

THINKING AHEAD ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

Citing from the Internet

Many people have no clear idea how to cite a website properly; those who eventually figure it out find that they are missing several pieces of information and their citations are incomplete. When writing papers, most people prepare their bibliographies or “Works Cited” pages last. This leave very little time to correct errors or look up missing bibliographic information.

HOWEVER—

There **is** a simple way to make certain you end up with appropriate citations for your World Wide Web sources: all you have to do is **think ahead**. When you find a website that contains information you want to cite in your paper,

STOP!

Take the time to make 4 crucial notes regarding the website:

1.) The URL (Uniform Resource Locator)

- The “web address”: this is located at the top of your browser window in the **Address** box in Internet Explorer or the **Location** box in Netscape. Whether you copy it down by hand or cop and paste it into a word processing document, it’s important that you keep a list of your potential World Wide Web sources, not only so that you can cite them properly but so that you can easily find them again if you need to refer back to them.

PROPER FOMRAT

Now that you have all the necessary information, preparing a bibliography entry for a website is simple. There are two major formats in common use: **APA (American Psychological Association)**, commonly used for social sciences; and **MLA (Modern Language Association)**, commonly used for humanities. If you're not certain which to use, consult your instructor.

APA Format:

- The site's author, followed by a period.
- The publication date in parentheses, followed by a period.
- The title, followed by a period.
- The phrase, "Retrieved [date you accessed the information] from the World Wide Web" followed by a colon.
- The complete URL.
- Note that APA citations are **single-spaced**.

Example:

Klages, Mary. (8 October 1997). Jacques Lacan. Retrieved February 22, 2001 from the World Wide Web:

<http://www.colorado.edu/English/ENGL2012Klages/lacan.html>

For more information, consult the *APA Publication Manual* or

<http://www.apa.org/journals.webref.html>

MLA Format:

- The site's author, followed by a period.
- The title underlined and followed by a period.
- The publication date, followed by a period.
- The **institution**, if applicable; that is, if it's an "edu" page, you must list the school. Abbreviate "University" to "U" and follow with a period.
- The date you accessed the information.
- The complete URL, enclosed in **angle brackets** (< >), followed by a period.
- Note that MLA citations are **double spaced**.

Example:

Klages, Mary. Jacques Lacan. 8 October 1997. U of Colorado. 22 February 2001

<<http://www.colorado.edu/English/ENGL2012Klages/lacan.html>>.

For more information, consult the *MLA Handbook* (fifth edition).