VANCOUVER REFERENCING STYLE

The Vancouver style of referencing is the style most commonly used in the medical sciences. More information and examples of Vancouver referencing can be found in the following guide:


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The Vancouver style consists of the following elements:

1. Citations in the body of the text ("in-text citations"), using consecutive numbers in brackets. Note that some journals use superscripted numbers rather than numbers in parentheses.

2. A numbered reference list at the end of the text which includes the details for each source referred to within text.

**In-text citations**

- A number is placed at the point within the sentence where information from another source is paraphrased, quoted or referred to.

- The number can either appear within round brackets – eg. (2), or superscripted eg. $^2$. However be consistent in the style used.

- Citation numbers are numbered consecutively in the order in which they appear in text.

- The citation number originally assigned to a reference is re-used if that reference is cited again later in the text.

- If citing multiple references in one citation:
  - Inclusive numbers are entered as a range, separated by a hyphen – eg. 5-7
  - Non-inclusive numbers are each separated by a comma – eg. 5,10,12

  … review synthesis were uniquely identified through one strategy 28, 32-34 which suggested that …

- Citation numbers should be placed outside of full-stops and commas, and inside of colons and semicolons:

  … regarding current research into gastroenterology, 23 and funding mandates 24 ensure optimum …

- Page numbers are rarely included within citation numbers. However, if including a quotation add the pages to the citation number.

- For short quotations 4 lines and under, enclose the quotation within quotation marks and incorporate into the text:

  …there is overwhelming evidence "even when the possibility of bias is assessed, there is no guarantee that reviewers have assessed or interpreted it appropriately". 18(p315)

- Long quotations over 4 lines should be indented in a separate block to the text. Quotation marks are not required:

  Over recent decades increasing emphasis has been placed on ensuring healthcare decisions are based on the best evidence:

  Interest in the role of qualitative research in evidence-based health care is growing. However, the methods currently used to identify quantitative research do not translate easily to qualitative research. These difficulties relate to the descriptive nature of the titles used in some qualitative studies, the variable information provided in abstracts, and the differences in the indexing of these studies across databases. 13(p290)

- The placement and format of in-text citations may vary according to the rules of a particular journal or your lecturer. Always double-check before applying these guidelines.
Reference list

- The reference list appears at the end of the document, and includes only the sources cited in-text.
- Reference list entries appear in the same order as cited in-text, arranged numerically by citation number.
- All lines of reference list entries should be indented.

Example of Vancouver referencing

Compared with recent estimates of population smoking prevalence of around 20% in most developed countries,1,2 markedly higher smoking rates have been reported for disadvantaged groups. For example, rates of 26–30% have been found among individuals with low income,2,3 rates of 32–50% have been found for indigenous groups,3,4 rates of 69–70% have been found for homeless individuals,5,6 rates of 35–90% have been found for individuals with a mental illness7–9 and rates of 72–79% have been found among prisoner populations.10–12

Some studies have found that although smokers from disadvantaged groups are interested in quitting and attempt to quit at rates similar to those of other smokers, they are less likely to succeed.13–15

References

5. Connor SE, Cook RL, Herbert MI, Neal SM, Williams JT. Smoking cessation in a homeless population: there is a will, but is there a way? J Gen InternMed 2002;17:369–72.

Reference list entries - General rules

AUTHORS
- List names in the order they appear on the publication
- Initials follow the surname of authors, no spaces or full-stops appear between initials - eg. Smith CK
- Capitalise surnames and enter spaces as they appear on the publication. For example, Van Den Hoffer or van der Hoffer
- Where there are 6 or fewer authors, list all author names.
- Where there are 7 or more authors, list the first six authors followed by “et al.”
- Place a comma and space between each name.
- Do not use “and” or “&” to separate the last two authors.

TITLES
- Do not italicize or underline titles
- Only the first word of journal articles and book titles (and words that normally begin with a capital letter) are capitalized.

Examples of reference list entries

Journal articles
In addition to the general rules above:
- Titles of journals may be abbreviated. For accepted abbreviations see www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nlmcatolog/journals [search by title, abbreviation, or ISSN]
- No punctuation is used within abbreviations; a full-stop appears at the end of the title.
- Include the year of publication (plus month and day if available) after the journal title. However, if a journal carries continuous pagination within the volume (that is, each issue does not begin with page 1) the month and day, as well as the issue number may be omitted.
- The year of publication is followed by a semicolon, with no space following, then the volume or date.
- Include the page range for articles. Limit the number of digits in the 2nd part of the page range to those needed for clarity. For example:
  - use 351-7 (not 351-357).
- Most online journal articles are assigned an identifying number, called a "digital object identifier", or DOI. If an article is assigned a DOI, this number should appear after the page numbers at the end of the reference.

One Author

Two- Six Authors

More than Six Authors
No Author


Online Article without a DOI

To reference a journal article found online which does not have a DOI:

- Include ‘Internet’ in square brackets directly after the abbreviated journal title, follow with a full-stop.
- Add the date the article was cited in square brackets after the year of publication in the format [cited year month day]. Follow with a semi-colon.
- At the end of the reference, after the page numbers, add the phrase ‘Available from:’ followed by the URL. Do not include a full-stop at the end.


Books

In addition to the general rules above:

- If the author is a corporate author, include at the same position as personal authors.
- Include the year of publication as the last element in the reference.
- Include the edition number for second and later editions after the title in the format, “2nd ed”, “4th ed”. End with a full-stop.
- The place of publication appears after the title (and edition if included) and is followed by a colon. If the place of publication is not well known, include a state or country abbreviation.
- Include the publisher after the place of publication, follow with a semi-colon.
- eBooks – include “Available from:” followed by the URL as the last element of the reference.

One Author


Two - Six Authors


More than Six Authors


Edited Book


Corporate Author


eBook

**Book chapters**

In addition to the general rules above:
- Include the authors of the chapter as the first element in the reference.
- After the chapter authors, include the title of the chapter, followed by a full-stop.
- Next, add the title of the book, preceded by ‘In:’
- Add the names of each editor, followed by ‘editor/s’, and a full-stop
- The place of publication appears after the book title and is followed by a colon. If the place of publication is not well known, include a state or country abbreviation.
- Include the publisher after the place of publication, followed by a semi-colon, then the year of publication and a full-stop.
- Include the page range for the chapter preceded by ‘p’. Limit the number of digits in the 2nd part of the page range to those needed for clarity. For example:
  - use p. 351-7 (not p. 351-357)


**BMJ Best Practice topics**

Citations to topics included in BMJ Best Practice are formatted similar to book chapter entries. Author details plus the date the topic was last updated are listed under “Contributors” (in the “Resources” area).


**Cochrane Reviews**

Follow the same format as for journal articles.


**Conference paper**


**Course outline**


**Critical appraisal tools**

**STROBE Statement**

The STROBE Statement should be referenced using one of the journal articles listed here: [http://strobe-statement.org/index.php?id=strobe-publications](http://strobe-statement.org/index.php?id=strobe-publications)

The most recent article is provided below:

Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP)
Example CASP checklist:


Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) checklists
Example JBI checklist:


PEDro scale


Downs & Black checklist for measuring study quality
This checklist is part of the article below:


Cochrane ‘Risk of bias’ tool
This tool is part of the chapter below:


Dictionary entry (print)


Dictionary entry (online)


Images, figures and tables

Figures and tables from an ebook

Figures and tables from a print book

Figures and tables from a journal article

Image from an online source

Lecture presentations/notes

MIMS
- Add the name of the section referred to after the copyright date, then follow with the updated and cited dates in square brackets.
- Follow the end square brackets with a semi-colon. Add an estimation of the number of pages for the section followed by ‘p.’ Include this detail in square brackets.
- End with the URL.


Newspaper article

Personal communication
The inclusion of personal communication, such as unpublished sources, conversations, interviews, letters or emails, should be carefully considered.

Where personal communication is deemed appropriate, include a citation in-text only, not in the list of references. For example:
... incidents of aggression towards hospital staff in the Sydney area have been increasing over the last five years (2016 author interview with PK Smith; unreferenced, see Appendix for full transcript) ...

Twitter and Facebook
UpToDate topics
Citations to topics included in UpToDate are formatted similar to book chapter entries.

- Include the author of the UpToDate entry as the first element in the citation – the author will be listed in the topic header.
- List the title of the topic.
- Include UpToDate as the source, follow with the editor of UpToDate
- Include the tagging [Internet] to identify as an online resource
- Follow with the place of publication, publisher and date.
- Finish with date the topic was updated (this is listed in the topic header) and the cited date in square brackets
- The name of the library-subscribed database/resource can be added in place of the URL

33. Marion DW. Diaphragmatic pacing. In: UpToDate, Bastow DS, editor [Internet]. Waltman, DC: UpToDate, 2012. [updated 2011 July 19; cited 2012 March 6]. Available from: UpToDate

YouTube


Web pages
To reference a web page:

- Include the author as the first element in the reference. If no author is listed, include the title as the first element.
- Add ‘Internet’ in square brackets directly after the web page title. Follow with a full-stop.
- Next, add the headquarters of the organization publishing the website, followed by a colon, then the organization itself. End with a semi-colon.
- Add the copyright date/range for the site.
- Next, include the date the page was updated followed by a semi-colon, then the date the page was cited. All of this detail must be included in square brackets. For example: [updated 2010 June 24; cited 2010 October 19]. End with a full-stop after the closing bracket.
- At the end of the reference, add the phrase ‘Available from:’ followed by the URL. Do not include a full-stop at the end.


Referencing secondary sources of information

In your research you will often encounter the situation where an author refers to another researcher’s work. For example, the following image is from page 216 of the journal article:


In-text references to secondary sources must name the original source, as well as provide a citation to the secondary source.

In this article, the author, Izumi Featherstone, refers to research undertaken in 1990 by Begley (see circled text).

If Begley’s research was also relevant to your own assignment you might decide that you also need to refer to this author’s research in your writing.

Where possible, you should try to obtain the original published work by Begley - in this case a 1990 journal article - and read through the article to form your own opinions on Begley’s research.

Often, however, it is impossible to obtain the original publication - it may be published in another language, or in a book or journal which is difficult to obtain.

In these circumstances, you are permitted to include a citation to the secondary source, in this case, the article by Featherstone.