item in the reference list. If there are eleven or more authors, include the first ten followed by "et al".

• An Author may be a corporate body or organisation and, if so, the name of the corporate body or organisation should be written out in full.

• Put the Year of publication in brackets, using the date of copyright rather than a reprint date. If no date is given use (n.d.) for "no date". If the date can only be estimated, add a small "c" for "circa" before the date, e.g. (c1995).

• Only include the Edition if it is any edition other than the first.

• The Series Statement is included if the work is part of a series.

• The Place of publication is the town/city of publication rather than the country. If the book has more than one place of publication, only include the first one.

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.

Back to Contents

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.
Conference Paper

In the text

For an in-text citation in your work, you would cite the reference as follows:

Ragan (2009)...
...(Ragan, 2009)

In the bibliography/reference list

Author Surname, Initial(s). (Year). Paper title. In Title of conference including number of the conference, if appropriate, location and date of conference, Editor(s) Initial(s). Surname, ed(s). (Place of publication: Publisher). pp. start page-end page.


Notes

- Electronic papers are referenced in the same way as print papers, it is not necessary to include a URL.
- Include both authors in an in-text citation for two authors, but for three or more authors only include the first author followed by "et al".
- Include up to ten authors for an item in the reference list. If there are eleven or more authors, include the first ten followed by "et al".

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.

Conference Proceeding

In the text

For an in-text citation in your work, you would cite the reference as follows:

Feret and Koeppl (2017)...
...(Feret and Koeppl, 2017)

In the bibliography/reference list

Editor's Surname, Initial(s). (Year). Title of conference including number of the conference, if appropriate, location and date of conference. (Place of publication: Publisher).
Dictionary and Encyclopedia

In the text

For an in-text citation in your work, you would cite the reference as follows:

Lackie (2013)...
...(Lackie, 2013)

In the bibliography/reference list

Author/Editor Surname, Initial(s). (Year). Title, Edition or Series Statement (Place of publication: Publisher).


If there is no apparent Author/Editor

Title (Year). Edition or Series Statement (Place of publication: Publisher).


Notes

• Certain types of material, such as dictionaries or encyclopedias, may not have one person or persons as the main originator. These can be referenced by title first.

• Electronic dictionaries and encyclopedias are referenced in the same way as print ones, it is not necessary to include a URL.

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.

Back to Contents

Journal Article – In Press

References should include only articles that are published or in press. For references to in press articles, please confirm with the cited journal that the article is in fact accepted and in press, and include a DOI number and scheduled online publication date. (Information for authors, Cell, 2020)

In the text

For an in-text citation in your work, you would cite the reference as follows:

Linghu et al. (2020)...
...(Linghu et al., 2020)

In the bibliography/reference list

Author(s) Surname, Initial(s). (Year). Title of the article. Title of the Journal, DOI

Notes

- For articles with up to ten authors, include all the authors’ names in the reference.
- For articles with eleven or more authors, include the first ten authors’ names in the reference followed by "et al.".
- Give the full title of the article with only the first word and any proper nouns capitalised.
- Only use an abbreviation for the title of the journal if your department recommends that you do so. Capitalise each significant word.
- A DOI refers to a Digital Object Identifier. It provides a stable, persistent link to the source you are referring to and can usually be found on the first page of the source. It begins with a prefix of either "https://doi.org/", “http://dx.doi.org/”, “doi:” or “DOI:“ followed by an alphanumeric string starting with the number 10, e.g. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2007.11.037
- Whereas web addresses (URLs) may change and links become broken, DOIs will always stay the same and will enable the reader to easily access an article that you have referenced. Never end the link with a full stop as this will prevent the link from working.
- If a DOI isn't available, you can use the web address (URL) instead.

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.

Notes

- For articles with up to ten authors, include all the authors' names in the reference.
- For articles with eleven or more authors, include the first ten authors' names in the reference followed by "et al."
- Give the full title of the article with only the first word and any proper nouns capitalised.
- Only use an abbreviation for the title of the journal if your department recommends that you do so. Capitalise each significant word.
- A DOI refers to a Digital Object Identifier. It provides a stable, persistent link to the source you are referring to and can usually be found on the first page of the source. It begins with a prefix of either "https://doi.org/", "http://dx.doi.org/", "doi:" or "DOI:" followed by an alphanumeric string starting with the number 10, e.g. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2007.11.037
- Whereas web addresses (URLs) may change and links become broken, DOIs will always stay the same and will enable the reader to easily access an article that you have referenced. Never end the link with a full stop as this will prevent the link from working.
- If a DOI isn't available, you can use the web address (URL) instead.

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.

Back to Contents

Journal Article – Published

Article with one author

In the text

For an in-text citation in your work, you would cite the reference as follows:

    White (2020)...
    ...(White, 2020)

In the bibliography/reference list

Author Surname, Initial(s). (Year). Title of the article. Title of the Journal Volume, page numbers.

Article with two authors

In the text

For an in-text citation in your work, you would cite the reference as follows:

Vijg and Dong (2020)...
...(Vijg and Dong, 2020)

In the bibliography/reference list

Author Surname, Initial(s)., and Author Surname, Initial(s). (Year). Title of the article. Title of the Journal Volume, page numbers.


Article with three to ten authors

In the text

For an in-text citation in your work, you would cite the reference as follows:

Harvey et al. (2020)...
...(Harvey et al., 2020)

In the bibliography/reference list

Author Surname, Initial(s)., Author Surname, Initial(s)., Author Surname, Initial(s)., Author Surname, Initial(s)., Author Surname, Initial(s)., Author Surname, Initial(s)., Author Surname, Initial(s)., Author Surname, Initial(s)., Author Surname, Initial(s)., and Author Surname, Initial(s). (Year). Title of the article. Title of the Journal Volume, page numbers.


Article with eleven or more authors

In the text

For an in-text citation in your work, you would cite the reference as follows:

Anava et al. (2020)...
...(Anava et al., 2020)

In the bibliography/reference list

Author Surname, Initial(s)., Author Surname, Initial(s)., Author Surname, Initial(s)., Author Surname, Initial(s)., Author Surname, Initial(s)., Author Surname, Initial(s)., Author Surname, Initial(s)., Author Surname, Initial(s)., Author Surname, Initial(s)., and Author Surname, Initial(s)., et al. (Year). Title of the article. Title of the Journal Volume, page numbers.

Notes

- Published electronic journal articles are referenced in the same way as print journal articles, a URL or DOI is not necessary unless you are referencing an in press article (see Journal Article - In Press) or an article preprint (see Journal Article - Preprint).
- For articles with up to ten authors, include all the authors’ names in the reference.
- For articles with eleven or more authors, include the first ten authors’ names in the reference followed by "et al.".
- Give the full title of the article with only the first word and any proper nouns capitalised.
- Only use an abbreviation for the title of the journal if your department recommends that you do so. Capitalise each significant word.
- The volume number of the journal must be included, but the part number may be omitted if the volume has a continuous paging sequence.
- Include the first and last page numbers of the full span of the article.

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.

Back to Contents

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.

Report

In the text

For an in-text citation in your work, you would cite the reference as follows:

    World Health Organisation (2020)...
    ...(World Health Organisation, 2020)

In the bibliography/reference list

    Author’s Surname, Initial(s). OR Corporate Author. (Year). Title of report, Report number (if available) (Place of publication: Publisher). <URL>

Notes

- An author may be a corporate body or organisation and, if so, the name of the corporate body or organisation should be written out in full.
- The URL should be given exactly as it appears in the address bar of your internet browser. The URL should be given inside angled brackets, e.g. <URL>.

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.

Thesis and Dissertation

In the text

For an in-text citation in your work, you would cite the reference as follows:

Jajesniak (2019)...
...(Jajesniak, 2019)

In the bibliography/reference list

**Author’s Surname, Initial(s). (Year). Title of thesis/dissertation. (Type and level of award, Awarding body).**


Notes

- Electronic theses and dissertations are referenced in the same way as print ones, it is not necessary to include a URL.
- The first word of the Title should be capitalised.
- Include the Type and level of award, e.g. PhD Thesis, MSc Dissertation, and the name of the awarding body, e.g. University of Sheffield, in brackets.

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.

Web Page

Generally speaking, you should only cite web sites that are recognised by the scientific community such as genome browsers, online analytical tools, etc. Wikipedia is almost never an acceptable or reliable source of information.
In the text

For an in-text citation in your work, you would cite the reference as follows:

National Human Genome Research Institute (2020)...
...(National Human Genome Research Institute, 2020)

In the bibliography/reference list

Author or Editor's Surname, Initial(s) OR Organisation. (Year). Title. <URL>. Date accessed.


Notes

- Often information is put on the internet by organisations without citing a specific Author. In such cases, ascribe authorship to the smallest identifiable organisational unit (this is similar to the standard method citing works produced by a corporate body) or start with the title. The name of the corporate body or organisation should be written out in full. If you cannot discover who 'owns' the site ask yourself whether the information you are using is dependable enough to be included in your assignment.

- Include the Year of publication in brackets. Most web pages are updated on a regular basis. Date of publication is the date the pages were last updated. There is often a copyright statement at the bottom of the web page. If no publication date is given use (n.d.) for "no date". If you cannot discover how up-to-date the information is, ask yourself whether the information you are using is dependable enough to be included in your assignment.

- The Title should be given with the first word capitalised (as well as any proper nouns). Use the title of the specific page you are citing.

- The URL should be given exactly as it appears in the address bar of your internet browser. The URL should be given inside angled brackets, e.g. <URL>.

- Give the Date when you viewed, downloaded or printed the web page. This statement is necessary to allow for any subsequent changes which may be made to the page or if the page is no longer available. Remember, information on the web is transient and web page addresses may change.

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.

Back to Contents
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

Back to Contents

Full URLs

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

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

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

Cell Publications Information for Authors: https://www.cell.com/cell/authors#prep

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

Back to Contents

Last reviewed: January 2021
Review due: Summer 2021

Except otherwise noted, this work by The University of Sheffield Library is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercialShareAlike 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/.