
How to reference images: Cite Them Right Harvard

Images can either be mentioned and described in your text (cited) or directly embedded as a figure (reproduced or adapted) in your work.

Referencing an image

Where mentioned in the text, you should provide an in-text citation and full reference as you would for any other source.

Images cited from books and journal articles

If referring directly to an image included in a book or article, include the figure number after the page number in the in-text citation. The final reference given is for the whole text.

For example:

In-text citation

The cycle of degradation (Bajracharya, 2022, p. 431, Fig. 18.1) shows...

Reference

Bajracharya, R.M. (2022) 'Sustainable Land Use, Landscape Management and Governance', in P.K. Shit, P.P. Adhikary, G.S. Bhunia and D. Sengupta (eds.) *Soil Health and Environmental Sustainability Application of Geospatial Technology*. Springer, pp. 423-436.

Images found online

For images found online, whether on a website, on social media or in an online collection, include an in-text citation as usual with the creator's surname, or title of the work if the creator is unknown, plus date of production. The format of the final reference will depend on the type of image/work and its location.

For example:

Photograph found online:

Charles, M. (1977) *Pompidou Centre (Centre National d'Art et de Culture Georges-Pompidou), Paris*. Available at: <https://www.architecture.com/image-library/ribapix/image-information/poster/pompidou-centre-centre-national-dart-et-de-culture-georgespompidou-paris/posterid/RIBA3845.html>? (Accessed: 30 September 2020).

Image from Instagram

NASA (2023) 'The long and wind-ing road' [Instagram]. 10 May. Available at: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CsE-ZAhMaCP/> (Accessed: 15 May 2023).

Graph found on Statista

CompaniesMarketCap.com (2023) *Market capitalization of the largest internet companies worldwide as of April 2023 (in billion U.S. dollars)*. Available at: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/277483/market-value-of-the-largest-internet-companies-worldwide/> (Accessed: 18 May 2023).

Painting in an online collection (e.g. Bridgeman Education)

Hammershoi, V. (1900) *Ida standing at a desk* [Oil on canvas]. Available at: <https://www.bridgemaneducation.com> (Accessed: 23 March 2023).

Embedding an image

If you are embedding the image into your work, there are additional steps to take to ensure you format and reference it appropriately. While there is no official style guide for Cite Them Right Harvard, we recommend the following steps.

1. Captions

A caption should be placed above or below your image, which includes a figure number, title or brief description of the image, and source / copyright information.

For example:



Figure 1. Farm animal Wensleydale sheep. (Gunn, no date) Source: [Wellcome Collection](#). Licenced under [CC BY 4.0](#).

2. In the main body of text:

All figures should be referred to within the text by their figure number. For example:

Figure 1. shows a Wensleydale sheep with black muzzle and cream coloured coat...

or

Wensleydale sheep (Figure 1) are known for their long wool...

3. Bibliography

Place the corresponding full reference for the image in your reference list. For example:

Gunn, C. (no date) *Farm animal Wensleydale sheep*. Available from:
<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/qm44ag2f> (Accessed: 29 April 2025)

4. List of Figures

We would recommend including a list of figures if your work is substantial enough to include a table of contents and/or you have a lot of figures in the body of your text. Your School may also provide guidance in their style guide.

Essentially, a list of figures provides an overview of the images, illustrations, graphs, diagrams, maps etc. used throughout your work. In it is included a description of the figure and the page number the figure is located on. The list of figures will come after the contents page (on a separate page) and before the Introduction.

For example:

List of Figures

Figure 1: Description of figure	p.4
Figure 2: Description of figure	p.12
Figure 3: Description of figure	p.21

A note on copyright...

Before using images in your work make sure to check for any [copyright](#) limitations. Generally, using images in student work is acceptable if they are integral to your argument, referenced correctly and will not be used in any published work. This includes any kind of 'public sharing', e.g. public posters, online exhibitions or use at a conference. However, it is your responsibility to check the work can be used for educational purposes. We recommend using images from licenced collections such as [Bridgeman Education](#) or Open Access collections such as [Openverse](#), which provide images suitable for educational use.