

How to reference images: Royal Society of Chemistry

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. Format the reference based on the location of the image e.g.

Image from a journal article:

1. N. Fujinuma and S.E. Lofland, *Inorg. Chem. Front.*, 2023, **10**, 7095–7108.

Image found online:

2. *Cu (TC) CSID:9369899*, <https://www.chemspider.com/Chemical-Structure.9369899.html>, (accessed May 2023).

Embedding an image

If you are embedding an image (table or diagram) into your work, there are additional steps to take to ensure you format and reference it appropriately. See the [How to reference using the Royal Society of Chemistry style webpage](#) for further guidance.

1. Captions

Images should be cited in the figure caption with a superscript number, following the order of existing citations. The caption sits under the embedded image and is also labelled in numerical order. For example:



Figure 1. Diorama showing a chemical laboratory in the early 1700s, England, 1901-1970⁴

2. Reference List:

The format of the reference will depend on the location of the image (i.e. in a book, journal, online). For this example, we have an online image:

4. *Diorama showing a chemical laboratory in the early 1700s, England, 1901-1970*, <https://collection.sciencemuseumgroup.org.uk/objects/co115659/diorama-showing-a-chemical-laboratory-in-the-early-1700s-england-1901-1970>, (accessed April 2025).

3. In the main body of text:

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

Chemical laboratories of the early eighteenth century (Fig. 1) were set up...

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

Fig. 1: Description of figure	4
Fig. 2: Description of figure	12
Fig. 3: Description of figure	21

A note on copyright...

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