The AMA publication style has been developed by the American Medical Association, and is used to standardize the citing of sources in, primarily biomedical scholarly work.

No one can know the AMA publication style in its entirety hence the need for publication manuals, guides, handouts, etc. that you can refer to when in doubt. This guide offers some general guidelines and examples of AMA citing and reference style. This guide is NOT a substitute for the AMA manual.

It is STRONGLY RECOMMENDED that you consult the online or print edition (available in the Library) of the [AMA Manual of Style: A Guide for Authors and Editors](https://wwwama-assicanet-org/ama/pub/pages/education/resources/stylemanuals) when you are unsure of how to cite an item. Much of the information in this guide is taken from the AMA Manual of Style.

It also strongly recommended that you use [EndNote](https://www.endnote.com) to aid in organizing and citing references.

### Citing original sources

It is important to cite the original source of information, research or data, and you must do due diligence to locate the original source. For example, if a website makes reference to an article’s conclusions, and you want to include the article’s conclusions in your work you need to retrieve and cite the article in your work. You can’t cite the article’s conclusions as coming from the website. You need to give credit to the original author(s) and you also want others to be able to easily locate your sources.

### AMA citing within the Text

- References in text should be numbered consecutively with superscript Arabic numerals (1,2,3...) in the order in which they are cited in the text.
- If a reference is used multiple times in one document, use the same number throughout the document.
- Put a comma (no space in front) between the numbers for multiple citations.
  - *Example:* The data were as follows 3,4
- Join a closed series with a hyphen.
  - *Example:* As previously reported, 11-14,25
- Reference numbers appear outside periods and commas, and inside colons and semi-colons

### AMA Reference List

- TIP - Some resources now include a cite option or button that will display a reference or citation in select publication styles. There is no guarantee that AMA style will be one of the options, but look for this option or button when doing research.
- List references in numerical order of use in the text, at the end of the document.
- Use authors’ last name followed by initials for first and middle names. No period after or between initials, separate names with commas. If there are one to six authors, list all authors. If there are seven or more authors, list the first three and then abbreviate with et al.
- Editors: follow the same rules as authors for formatting and determining how many editors to list. After the list of editor names, include “ed.” (if one editor) or “eds.” (for two or more).
- Items without authors or editors begin the reference with the title of the item.
- For journal article titles and web page titles capitalize the first letter of the first word only (Sentence case). Capitalize the first letter or each word, omitting articles, for book and journal titles (Title case). Book and journal titles are also italicized.
- If an online article includes a DOI include it in your reference, if no DOI include the URL to the web page where you accessed the article, along with the access date. If you include a DOI you do not need to include an access date.

**AMA Format for online journals** (See section 3.15.1 Online Journals of the AMA Publication Manual for more information and other examples)

Author(s). Title. Journal Name [using National Library of Medicine abbreviations—Abbreviations, Names of Journals]. year;vol number(issue number.):inclusive pages. DOI or URL [provide the URL in this field; no need to use “URL:” preceding it]. Published [date]. Updated [date]. Accessed [date]. (If including DOI do not include accessed date.)

*Examples of E-Journal citations*

E-Journal article with a DOI


E-Journal with no page numbers (Some online only articles do not have page number and may use other identifiers, e.g. by article or document number).


E-Journal without a DOI


**AMA format for online books** (See section 3.15.2 Books and Books on CD-ROM of the AMA Publication Manual for more information and other examples)

The basic format for reference to an internet-based book is as follows. *Note:* If the reference is to the entire book, the information about chapter title and inclusive pages is not included.

Author(s). Chapter title. In: Editor(s). *Book Title*. [Edition number, if it is the second edition or above; mention of first edition is not necessary] ed. City, State (or country) of publisher: Publisher’s name; copyright year:inclusive pages. URL: [provide URL and verify that the link still works as close as possible to the time of publication]. Accessed [date].

*Examples of E-book citations*


**AMA format for websites** (See section 3.15.3 Websites of the AMA Publication Manual for more information and other examples)

In citing data from a website, include the following elements, if available, in the order shown:

Author(s), if given (often, no authors are given). Title of the specific item cited (if none is given, use the name of the organization responsible for the site). Name of the website. URL [provide URL and verify that the link still works as close as possible to publication]. Published [date]. Updated [date]. Accessed [date].

**Examples of website citations**


**AMA format for Government/Organization Reports** (See section 3.15.5 Government/Organization Reports of the AMA Publication Manual for more information and other examples)

Government and organization reports are treated much like online journal and online book references: use journal style for articles and book style for monographs. Note: As with online journal references, of the dates published, updated, and accessed, often only the accessed date will be available.

**Examples of government/organization reports citations**


**AMA format for print journal articles** (See section 3.11.1 References to Print Journals - Complete Data of the AMA Publication Manual for more information and other examples)

Author(s). Title. *Journal Name* [using National Library of Medicine abbreviations]. Year;vol(issue No.):inclusive pages. DOI (If it has one)

**Example of print journal citation**

**AMA format for reference to an entire book** (See section 3.12.1 References to Print Books – Complete Data of the AMA Publication Manual for more information and other examples)

*Examples of print book citations*


**AMA format for reference to a chapter in a book** (See section 3.12.4 Reference to a Chapter in a Book of the AMA Publication Manual for more information and other examples)

When citing a chapter of a book, capitalize as for a journal article title (see 3.9, Titles); do not use quotation marks. Inclusive page numbers of the chapter should be given (see also 3.12.11, Page Numbers or Chapter Number).

*Examples of print book chapter citations*
