ACS Citation Style QuickGuide

Last update: March 5, 2018

This guide includes examples based on the 3rd edition (2006) of *The ACS Style Guide: A Manual for Authors and Editors* edited by Anne M. Coghill and Lorrin R. Garson. For further explanation and more examples, please consult the full Guide, which is available both in print and online.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this QuickGuide is accurate and current. However, in case of discrepancies, the *ACS Style Guide* is the authoritative source for citation information.

In-text references may be cited in one of two ways: **either** by number (superscript or an italicized number in parentheses) or by author-date. **Both** types require the inclusion of a bibliography (under the heading 'Literature Cited'). The Literature Cited section is arranged based on the in-text reference style: arrange references in numerical order if numbering references, or alphabetically if using the author-date style. ACS style abbreviates periodical (journal) titles. To determine the abbreviated title, search for the full title at [http://cassi.cas.org/](http://cassi.cas.org/) or [http://www.library.ubc.ca/scieng/coden.html](http://www.library.ubc.ca/scieng/coden.html).

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Journal article 2 authors</th>
<th>Literature Cited</th>
<th>In Text (number)</th>
<th>In Text (author-date)</th>
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<tr>
<th>Journal article 3 or more authors</th>
<th>Literature Cited</th>
<th>In Text (number)</th>
<th>In Text (author-date)</th>
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**NOTE:** List all authors in literature cited.

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<th>In Text (number)</th>
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**NOTE:** Include an issue number for journals in which each issue begins with page 1.

<table>
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<th>Journal article One-word journal title</th>
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**NOTE:** If a journal title is only one word, do not abbreviate it.

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Questions? **Ask Us!**

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<th>Literature Cited</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Personal Communication</strong> (See p. 316, ACS Style Guide)</td>
<td>Smith, J. T. Augustana Campus, University of Alberta, Camrose, AB. Personal communication, 2005.</td>
<td>Smith 13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sample Literature Cited (using author-date system; note single-spacing and hanging indent)

Literature Cited


Smith, J. T. Augustana Campus, University of Alberta, Camrose, AB. Personal communication, 2005.


Sample Literature Cited (using number system; note single-spacing and hanging indent)

Literature Cited


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Anatomy of a Citation

The following example describes the elements of a citation. It is based on a journal article retrieved online in PDF format.

Author(s)
Authors’ names are inverted (last name followed by a comma then first and middle initials (if given))
For more than one author, insert a semi-colon after the first author’s first initial(s) then add the additional author(s) names
End with a period

Article Title
Capitalize all principal words in the title (e.g. not words such as “of”, “the”, “is”)
End the title with a period

Format
Single-spaced with a hanging indent

Medium of Publication
For articles accessed online, indicate “Online” in square brackets

Date of Publication
Bold year of publication, followed by a comma

Volume/Issue
Give volume number in italics followed by the issue number in brackets (if given), followed by a comma

Page Numbers
Give inclusive page numbers for the entire article, separated by a dash and followed by a period

URL
Provide the URL used to access the article

Date of Access
Indicate the date the article was accessed (i.e. the date you looked at it) in the order shown above in parentheses

Journal Title
Abbreviate the journal name with a period after each abbreviation (see links on pg. 1 of ACS Citation Style QuickGuide for abbreviations)
Italicize the abbreviated journal title