St. Mary's University
Blume Library & Learning Assistance Center

Documenting Electronic Sources
APSA Style
[American Political Science Association]

General Guidelines

Source types:

- Electronic subscription sources
- Freely available electronic journal article
- Freely available Web documents/Web sites
- Legal cases
- Other full-text databases
- Numeric databases
- Abstract from a Database
- E-mail
- Further information

General Guidelines

1. Save all documents used for research. If you don't print out the information, at least save it to a disk. Information on the Internet might be removed or moved to another site when you try to find it later.

2. Refer to a printed source, if available. Many Internet sources originated from print sources. The print source may contain more information than an abbreviated electronic version.

3. Whenever possible, opt for a signed article. If no byline is given for information you want to cite, e-mail the Webmaster for the source of the information and explain why you need it.

4. Research the author's credibility. Try to find biographical information or other material the author has written. If you can't find this in print or electronic sources, you may need to contact the author, through e-mail or other means, to find this information or to ask the author which version of his or her text is most authoritative.

5. Find out from your professor which style format s/he prefers.

Disclaimer: There is not complete agreement among the guides presently available in citing electronic sources. These examples are simply provided as a guideline. Whichever format you follow, make sure that you are consistent throughout your work.

Additional information may be provided by the Learning Assistance Center (LAC) [3rd Floor, Blume Library] (436-3203) or a Reference Librarian (436-3508).

Note: Many of the links below will work only on the St. Mary’s University campus.

References

Electronic subscription sources (LEXIS-NEXIS Academic Universe, Academic Search Premier, etc.)

Basic form

Author. Year. "Article Title." Journal Title or Information Source
Volume number(Issue number): Number of pages or paragraphs (if given), or n. pag. (for no pagination). Information Service. Accessed: date <URL>.


Example


Basic form
Petitioner v. Respondent. Year. Volume Source First Page. Information

Example

Other full-text databases

Basic form
Author. Year. "Title of Document." Date of material. Database or Information
Author. Year. "Title of Document." [Medium] Date of material. Database or
Information Source, Vendor.

Example
Department of Commerce.

Numeric databases (Research Insight (formerly Compustat), FISonline)

Basic form
Author/editor (if known). Date. Title. Information Source (Version)
[Medium]. Place of Publication: Publisher.
Information Source (Version) [CD-ROM]. Date. Place of Publication: Publisher.

Example
(Research Insight was formerly known as Compustat).
FISonline 2001. New York: Mergent FIS.
Abstract from a Database

Basic form


Author. Year. "Article Title" [Medium]. Periodical Title volume(issue):

Example


30(4): 452-468. Abstract from: International Political Science


<http://webspirs3.silverplatter.com/cgi-bin/customers/c14811/c14811.cgi>.

Abstract from: Social Sciences Abstracts.

E-mail

Basic form

Author. Year. "Subject of Message" [Length] Posting Date. Discussion List
[Online posting]. Accessed: date <DISCUSSION LIST@e-mail address>.

Example

Safety [Online posting]. Accessed: 31 July 1995 <e-mail:
SAFETY@uvmvm.uvm.edu>.

For further information

Kelly, Jean P., Michael K. Lane and Susan C. Angel. 1993. "Style Manual for Political
Science." In Political Science: Illustrated Search Strategy and Sources, Roger C. Lowery
and Sue A. Cody. Ann Arbor, MI: Pierian Press. REF JA 86 .L69 1993
* See also recent issues of political science journals, e.g., American Political Science
Review, American Journal of Political Science, etc. for examples of citations and
submission guidelines.

Chicago

253 .U69 1993

**Other Guides**


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