The Council of Science Editors citation style, commonly referred to as CSE, is commonly used for scientific papers, journal publications, and books in the life, biological, and other sciences. CSE offers three different, distinct styles, very similar to the Chicago Manual of Style. These are:

1. Citation-Sequence (C-S),
2. Citation-Name (C-N), and
3. Name-Year (N-Y).

Professors may prefer different styles. Always ask for clarification when you're unsure or no style is specified.

Citation-Sequence style numbers citations (1), (2), (3), in the order they are referred to in the text. Any additional citations of the same source use the same number as the initial citation. Entries in the reference list are numerically ordered.

Citation-Name style uses an alphabetic-numeric hybrid system to organize citations. All references are first organized alphabetically in the bibliography, then assigned numbers in consecutive order. When that reference is then cited in the paper, only the corresponding number appears in parentheses.

Name-Year style places the author’s last name and year of publication within the text (i.e. Jefferson, 2013). These point to a corresponding full bibliographic entry in the reference section.

This section will give you the basic guidelines for formatting a research paper according to CSE standards. For in-depth and very specific formatting questions, refer to The CSE Manual.

The Scientific Style and Format handbook (aka The CSE Manual) provides answers to a variety of difficult citation, and formatting, questions.

The Writing Center is the only academic support unit on campus specifically designed to promote your development and success as a college writer. The consultant team is available to assist you in person and online with writing projects for any course and any level of instruction. The Writing Center also offers specialized assistance for multimodal compositions or new media projects like digital narratives, blogs, websites, slideware presentations, and even YouTube videos.

Writing Center: APSC 301
Monday-Friday
9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
in-person and synchronous online sessions

Night Hours: HL 116
Sunday-Thursday
7:00-10:00 p.m.
walk-in sessions only: first come, first serve
Citation-Sequence/Citation-Name & Bibliography

Introduction

The method for citing books in C-S and C-N is the same in each style. Remember though that, in the bibliography, C-S citations are listed in order of appearance, and C-N citations are listed alphabetically.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Style</th>
<th>In-text citations</th>
<th>Reference list</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citation-Sequence (C-S)</td>
<td>(1), (2), (3), (4), (5)</td>
<td>Citations are listed in order of appearance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citation-Name (C-N)</td>
<td>(3), (2), (4), (1), (5)</td>
<td>Citations are listed alphabetically by author's last name then given a number. In-text citation numbers will then typically appear out of order</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In-text Structure

In both C-S and C-N the in-text citation numbers can be formatted using brackets [1], superscripts¹, or in parentheses (1).

Bibliography Example

C-S


C-N


As you can see in the bibliographic example above, if you're using C-S and the first reference in your paper was to Pollan, it would be listed first in your Bibliography, regardless of alphabetical order. However, in C-N your reference list is generated first and assigned numbers according to alphabetical order. Therefore, instead of putting a 1 in-text, you would put a 2 instead.
Books / E-books

Bibliographic citations for books typically require some or all of the following elements.

1. Author (last name first/middle initials). Separate additional authors with a comma
2. Book chapter referenced (if exists, and followed by In:)
3. Title of the book (capitalizing only the first word of the title and subtitle, as well as any proper nouns) followed [Internet] (if e-book).
5. Place of publication (followed by a colon)
6. Publisher (followed by semi-colon)
7. Publication year (preceded with ‘c’ if e-book).
8. number of pages (followed by p.) (only if physical book)
9. [cited (year abbreviated month day)] (if e-book)
11. DOI number.

**Basic Layout**

Author Lastname, Initials. Chapter of book. In: Title of Book [Internet]. nth ed. Place of Publication: Publisher; cYear. Page numbers. [cited date]. Available from: URL. DOI.

**Examples**

Shields, D. The thing about life is that one day you’ll be dead. New York: Alfred A. Knopf; 2008. 225 p.


**Two to Four Authors**


**Editions**


**E-book**

Journals, Magazines & Newspapers

Citations from journal, magazine, and newspaper sources require some or all of the following elements:

1. Author (last name first/middle initials). Separate additional authors with comma.
2. Title: subtitle of article or column, capitalizing only the first word of the title, subtitle and any proper nouns.
3. Title of periodical, ISO abbreviated if possible. Use the NCBI Journal Database to find any appropriate abbreviations. [Internet] (if accessed online).
4. Publication date (year for scholarly journals, year/month for magazines, and year/month/day for newspapers), and citation date [cited (year abbreviated month day)] (if online) followed by a semi-colon.
5. Issue information (volume title and/or issue number); Section number(column number) if newspaper.
6. Page numbers (where appropriate).
7. Available from: URL (if online)
8. DOI

Basic Layout

Author Firstname, Initials. Article Title: Subtitle. Title of publication [Internet]. Publication date [cited date if online]; Volume title/number(issue #) or Section (column): page numbers. Available from: URL and/or DOI.

Examples

Physical Article


Online-Accessed Article


Interviews & Personal Communications

In CSE style, interviews and other forms of unpublished communications (i.e. email, letters) are not included in your reference list. Instead they should be referenced parenthetically within the text. Make sure you obtain permission from any third parties before using them in your publication.

**Basic Layout**

(name of third party(first/middle initials, last name), form of communication, month day, year)

**Examples**

running text (R. Monge, e-mail message, September 14, 2013)

running text (V. Latham, personal communication with author, July 1, 2010)
Websites / Web Pages

A note on citing materials found on a website: If you’re citing formal documentation (e.g. Word, PDF documents) found on a website, you should cite it like a book or journal article you found online (including all relevant publisher information and a URL).

If you're citing a specific web page, include the title of the web page, along with the publication date, after the publisher information.

Citations from website/page sources require some or all of the following elements:

1. Author (last name, first/middle initials).
2. Title of Website [Internet].
3. Place of publication (City (State initials)) and publisher name/organization, followed by a colon.
4. Date of publication or last updated, preceded by 'c'.
5. Title of web page; publication date (if referencing a specific web page).
6. Update and/or Access date [updated year abbreviated month day; cited year abbreviated month day].
7. Estimate of material size (e.g. number of screens, pages, file size) if citing single web page resource, in brackets.
8. Available from: URL.

Basic Layout

Author last name first/middle initials. Title of website [Internet]. Publication city(state): Publisher/Organization: c(year published) [updated year abbreviated month day; cited year abbreviated month day]. Available from: URL

Examples

Website


Web page

Cleveland Clinic. The Cleveland Clinic Health Information Center [Internet]. Cleveland (OH): The Clinic; c2006. Smoking cessation; 2009 [cited 2010 Feb 8]; [about 3 screens]. Available from: http://www.clevelandclinic.org/services/smoking_cessation/hic_quitting_smoking.aspx

UT Southwestern Medical Center [Internet]. Dallas (TX): University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. Holographic movies show promise for medical, military applications; 2005 Jun 14 [cited 2005 Jun 26]. Available from: http://www8.utsouthwestern.edu/utsw/cda/dept37389/files/228328.html
Blogs

The CSE gives no official specific information regarding the bibliographic citation of blogs. Most entities treat them as an electronic publication/web site hybrid. As such, citations from a blog should include some or all of the following elements:

1. Author (last name first/middle initials). Separate additional authors with comma.
2. Title of blog entry, capitalizing only the first word of the title, subtitle and any proper nouns.
3. Title of blog, followed by [Internet].
4. Place of publication (City (State initials)) and publisher name/organization, followed by a colon.
5. Name of publisher (if corporation/organization).
6. Date blog entry was published (Year abbreviated month day).
7. Citation date, in brackets [cited year abbreviated month day]
8. Available from: URL (if online)

Basic Layout

Author last name first/middle initials. Title of blog entry. Title of blog [Internet]. Publication City(State initials): Publisher name. Blog publication date [citation date]. Available from: URL.

Examples

Audiovisual Materials

Audiovisual materials include things such as videocassettes, audicassettes, CDs, DVDs, motion pictures, photographs, and slides.

Audiovisual materials cited using C-S or C-N will contain some or all of the following elements:

1. Name of the authors (last name first/middle initials).
2. Title of material [type of medium].
3. Edition
4. Publication city(initials of state), followed by a colon.
5. Name of publisher, followed by a semi-colon.
6. Date of creation/copyright, preceded by 'c'.
7. Physical description of materials and any important notes (e.g. 4 CDs, 3 videocassettes, 180 min.)

Basic Layout


Examples


Name-Year & Bibliography

Introduction

In the name-year system, you will compile your list of end-references for your paper and place them in alphabetical order by author's last name. In-text references will then consist of the author's last name and the year of publication.

Unlike C-S and C-N, you will place the year of publication directly after the author's name.

In-text Reference

The NIH has called for a change in smallpox vaccination policy (Fauci 2002) that...

End Reference

Books / E-books

Bibliographic citations for books typically require some or all of the following elements.

1. Author (last name first/middle initials). Separate additional authors with a comma
2. Publication year (preceded with 'c' if e-book).
3. Book chapter referenced (if exists, and followed by In:)
4. Title of the book (capitalizing only the first word of the title and subtitle, as well as any proper nouns) followed [Internet] (if e-book).
6. Place of publication (followed by a colon)
7. Publisher (followed by semi-colon)
8. number of pages (followed by p.) (only if physical book)
9. [cited (year abbreviated month day)] (if e-book)
11. DOI number.

Basic Layout

Author Lastname, Initials. cYear. Chapter of book. In: Title of Book [Internet]. nth ed. Place of Publication: Publisher; Page numbers. [cited date]. Available from: URL. DOI.

Examples

Shields, D. 2008. The thing about life is that one day you'll be dead. New York: Alfred A. Knopf; 225 p.


Two to Four Authors


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E-book

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Citations from journal, magazine, and newspaper sources require some or all of the following elements:

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2. Publication date (year for scholarly journals, year/month for magazines, and year/month/day for newspapers), and citation date [cited (year abbreviated month day)] (if online).
3. Title: subtitle of article or column, capitalizing only the first word of the title, subtitle and any proper nouns.
4. Title of periodical, ISO abbreviated if possible. Use the NCBI Journal Database to find any appropriate abbreviations. [Internet] (if accessed online).
5. Issue information (volume title and/or issue number); Section number(column number) if newspaper
6. Page numbers (where appropriate).
7. Available from: URL (if online)
8. DOI

Basic Layout

Author Lastname, Initials. Publication date [cited date if online]. Article Title: Subtitle. Title of publication [Internet]. Volume title/number(issue #) or Section (column): page numbers. Available from: URL and/or DOI.

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Basic Layout

(name of third party(first/middle initials, last name), form of communication, month day, year)

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running text (R. Monge, e-mail message, September 14, 2013)

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A note on citing materials found on a website: If you’re citing formal documentation (e.g. Word, PDF documents) found on a website, you should cite it like a book or journal article you found online (including all relevant publisher information and a URL). If you’re citing a specific web page, include the title of the web page, along with the publication date, after the publisher information.

Citations from website/page sources require some or all of the following elements:

1. Author (last name, first/middle initials).
2. Date of publication or last updated, proceeded by 'c'.
3. Title of Website [Internet].
4. Place of publication (City (State initials)) and publisher name/organization.
5. Title of web page; publication date (if referencing a specific web page)
6. Update and/or Access date [updated year abbreviated month day; cited year abbreviated month day].
7. Estimate of material size (e.g. number of screens, pages, file size) if citing single web page resource, in brackets.
8. Available from: URL.

Basic Layout

Author last name first/middle initials. c(year published). Title of website [Internet]. Publication city(state): Publisher/Organization. [updated year abbreviated month day; cited year abbreviated month day]. Available from: URL

Examples

Website


Web page

Cleveland Clinic. c2006. The Cleveland Clinic Health Information Center [Internet]. Cleveland (OH): The Clinic; Smoking cessation; 2009 [cited 2010 Feb 8]; [about 3 screens]. Available from: http://www.clevelandclinic.org/services/smoking_cessation/hic_quitting_smoking.aspx

Blogs

The CSE gives no official specific information regarding the bibliographic citation of blogs. Most entities treat them as an electronic publication/web site hybrid. As such, citations from a blog should include some or all of the following elements:

1. Author (last name first/middle initials). Separate additional authors with comma.
2. Date blog entry was published (Year abbreviated month day).
3. Title of blog entry, capitalizing only the first word of the title, subtitle and any proper nouns.
4. Title of blog, followed by [Internet].
5. Place of publication (City (State initials)) and publisher name/organization, followed by a colon.
6. Name of publisher (if corporation/organization).
7. Citation date, in brackets [cited year abbreviated month day]
8. Available from: URL (if online)

Basic Layout

Author last name first/middle initials. Blog publication date. Title of blog entry. Title of blog [Internet]. Publication City(State initials): Publisher name. [citation date]. Available from: URL.

Examples

Audiovisual Materials

Audiovisual materials include things such as videocassettes, audiocassettes, CDs, DVDs, motion pictures, photographs, and slides.

Audiovisual materials cited using N-Y will contain some or all of the following elements:

1. Name of the authors (last name first/middle initials).
2. Date of creation/copyright, preceded by 'c'.
3. Title of material [type of medium].
4. Edition
5. Publication city (initials of state), followed by a colon.
6. Name of publisher.
7. Physical description of materials and any important notes (e.g. 4 CDs, 3 videocassettes, 180 min.)

Basic Layout


Examples


Paper Formatting

Introduction

CSE doesn't give any specifications of how a paper should be formatted, so check with your instructor to see how he or she prefers it to be formatted. Listed below are some generic, good practice guidelines which will help get you started.

General Formatting

- Use 8.5x11 white paper.
- Number your pages on the top-right corner, starting at two (your title page is the first, but should not be labeled as such)
- Leave at least a 1” margin on all sides of the page
- Double-space your paper and indent each new paragraph 1/2”
- The body of research papers are typically divided into 5 sections; abstract, introduction, methods, results, and discussion.
- Use headings to help visually organize your paper and separate different sections.

Title Page

- Center the title of your page 1/3rd of the page down.
- Center your name directly under the title.
- Center your course name, instructor's name, and date, in three separate lines, near the bottom of the page.
- Typeface should be Times New Roman and in 12pt font. Do not bold, underline, or otherwise decorate your title.
- Do not put a page number on your cover page and do not include it in your page count total.

Bibliography

- Name your bibliography 'References' or 'Cited References' and center it at the top of the page
- Use double-spacing throughout
- List author's last name first and use initials for first and middle names, with no periods or spaces between them.
- Capitalize only the first word of the title of a book or article. Do not underline, italicize, bold, or place the title in quotation marks.
- Use the proper abbreviation for journal titles. Consult the National Library of Medicine's NCBI catalog for formal, ISO standardized abbreviations.

If using Citation-Sequence

- Number the bibliographic entries in the order which they appear in-text and sort them numerically. This way the first reference you cited-in text will appear as number 1, and so on and so forth.
If using Citation-Name

- First alphabetize all the entries by author's last name (or organizational name), then number the entries. Your in-text reference numbers will in non-numeric order.

If using Name-Year

- The bibliographic entries are not numbered, but are organized by the author's last name (or organizational name). The year is placed after the author. Writers may choose to keep each citation flush left or indent the 2nd and any additional lines of a reference.