

Vancouver style sheet

We recommend that you use this style sheet in conjunction with your School's style guide and the guidance available via [Cite them Right Online](#). For general help with referencing see the [Academic Skills Kit](#).

You'll find further information on using the Vancouver style in [Citing Medicine : The NLM Style Guide for Authors, Editors, and Publishers](#).

Vancouver style rules

Citation

Vancouver is a numeric style; citations are given as either a number in brackets, e.g. (1) or as a superscript number, e.g.¹ Numbering should be consistent throughout. Each source has its own number based on the order of appearance in the text and this number is used whenever this source is cited. For example:

Recent research shows¹...

or

Evans (2) explains this clearly in his recent research...

Citations can be placed within the flow of your text or at the end of a sentence, usually after the punctuation (but check the preference of your School.)

Reference list

Each in-text number is matched to a full, numbered reference in a reference list at the end of your work. The reference list is arranged in numerical order.

For example:

1. Grix J, Watkins G. Information skills: finding and using the right resources. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan; 2010. 163 p.
2. Ibrahim MK, Zambruni M, Melby CL, Melby PC. Impact of childhood malnutrition on host defense and infection. Clin Microbiol Rev. 2017 Aug 2; 30(4):919–971.
3. NHS Commissioning. 10 key characteristics of 'good nutrition and hydration care [Internet]. [cited 2021 August 6]; [2 screens]. Available from: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/nut-hyd/10%20key%20characteristics/>

List any sources you read but did not cite in your work in a separate bibliography.

Vancouver reference examples

A selection of examples to get you started, check out [Cite them Right Online](#) for more:

Book

1. Author surname Author Initial(s). Title (capitalise only the first letter of the first word and any proper nouns). Edition (only include the edition number if it is not the first edition). Place of publication: Publisher; year of publication. Number of pages.

For example:

1. Grix J, Watkins G. Information skills: finding and using the right resources. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan; 2010. 163 p.

E-book

2. Author surname Author Initial(s). Title (capitalise only the first letter of the first word and any proper nouns) [Internet]. Edition (only include the edition number if it is not the first edition). Place of publication: Publisher; year of publication [cited year month day]. Number of pages if available. Available from: <https://doi.org> or URL

For example:

2. Mulroney SE, Myers AK, Netter FH. Netter's essential physiology [Internet]. 2nd ed. Philadelphia, PA: Elsevier; 2016 [cited 2021 Aug 6]. Available from: <https://www.clinicalkey.com/student/content/toc/3-s2.0-C20140016589>

An edited book chapter

3. Author surname Author initials. Title of chapter. In: Editor(s) surname Editor(s) Initials, editor(s). Title [Internet if online]. Place of publication: Publisher; Year of publication. p. Chapter page numbers. Available from: <https://doi.org> or URL... if online

For example:

3. Kuvibidila S, Baliga BS. Role of iron in immunity and infection. In: Calder PC, Field CJ, Gill HS, editors. Nutrition and immune function. Frontiers in nutritional science series: No. 1. Wallingford: CABI Publishing, in association with The Nutrition Society; 2002. p. 209-228.

Print journal article*

*Note that most journal articles found online are classed as print journals, because they were once 'traditionally' printed.

4. Author(s) surname Author initials. Title of journal article. Abbreviated title of journal. Date of publication as year month day; Volume number (Issue number): Page numbers of the article (do not use p. or pp.)

For example:

4. Ibrahim MK, Zambruni M, Melby CL, Melby PC. Impact of childhood malnutrition on host defence and infection. Clin Microbiol Rev. 2017 Aug 2; 30(4):919–971.

Online newspaper article

5. Author(s) surname Author(s) initials. Article title. Newspaper title [Internet]. Date of publication - year month day [cited date - year month day]: Section of newspaper, Page and column or appropriate location [number of screens in square brackets]. Available from: URL

For example:

5. Geddes L. Long Covid has more than 200 symptoms, study finds. The Guardian [Internet]. 2021 Jul 16 [cited 2021 Aug 3: Society [about 4 screens]. Available from: <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/jul/15/long-covid-has-more-than-200-symptoms-study-finds>

Online report

6. Author. Title of report. [Internet]. Place of publication: publisher/organisation; year of publication [cited year month day]. Pagination. Report series and number. Available from URL

For example:

6. Ofcom. Understanding online false information in the UK. [Internet]. Ofcom; 2021 [cited 2021 Aug 6]. 55 p. Economist discussion paper series, Issue number 2. Available from: https://www.ofcom.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0027/211986/understanding-online-false-information-uk.pdf

A webpage with organisation as author

7. Organisation. Title of internet page [Internet]. Year that site was published/updated [cited year month day]; [Number of screens or pages]. Available from: URL

For example:

7. NHS Commissioning. 10 key characteristics of 'good nutrition and hydration care [Internet]. [cited 2021 August 6]; [2 screens]. Available from: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/nut-hyd/10%20key%20characteristics/>

Online PhD thesis

8. Author Surname Author Initials. Title [type of thesis]. Place of publication: publisher; year [cited year month day]. Pagination. Available from: URL

For example:

8. Elliott CS. Exploring function in people with chronic liver disease [PhD Thesis on the Internet]. Newcastle upon Tyne: Newcastle University; 2012 [cited 2021 Aug 6]. 228 p. Available from: <https://theses.ncl.ac.uk/jspui/handle/10443/1677>

Lecture notes in Canvas

9. Author Surname Author Initials. Title of lecture [Format]. Module name, Institution; year month date [cited year month date]. Available from: URL

For example:

9. Howard A. Introduction session [lecture notes]. PSC1002, Newcastle University; 2021 May 7 [cited 2021 Jun 18]. Available from:
https://ncl.instructure.com/courses/27595/pages/psc1002-introduction-session?module_item_id=1426432

Citing ChatGPT and other generative AI

[Cite Them Right](#) have released guidance for how you should cite generative AI in the Vancouver style. If the AI's end product (for example use of ChatGPT in conversation) is only available to you, cite this as personal correspondence. This is only referenced in your main body of text.

The text of your document must include:

Type of communication / Communicator / (Date in this format year month day, unreferenced) ...

Text example:

In an online chat with OpenAI's ChatGPT AI language model (2023 Feb 6, unreferenced) ...

You do not need to include an entry in the reference list but check with your School for their preferred method of acknowledgement.

FAQs

How do I set out indirect citations?

If you don't mention the author's name in your text, you will need to place the in-text number at the end of the sentence, after the full stop. For example:

Iron deficiency anaemia is also commonly found with women.²¹

How do I cite and reference a source quoted in another author's work?

This is called secondary referencing (e.g. if you are using a review article). First, we recommend that you try to locate and read the original source – this will ensure you are not taking the information out of context and allow you to reference the source as normal.

If you cannot find the original source (it may be out of print, unavailable or in a language you cannot read), then you **provide a reference to the secondary source in your final reference list** and refer to the **original source in your in-text citation**, using 'as cited by'.

For example:

...according to Smith, as cited by Jones¹¹, most people recover...

Only reference the source you read (i.e. Jones) in your reference list.

How many authors do I include in the reference list?

If your source has six or fewer authors, you must list all names, in the order shown in the article or book, separated with a comma. If it has **7 or more authors**, you can use *et al.* or 'and others' following the sixth author's name.

For example:

6 authors or less, list them all:

Inamdar SR, Prevost S, Terrill NJ, Knight MM, Gupta HS. Reversible changes in the 3D collagen fibril architecture during cyclic loading of healthy and degraded cartilage. *Acta biomaterialia*. 2021; 136:314-26.

7 or more authors, use *et al.* after the 6th author:

Yap TA, Siu LL, Calvo E, Lolkema MP, LoRusso PM, Soria J-C, et al. SARS-CoV-2 vaccination and phase 1 cancer clinical trials. *Lancet Oncology*. 2021; 22(3):298-301.