

How to reference images: IEEE

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 (or table number) after the page number in the in-text citation. The final reference given is for the whole text.

For example:

In-text citation:

Machinery installation in slow-speed diesel vessels is compact and complicated as seen in Taylor's cutaway drawing of a ship [23, p. 3, fig. 1.1]

Reference:

- [23] D. A. Taylor, *Introduction to marine engineering*, 2nd ed. Oxford: Butterworth Heinemann, 1996.

Images found online

For images found online, whether on a website, on social media or in an online collection, include a numbered in-text citation as usual. The format of the final reference will depend on the type of image/work and its location. For example:

CAD model found on GitHub

- [2] Adafruit_CAD_Parts, *3966 BMP388 QT*. Accessed: May. 19, 2023. [Online]. Available: https://github.com/adafruit/Adafruit_CAD_Parts/tree/main/3966%20BMP388%20QT

Instagram

- [3] NASA, "The long and wind-ing road." Instagram. May. 10, 2023. <https://www.instagram.com/p/CsE-ZAhMaCP/> (accessed May. 15, 2023).

Photograph found online

- [4] *Building the Bow and Victoria Park sewer, illustration from 'The King'*. Accessed: May. 19, 2023. [Online] Available: https://www-bridgemaneducation-com.libproxy.ncl.ac.uk/en/asset/324416/summary?context=%7B%22route%22%3A%22assets_search%22%2C

See [Cite Them Right](#) for further examples including paintings and drawings, and photographs in collections.

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. See the [IEEE Editorial Style manual for Authors](#) for further guidance.

Captions

Each figure should be numbered and followed by a caption which provides both a description of the image and an acknowledgement of copyright.

Each caption number should use the abbreviation “Fig.” and the number, followed by a period, an em space, and then the text of the caption.

If a copyright statement is not provided by the source, we recommend using a full reference for the image type or source in the caption.

For example:



Fig. 1. Merlin 45 aeroplane engine, made by Rolls-Royce Ltd, Crewe, c.1941. From Science Museum Group, *Merlin 45 Aeroplane Engine*. Accessed: Apr. 24, 2025. [Online] Available: <https://collection.sciencemuseumgroup.org.uk/objects/co8404794/merlin-45-aeroplane-engine>. Licenced under [CC BY-NC-SA 4.0](#).

In the main body of the text:

All figures should be referred to within the text by their figure number, for example:

Fig.1 shows the engine from a Rolls-Royce Merlin, used widely during WW2...

Or

The Rolls-Royce Merlin (Fig.1) was used widely during WW2...

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

Fig. 1: Description of figure	p.4
Fig. 2: Description of figure	p.12
Fig. 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.