



## NO. 43 IN THE WRITING CENTER HANDOUT SERIES

### www.what? How to Cite Online Sources

To uncover the mystery of citing the Internet, researchers must understand that there is not a single, cookie-cutter way to cite an online source. Some sources may be missing an author, a date of publication, or any number of things needed for a citation. The main reason for citing this information is so others can access the information again. Keep this principle in mind when citing, and try to include as much information as you can find.

Note: This handout follows the MLA style of citation. As always, consult your professor regarding which style she would prefer.

#### For Works Cited:

##### Web pages.

Author's last name, first name. "Title of document." Name of site. Date of publication/update. Name of association affiliated with site. Date of last access or viewing <URL>.

Examples:

##### Personal Site

Friedman, Steven Morgan. Home page. May 2002. 21 Feb. 2003 <<http://www.westegg.com/morgan/>>.

##### Professional Site

Hewlett, Martin. "From Mendel to Biotechnology: A Critical Look at the Historical Developments and Philosophical Foundations of Modern Biology." *Molecular and Cellular Biology*. 19 July 1997. University of Arizona. 25 Feb. 2003 <<http://www.mcb.arizona.edu/Hewlett/mjhpaper.html>>.

##### Online periodicals.

Author's last name, first name. "Title of document." *Periodical title*. Volume #. Issue # (Year): Page #. Date of access. <URL>.

Example:

Wheelis, Mark. "Investigating Disease Outbreaks Under a Protocol to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention." *Emerging Infections and Disease*. 6.6 (2000): 33. 5 Dec. 2000 <<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/erd/vol6/no6/wheelis.htm>>.

##### Online databases.

Author's last name, first name. "Title of document." *Publication*. Volume #. Date of publication: Page #. *Database name*. Service name. Name of library used to access database, City, State. Date of access <electronic address of the database>.

Example:

Smith, Martin. "World Domination for Dummies." *Journal of Despotry*. Feb. 2000: 66-72. *Expanded Academic ASAP*. Gale Group Databases. Agnes Scott College, Decatur, GA. 24 Feb. 2003 <<http://www.infotrac.galegroup.com>>.

#### For in-text citations:

This citation is a little trickier. Since the information you can find for websites is so variable, just try to give enough information for readers to find the source in your works cited list. In parentheses, use the last name of the author or, if there is no author, the name of the site. Add the page, paragraph, or section number if numbered in the site.

Example: "Of the 840 million people in the world who are undernourished, nearly three-fourths live in rural farming communities" (Bunch).

For more information on citing online sources, see

[http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r\\_mla.html](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_mla.html)

*The St. Martin's Handbook* (5th ed): 437-500

<http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/online/cite5.html>