IEEE referencing

This information has been adapted from the IEEE 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

IEEE referencing style is a numerical style designed by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. It is used in technical fields. Within the IEEE style, sources are cited in references at the end of the assignment, with a corresponding reference number placed in the text.

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 IEEE Reference Guide.

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

Referencing in the IEEE 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.

Creating in text citations and references

Creating an in-text citation

In-text citations

Each time you introduce in your work an idea, thought or theory that belongs to another person, a reference number should be added and enclosed in square brackets, e.g. [1], [2].

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

- Numbers are added sequentially.
- The reference number should be included inside the punctuation within a sentence.
- If you are using the same reference more than once, it will keep the same number all the way through, e.g. Burton [3] will be [3] all the way through your work. If a new page number or other information is acknowledged, add this after the reference number within the square brackets, e.g. [3, p.28].
- Use "et al." when three or more names are given for a reference cited in the text, e.g. Demonstrated by Herron et al.

Examples:

- As shown by Edwards [2], Matthews and Smith [3]...
- For example, see [1], [3]–[5]...
- This problem was first noted in 2001 [4]...
• As argued in [6, pp.11–14]...

Referring to a specific figure, section/chapter or equation:
• As shown in [7, Fig. 3]...
• According to [6, Ch. 2]...
• As reported in [8, Sec. IV]...
• As demonstrated in [9, eq. (5)]...

Quotation
A quotation is where you use the exact phrase or words of the original author.

The IEEE Reference Guide does not give advice for direct quotations and using lots of quotations within your assignments is not encouraged. Paraphrasing can be used instead of inserting direct quotations into your work. If in doubt, check with your tutor or in your course handbook for further guidance. If you wish to include a direct quotation from a source within your work, the author and source must be acknowledged in the bibliography/reference list. Within the body of the assignment the quotation should be enclosed in quotation marks and the page number given, e.g. [5, p.2].

Paraphrasing
You can demonstrate that you understand the ideas and concepts within your reading by putting the information into your own words. This is called paraphrasing.

Please note, this does not mean just changing a word here or there, or even a sentence or two if the phrasing of the original is still evident. The paraphrase should clearly be a restatement of the meaning of the original text in your own words.

When paraphrasing you still need to acknowledge the source of the arguments and include page numbers if appropriate.

Secondary Referencing
This is when you reference one author who is referring to the work of another, and the primary source is not available.

Secondary referencing should be avoided if possible.

Creating a reference list
A reference list of items cited is located at the end of your work, starting on a new page.

The general rules for creating a list are:
• The citations in the reference list are numbered sequentially, i.e. 1–5, and not in alphabetical order.
• Reference numbers are listed on the left side of the page and form a column of their own. They are enclosed in square brackets.
• The name of the author(s) is abbreviated to the initial(s) only and precedes the surname(s).

• Use "and" in between two authors’ names or before the last if listing more than two.

• Put the names of all authors up to six names. If there are more than six names use "et al." (in italics) after the first author.

• Anonymous works should start with the title.

• Each reference should end with a full stop unless ending with a URL.

• A list of useful abbreviations to use in references (e.g. for journal titles and publishers) can be found in the IEEE Reference Guide.

• Abbreviations of IEEE Magazine Titles and Reference Abbreviations can be found in IEEE Magazine Title and Reference Abbreviations.

Citing and referencing foreign language materials

Citing material from non-roman script e.g. Cyrillic, East Asian languages

• If you are citing materials from non-roman script, you should transliterate the references to roman script. If you are unsure of the correct transliteration, you may want to consult with an expert of the language or an international standard to check.

For references in the reference list/bibliography

• The family name of the author should be written in full roman script. The initials of the author(s) should also be given in roman script.

• The title of the item (article/book/book chapter, etc.) should be given in roman script using the standard conventions for that language.

• The title should be translated into English and placed in square brackets immediately after the romanised title. The words in the square brackets should not use italics.

• The journal title, or title of a book (if it is an edited book), publisher’s name all need to be given in roman script, but do not need to be translated. If there is an official English translation, then you may use it especially in cases where it provides greater understanding of the subject or publication.

Example


Materials in roman script

• If you are citing materials produced in a language other than English, but in roman script, you may need place a translated title in square brackets after the original title, depending on who the intended audience for your work will be.

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App

In the bibliography/reference list


Notes

- No official guidance is available for referencing Apps from the *IEEE Reference Guide*.
- Put the Developer’s Name or Rightsholder in place of the author’s name and surname.
- The App’s name is in italics.
- For the "Available:" information put where the App can be viewed or purchased. This could be Google Play, the App Store or a URL if necessary.
- Each reference should end with a full stop unless ending with a URL.
- For more information about in-text citation and creating a reference list see *Creating in-text citations and reference list*.

Blog

In the bibliography/reference list


Notes

- No official guidance is available for referencing Blogs from the *IEEE Reference Guide*.
- If no personal author is given, you can use the name of the organisation, company or institution.
- Put the post title is within quotation marks, only the first letter of the first word should be capitalised.
- The blog's name is in italics, begin all significant words with a capital letter.
• For more information about in-text citation and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and reference list.

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Book with a single author

In the bibliography/reference list

[ ] INITIAL(S). Surname, Title, ed. (if not first edition) City of publisher, U.S. State if necessary, Country: Publisher, year.


Notes

• The name of the author is abbreviated to the initial(s) only and precedes the surname.

• Book title is in italics, begin all significant words with a capital letter.

• If necessary, add USA states and territories after the City of Publisher, these are abbreviated with no full stops.

• Publishers’ names can be abbreviated.

• The title of a book is followed by a full stop if there is no edition statement.

• For more information about in-text citation and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and reference list.

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Book with multiple authors

In the bibliography/reference list

[ ] INITIAL(S). Surname, Title, ed. (if not first edition) City of publisher, U.S. State if necessary, Country: Publisher, year.


Notes

• The names of the authors are abbreviated to the initials only and precede the surnames.

• Use "and" in between two authors’ names or before the last if listing more than two.
• Put the names of all authors up to six names. If there are more than six names use "et al." (in italics) after the first author.

• Book title is in italics, begin all significant words with a capital letter.

• The title of a book is followed by a full stop if there is no edition statement.

• If necessary, add USA states and territories after the City of Publisher, these are abbreviated with no full stops.

• Publishers’ names can be abbreviated.

• For more information about in-text citation and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and reference list.

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Book – Chapter

In the bibliography/reference list


Notes

• The name of the author(s) and editor(s) are abbreviated to the initial(s) only and precede the surname(s).

• Use "and" in between two authors/editors names or before the last if listing more than two.

• Put the names of all authors/editors up to six names. If there are more than six names use "et al." (in italics) after the first author.

• Chapter title is within quotation marks, only the first letter of the first word should be capitalised.

• Book title is in italics, begin all significant words with a capital letter.

• If a volume of a work is indicated, add this where an edition statement is required, e.g. vol. 2.

• The title of a book is followed by a full stop if there is no edition statement.

• If necessary, add USA states and territories after the City of Publisher, these are abbreviated with no full stops.

• Publishers’ names can be abbreviated.

• Use "p." for a single page and "pp." for a range of pages.
For more information about in-text citation and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and reference list.

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Book – Chapter/Section (in an electronic book)

In the bibliography/reference list


Notes

• The name of the author(s) and editor(s) are abbreviated to the initial(s) only and precede the surname(s).

• Use "and" in between two authors/editors names or before the last if listing more than two.

• Put the names of all authors/editors up to six names. If there are more than six names use "et al." (in italics) after the first author.

• Chapter title is within quotation marks, only the first letter of the first word should be capitalised.

• Book title is in italics, begin all significant words with a capital letter.

• The title of a book is followed by a full stop if there is no edition statement.

• Use "p." for a single page and "pp." for a range of pages.

• If necessary, add USA states and territories after the City of Publisher, these are abbreviated with no full stops.

• Publishers’ names can be abbreviated.

• Do not add a full stop to the end of the URL.

• For more information about in-text citation and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and reference list.

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Book – Edited

In the bibliography/reference list

[  ] INITIAL(S). Surname, Ed(s)., Title, ed. (if not first edition) City of publisher, U.S. State if necessary, Country: Publisher, year.

Notes

- The name of the editor(s) is abbreviated to the initial(s) only and precedes the surname(s).
- Editor(s) is abbreviated to "Ed(s)."
- Use "and" in between two editors’ names or before the last if listing more than two.
- Put the names of all editors up to six names. If there are more than six names use "et al." (in italics) after the first editor.
- Book title is in italics, begin all significant words with a capital letter.
- The title of a book is followed by a full stop if there is no edition statement.
- If necessary, add USA states and territories after the City of Publisher, these are abbreviated with no full stops.
- Publishers’ names can be abbreviated.
- For more information about in-text citation and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and reference list.

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Book – Electronic

In the bibliography/reference list


Notes

- The name of the author(s) is abbreviated to the initial(s) only and precedes the surname(s).
- Use "and" in between two authors’ names or before the last if listing more than two.
- Put the names of all authors up to six names. If there are more than six names use "et al." (in italics) after the first author.
- If an edited work include "Ed(s.)" after the author details.
- Book title is in italics, begin all significant words with a capital letter.
- The title of a book is followed by a full stop if there is no edition statement.
• If necessary, add USA states and territories after the City of Publisher, these are abbreviated with no full stops.

• Publishers’ names can be abbreviated.

• Do not add a full stop to the end of the URL.

• For more information about in-text citation and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and reference list.

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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.

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Conference Paper – Published

In print

In the bibliography/reference list

[ ] INITIAL(S). Surname, "Title of paper," in Abbrev. Name of Conf., location of conf. (if given), year (if not given in conf. name), pp. numbers.


Online

In the bibliography/reference list

[ ] INITIAL(S). Surname, "Title of paper," in Abbrev. Name of Conf., location of conf. (if given), year (if not given in conf. name), pp. numbers. [Online]. Available: URL or doi:


Notes

• The name of the author(s) and editor(s) are abbreviated to the initial(s) only and precede the surname(s).
• Use "and" in between two authors/editors names or before the last if listing more than two.

• Put the names of all authors/editors up to six names. If there are more than six names use "et al." (in italics) after the first author.

• Paper title is within quotation marks, only the first letter of the first word should be capitalised.

• Conference name is in italics, begin all significant words with a capital letter and omit most articles and prepositions like "of the" and "on". Abbreviations are used and standard abbreviations are given in the IEEE Reference Guide.

• All published conference proceedings have page numbers, use "p." for a single page and "pp." for a range of pages.

• Each reference should end with a full stop unless ending with a URL.

• For more information about in-text citation and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and reference list.

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Conference Paper – Unpublished

In person

In the bibliography/reference list

[ ] INITIAL(S). Surname, "Title of paper," presented at the Abbrev. Name of Conf., location of conf. (if given), year (if not given in conf. name).


Online

In the bibliography/reference list


Notes

- The name of the author(s) and editor(s) are abbreviated to the initial(s) only and precede the surname(s).
- Use "and" in between two authors/editors names or before the last if listing more than two.
- Put the names of all authors/editors up to six names. If there are more than six names use "et al." (in italics) after the first author.
- Paper title is within quotation marks, only the first letter of the first word should be capitalised.
- In conference name begin all significant words with a capital letter and omit most articles and prepositions like "of the" and "on". Abbreviations are used and standard abbreviations are given in the IEEE Reference Guide.
- Unpublished conference papers do not have page numbers.
- Each reference should end with a full stop unless ending with a URL.
- For more information about in-text citation and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and reference list.

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Dataset

[ ] INITIAL(S). Surname, "Title of dataset including edition or version number if given." Year. Repository or Archive Name. [Online]. doi:


Notes

- The essential components of a dataset reference are author names (individuals or organisation responsible for the creation of the data), title including the version number if given, the date published, publisher (or distributor) and electronic location (URL or doi).
- The name of the author(s) and editor(s) are abbreviated to the initial(s) only and precede the surname(s).
- Use "and" in between two authors/editors names or before the last if listing more than two.
- Put the names of all authors/editors up to six names. If there are more than six names use "et al." (in italics) after the first author.
• Include the date retrieved at the end of the reference if the title and URL/doi are not specific to the exact instance of the data you used, e.g. Accessed: June 12, 2019.

• Each reference should end with a full stop unless ending with a URL.

• For more information about in-text citation and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and reference list.

Dissertation/Thesis

In print

In the bibliography/reference list

[ ] INITIAL(S). Surname, "Dissertation/Thesis title," Type and level of Award, Abbrev. of Dept., Abbrev. of Univ., City, U.S. State if necessary, Country, Year.


Online

In the bibliography/reference list


Notes

• Title is within quotation marks, only the first letter of the first word should be capitalised.

• Examples of "Type and level of Award" are: "M.A. dissertation", "M.Sc. dissertation", "Ph.D. thesis".

• If necessary, add USA states and territories, these are abbreviated with no full stops. However, omit the name of the USA state if given in the title of the university.

• Abbreviations are used and common abbreviations are given in the IEEE Reference Guide.

• Do not add a full stop to the end of the URL.

• For more information about in-text citation and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and reference list.
Email

In the bibliography/reference list

[ ] INITIAL(S). Surname, private communication, Abbrev. Month, year.


Notes

• You should get the sender's permission to quote a private message.

• For more information about in-text citation and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and reference list.

Government Publications – Act of Parliament

Pre-1963 Act of Parliament

In the bibliography/reference list

[ ] Legislative Body, Title of Act and Year. Regnal Years Name of Monarch. [Medium]. Available: URL


Post-1963 Act of Parliament

In the bibliography/reference list

[ ] Legislative Body, Title of Act and Year. Chapter. [Medium]. Available: URL


Local Act of Parliament

In the bibliography/reference list

[ ] Legislative Body, Title of Act and Year. Chapter. [Medium]. Available: URL


Notes

• No official guidance available for UK Governmental publications.
• Legislation passed pre-1963 was numbered by regnal year of the monarch (number of years since the monarch's ascension).

• Legislation passed post-1963 are numbered by the year in which it received Royal Assent.

• Local Acts of Parliament are numbered using Roman numerals.

• For more information about in-text citation and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and reference list.

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Government Publications – Command Papers

In the bibliography/reference list

[ ] Author (Governmental Department at the time of publication), Title, Number. Abbrev. Month. Year. [Medium]. Available: URL


Notes

• No official guidance available for UK Governmental publications.

• The numbering of Command Papers is done by running numbers with a prefix which changes as the number gets close to 10,000. The prefixes are listed below:

  o 1869-1869 – 1 - 4222
  o 1870-1899 – C 1 - C 9550
  o 1900-1918 – Cd 1 - Cd 9239
  o 1919-1956 – Cmd 1 - Cmd 9889
  o 1956-1986 – Cmnd 1 - Cmnd 9927
  o 1986-present – Cm 1 -

• For more information about in-text citation and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and reference list.

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Government Publications – Government Statistics or Dataset

In the bibliography/reference list

[ ] INITIAL(S). Surname, "Title of dataset," Version or edition. Name of Website or Repository. Year. Available: URL or doi:


Notes

• No official guidance available for UK Governmental publications.
• Each reference should end with a full stop unless ending with a URL.
• For more information about in-text citation and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and reference list.

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Government Publications – Hansard

In the bibliography/reference list

[ ] Name of House, Name [Hansard], Series (if applicable), volume, number, column. Abbrev. Month. Day, Year. [Medium]. Available: URL


Notes

• No official guidance available for UK Government Publications
• If you are citing more than one column, use cc as the prefix
• If you are referencing older Hansards you will need to include the series, these are as follows:
  o 1st Series – Cobbett’s Parliamentary Debates: Vol.1 (1803) – Vol.22 (March/May 1812) continued by The Parliamentary Debates: Vol.23 (May/June 1812) to Vol.41 (February 1820). N.B. Some reissued sets were numbered Vol.1 – Vol.22 as The Parliamentary Debates.


- There are 6 different types of numbered columns in Hansard, the letters should appear after the column number as a suffix – these are as follows:
  - No letters – Discussions in the chamber
  - WH – Westminster Hall
  - WS – Written Statements
  - W – Written Answers
  - P – Petitions
  - C – Ministerial Corrections

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

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**Government Publications – House of Lords or House of Commons Papers**

In the bibliography/reference list


Notes

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

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Government Publications – Other Official Publications

In the bibliography/reference list

[ ] INITIAL(S). Surname, Title, Number (if applicable). Abbrev. Month. Year. [Medium]. Available: URL


Notes

- No official guidance available for UK Government Publications.
- For more information about in-text citation and creating a reference list see [Creating in-text citations and reference list](#).

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Government Publications – Parliamentary Bills, Amendments and Explanatory Notes, Votes and Proceedings

[ ] Government Department, Title Number (if available), parliamentary session. Abbrev of Month. Day, Year. [Medium]. Available: URL


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

Government Publications – Statutory Instruments

In the bibliography/reference list

[ ] Legislative body, Title of Statutory Instrument and Year, Number. [Medium]. Available: URL


Notes

• No official guidance available for UK Governmental publications.

• For more information about in-text citation and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and reference list.

Government Publications – US Government Documents

[ ] Legislative body. Number of Congress, Session. (Year, Month Day). Number of bill or resolution, Title. [Type of medium]. Available:


Notes

• For more information about in-text citation and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and reference list.

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 text

The board shown in the image by mashpriborintorg [35]...

The electrical engineer Sir David Lionel Goldsmid-Stern-Salomons [36]...

...results of the analysis by Fargnoli et al. [37, p.30]...

The summary shown in Hardy and Bryman’s table [38, p.19]...
In the bibliography/reference list

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


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


From a journal

[ ] Artist/Creator INITIAL(S). Surname, “Title of image/figure” [description], in “Title of journal article”, Abbrev. Title of Journal, volume, issue number, page number, Abbrev. Month Year. [If online] Available: URL or 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, City of publisher, U.S. State if necessary, Country: Publisher, Year, page number. [If online] Available: 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. [Organic solar cell].
• 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 citation and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and reference list.

Journal article – Electronic

In the bibliography/reference list


Notes

• The name of the author(s) is abbreviated to the initial(s) only and precedes the surname(s).

• Use "and" in between two authors’ names or before the last if listing more than two.

• Put the names of all authors up to six names. If there are more than six names use "et al." (in italics) after the first author.

• Article title is within quotation marks, only the first letter of the first word should be capitalised.

• Journal title is in italics, begin all significant words with a capital letter. Abbreviations are used and common abbreviations are given in the IEEE Reference Guide.
Abbreviations of IEEE Magazine Titles and Reference Abbreviations can be found in IEEE Magazine Title and Reference Abbreviations.

Use "p." for a single page and "pp." for a range of pages.

If you do not know the month of publication include the year only.

Each reference should end with a full stop unless ending with a URL.

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

Journal article – Preprint

In the bibliography/reference list

[ ] INITIAL(S). Surname, "Article title," Abbrev. of Journal Title., to be published. URL or doi:


Notes

The name of the author(s) is abbreviated to the initial(s) only and precedes the surname(s).

Use "and" in between two authors’ names or before the last if listing more than two.

Put the names of all authors up to six names. If there are more than six names use "et al." (in italics) after the first author.

Article title is within quotation marks, only the first letter of the first word should be capitalised.

Journal title is in italics, begin all significant words with a capital letter. Abbreviations are used and common abbreviations are given in the IEEE Reference Guide.

Abbreviations of IEEE Magazine Titles and Reference Abbreviations can be found in IEEE Magazine Title and Reference Abbreviations.

Each reference should end with a full stop unless ending with a URL.

For more information about in-text citation and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and reference list.
Journal article – Print

In the bibliography/reference list


Notes

- The name of the author(s) is abbreviated to the initial(s) only and precedes the surname(s).
- Use "and" in between two authors’ names or before the last if listing more than two.
- Put the names of all authors up to six names. If there are more than six names use "et al." (in italics) after the first author.
- Article title is within quotation marks, only the first letter of the first word should be capitalised.
- Journal title is in italics, begin all significant words with a capital letter. Abbreviations are used and common abbreviations are given in the IEEE Reference Guide.
- Abbreviations of IEEE Magazine Titles and Reference Abbreviations can be found in IEEE Magazine Title and Reference Abbreviations.
- If you do not know the month of publication include the year only.
- For more information about in-text citation and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and reference list.

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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.

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Magazine

Magazine articles can be referenced either as a Journal Article (Electronic or Print) or as a Newspaper Article depending on the publication information (such as volume and issue numbers) available.
In order to locate the publication information (such as volume and issue) you will need to look in the following places:

- The front of the magazine, near the barcode.
- The back of the magazine, near the barcode.
- The table of contents.
- The publication information, which is normally written in very small text, near the front or back of the magazine. This usually also contains contact details and copyright statements as well.

If you are unable to locate information, such as volume number, then you would reference the magazine article using guidance for Newspaper Article.

Newspaper Article

In print

In the bibliography/reference list

[ ] INITIAL(S). Surname, "Title of Article," in Title of Newspaper, Abbrev. Month. Day, Year, page numbers (if available)


Online

In the bibliography/reference list


Notes

- The name of the author(s) and editor(s) are abbreviated to the initial(s) only and precede the surname(s).
- Use "and" in between two authors/editors names or before the last if listing more than two.
- Put the names of all authors/editors up to six names. If there are more than six names use "et al." (in italics) after the first author.
- For more information about in-text citation and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and reference list.

Patents

In print

In the bibliography/reference list


Online

In the bibliography/reference list


Notes

- The name of the author(s) and editor(s) are abbreviated to the initial(s) only and precede the surname(s).
- Use "and" in between two authors/editors names or before the last if listing more than two.
- Put the names of all authors/editors up to six names. If there are more than six names use "et al." (in italics) after the first author.
- If several dates are given, use the "issued date".
Each reference should end with a full stop unless ending with a URL.

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

Podcasts

In the bibliography/reference list


Notes

• No official guidance is available for referencing podcasts in the IEEE Reference Guide.

• The name of the speaker(s) or presenter(s) are abbreviated to the initial(s) only and precede the surname(s).

• Use "and" in between two speakers/presenters names or before the last if listing more than two.

• Omit the Title of Episode if it is a stand-alone podcast.

• Each reference should end with a full stop unless ending with a URL.

• For more information about in-text citation and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and reference list.

Social Media

In the bibliography/reference list

[ ] INITIAL(S). Surname (Username if available), "Title of post," Item type (e.g. Instagram, Facebook, Twitter), Abbrev. Month. Day, Year (of post)., Accessed: Abbrev of Month. Day, Year. Available: URL


Notes

- No official guidance is available for referencing social media in the IEEE Reference Guide.
- In place of the title, use up to the first 160 characters of the post if no title is available.

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

Software

In the bibliography/reference list


Notes

- For referencing code see Code.
- For more information about in-text citation and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and reference list.

Standards

In print

In the bibliography/reference list

[ ] Title of Standard, Standard Number, year.


Online

In the bibliography/reference list

[ ] Title of Standard, Standard Number, year. [Online]. Available: URL or doi:

Notes

- Standard title is in italics, begin all significant words with a capital letter.
- Each reference should end with a full stop unless ending with a URL.
- For more information about in-text citation and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and reference list.

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Technical reports/papers

In print

In the bibliography/reference list


Online

In the bibliography/reference list


Notes

- The name of the author(s) and editor(s) are abbreviated to the initial(s) only and precede the surname(s).
- Use "and" in between two authors/editors names or before the last if listing more than two.
- Put the names of all authors/editors up to six names. If there are more than six names use "et al." (in italics) after the first author.
- Report/paper title is within quotation marks, only the first letter of the first word should be capitalised.
- If necessary, add USA states and territories after the City, these are abbreviated with no full stops.
• If you do not know the month of publication include the year only.
• Each reference should end with a full stop unless ending with a URL.
• For more information about in-text citation and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and reference list.

Unpublished material

In the bibliography/reference list


Notes

• For more information about in-text citation and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and reference list.

Video – Database e.g. Box of Broadcasts

Film

In the bibliography/reference list


Episode in a TV series

In the bibliography/reference list

[ ] “Title of Episode or Episode Number," in Title of Series, written by INITIALS. Surname (or presented/narrated by if writer unavailable), directed by INITIALS. Surname, Broadcast Channel, Date of Broadcast Month Abbr. Day, Year. Time of broadcast. [Medium e.g. Online Database]. Accessed: Month abbr. Day, Year. Available: Name of streaming service.

Notes

- No official guidance is available for referencing Television and Films via a streaming service from the IEEE Reference Guide.
- For more information about in-text citation and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and reference list.

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Video – Physical format

Film

In the bibliography/reference list

[ ] Title of film. Directed by INITIALS. Surname. City of Publication, U.S State, Country: Publisher, Year. [Medium e.g. Blu-ray]


Episode from a TV series

[ ] "Title of episode or episode number," in Title of series, written by INITIALS. Surname (or presented/narrated by if writer unavailable), directed by INITIALS. Surname. City of Publication, State, Country: Publisher, Year. [Medium e.g. Blu-Ray].


Notes

- No official guidance is available for referencing DVDs from the IEEE Reference Guide.
- For more information about in-text citation and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and reference list.

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Video – Streaming Service

Film

In the bibliography/reference list


Episode from a TV series

[ ] "Title of episode or episode number," in Title of Series, written by INITIALS. Surname (or presented/narrated by if writer unavailable), directed by INITIALS. Surname. City of Publication, U.S. State if necessary, Country: Publisher, Year. [Medium e.g. Online]. Accessed: Month abbr. Day, Year. Available: Name of Streaming Service.


Notes

• No official guidance is available for referencing videos on streaming services from the IEEE Reference Guide.

• For more information about in-text citation and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and reference list.

Video – Sharing website (e.g. YouTube)

In the bibliography/reference list


Notes

• Both the author and screen name may be given if known. This may help the reader track down the video.

• Video title is in italics, begin all significant words with a capital letter.

• For more information about in-text citation and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and reference list.

Web Page

In the bibliography/reference list


Notes

• If no personal author is given, you can use the name of the organisation, company or institution.

• Web page title is within quotation marks, only the first letter of the first word should be capitalised.

• For more information about in-text citation and creating a reference list see Creating in-text citations and reference list.

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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

IEEE referencing guide: https://librarydevelopment.group.shef.ac.uk/referencing/ieee.html

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


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/

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

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