

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, make it clear in your text and in-text citation what you are referring to and include the relevant page number. The reference given in your works cited list is for the whole text.

For example:

In-text citation:

An example of tournament dress can be seen in the image of an armed knight of Prato in British Library, MS Royal 6 E IX, fol. 24 (Hodges 150).

Works Cited:

Hodges, Laura F. *Chaucer and Array : Patterns of Costume and Fabric Rhetoric in the Canterbury Tales, Troilus and Criseyde and Other Works*. 2014.

Images found online

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

For example:

A painting accessed online:

In-text citation:

...as seen in Toulouse-Lautrec's depictions of the Moulin Rouge (Toulouse-Lautrec).

Works Cited:

Toulouse-Lautrec, Henri de. *The Englishman at the Moulin Rouge*. 1892. Bridgeman Education,
<https://www.bridgemaneducation.com/en/asset/804/summary?context=%7B%22route%22%3A>. Colour lithograph.

See [Cite Them Right](#) for further examples.

Embedding an image

If you are embedding an image into your work, there are additional steps to take to ensure you format and reference it appropriately. You'll find further guidance in the [MLA Handbook](#).

1. Captions

Any illustrative material embedded in your work should be labelled Figure (usually abbreviated to Fig.), assigned a number and given a caption. The caption normally sits directly under the image. Your caption can either include key information (creator, date, location) separated by commas or a full reference. If you provide a full reference in your caption, format this as you would in your works cited list but list the name of the creator as Forename Surname.

Your caption may also need to include an acknowledgement of copyright.

For example:

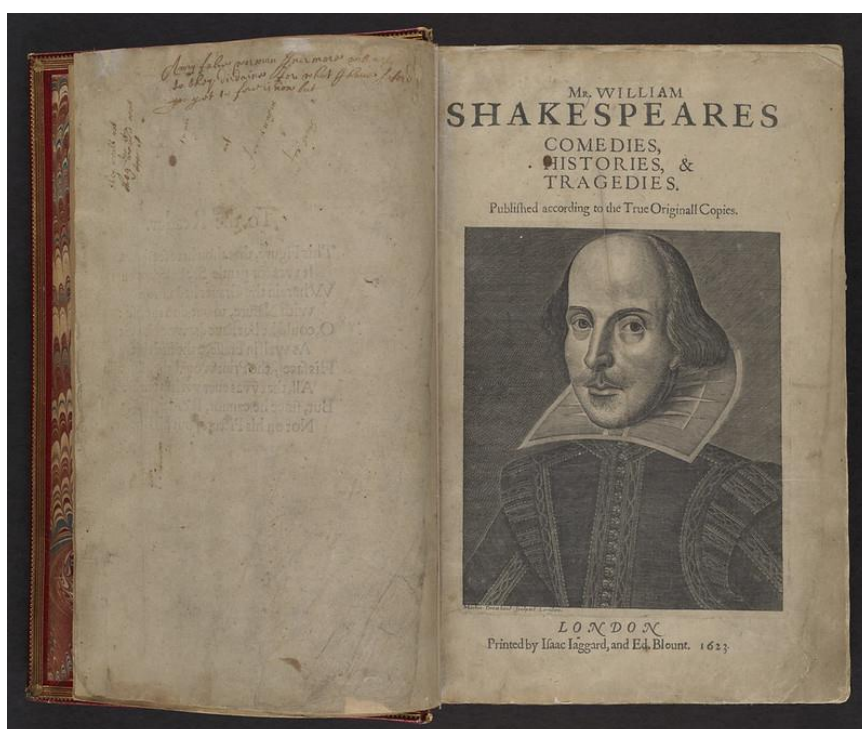


Fig 3. Boston Public Library. "Mr. William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories & Tragedies [Title page]." *Flickr*. 13 May 2010, www.flickr.com/photos/24029425@N06/4604377899. Photograph. [Licenced under CC BY 2.0](#).

If your work has chapters, figures should be numbered within the chapter. For example, chapter 2 would have Figures 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 etc.

2. In-text citation:

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

Figure 3. presents an image of the First Folio title page, an authority text for twelve of Shakespeare's plays.

or

An important publication in English literature, the First Folio (see fig.3) is the authority for texts of twelve Shakespearean plays.

3. Works cited:

If you provide a full reference in your caption and do not cite the source elsewhere in your text, you do not need an additional entry in your works cited list. Otherwise, place the corresponding full reference for the image in your reference list. For example:

Boston Public Library. "Mr. William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories & Tragedies [Title page]." *Flickr*. 13 May 2010, www.flickr.com/photos/24029425@N06/4604377899. Photograph.

4. List of Figures

While a list of figures is not required by MLA, we would recommend including one 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.