INTRODUCTION

When writing a research paper, it is important to cite any sources that you have consulted in your research. You must acknowledge when you are using the ideas, information or arguments of others, whether they are directly quoted or not. Failure to do so may be construed as plagiarism. Plagiarism is the presentation of the ideas of others as one's own and is a serious offence.

This guide provides a quick reference for Vancouver Style, which is a brief name for the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals and which works on the same principles as the National Library of Medicine Recommended Formats for Bibliographic Citation.

Citation information must appear in two places.

- First, it must appear in the text of your paper at the point where the borrowed fact or idea appears. See the Parenthetical References section below.
- Secondly, you are required to include a complete list of sources at the end of the paper. See the Reference List section below.

PARENTHETICAL REFERENCES

When you use information from a source [an idea, a quotation, a table, etc.], refer readers to the source with an Arabic number in brackets. [Some instructors or journal editors may require a number in superscript instead.] This number corresponds to your reference list at the end of the paper — in Vancouver Style, this list matches the order in which you mention sources.

If you cite the same source more than once, reuse the original number from the reference list. To cite more than one source at the same time, list their numbers in the reference list, separated by commas (1,2) or using a dash for several references listed consecutively (1–3).

In general, you do not need to cite the author or title of the source in the text of your paper, but in certain situations you may decide it is important to mention them.

Punctuation: If the citation is at the end of a sentence or clause, place it after a period or comma but before a colon or semicolon.
GENERAL CITATION
Smaller pediatric blood collection tubes can be used to minimize blood loss. [1]

SPECIFIC CITATION (A QUOTATION, CHART, OR OTHER SPECIFIC PART OF A SOURCE)
When dealing with a patient who refuses blood, it is important to remember that "maintaining good rapport with the patient becomes the key to obtaining the best possible outcome." [1, p176]

CITATIONS TO MULTIPLE SOURCES
Several studies (3–6) have contradicted this view.

Non-verbal pain assessment has been touched on by a number of researchers. [11,13–16]

INDIRECT CITATION
An indirect citation is a reference to an idea that has been referenced by another writer. Indirect citations are generally discouraged in Vancouver Style. If, for example, source number 7 in your reference list cited research by Smith and you would also like to cite Smith’s research, you should find the original source by Smith and cite it directly. However, if you are unable to do so, you may use an indirect citation, giving the name and year of the original source:

Smith (2006) found the opposite result. [cited by 7, p276]

REFERENCE LIST
The Reference List appears on a separate page at the end of a research paper with the title, References, centred at the top of the page. It is a numbered list of all the sources cited in the paper, in the order in which they are first cited. No italics, underlining, or quotation marks are necessary to indicate the titles of sources.

JOURNAL ARTICLES
Basic Format (Print)
Author Surname Initials. Title of article. Abbreviated Title of Journal. Date of Publication; Volume Number(Issue Number): Page Numbers.

Basic Format (Online)
Author Surname Initials. Title of article. Abbreviated Title of Journal [Internet]. Date of Publication [cited Date of Access]; Volume Number(Issue Number):Page Numbers. Available from Database Name (use simply “Available from” if not accessed through a database): URL

Note: To find the abbreviated title of a journal, use the Pubmed Journal database on the National Center for Biotechnology Information website: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/journals

In Print, Single author

In Print, Multiple authors

Note: When an article has more than three authors, you may give the first three or the first six authors’ names followed by et al.


In Print, Anonymous Author

Accessed through a Website

Accessed through a Database

Note: A long url can be shortened using a url redirection service such as bit.ly or tinyurl.com.

Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science [Internet]. Hamilton: Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science; 2010 [cited 19 Feb 2010]. Available from: http://www.csmls.org/

Web Page, Article, or Other Part of a Web Site (Basic Format)
Title of homepage [Internet]. Place of publication: Publisher; cDate of Publication of home page. Title of part; Date of Publication of Part [Date of Access]; [length of part]. Available from: URL


A BLOG
Basic Format
Author Surname Initials or Screen Name (If available). Title of blog [blog on the Internet]. Place of Publication: Publisher. Dates of Publication of the Blog [cited Date of Access]. Available from: URL


An Individual Blog Post (Basic Format)
Author Surname Initials or Screen Name (If available). Title of blog [blog on the Internet]. Place of Publication: Publisher. Dates of Publication of the Blog. Title of post; Date of Post [cited Date of Access]; [length of post]. Available from: URL


A Comment on a Blog (Basic Format)
Commenter Surname Initials (or screen name). Comments on: Title of entry. Date of Publication of Comment [cited Date of Access]. In: Blog Author Surname Initials [or screen name]. Title of blog [blog on the Internet]. Place of Publication: Publisher. Dates of Publication of the Blog. Title of contribution. Available from: URL


AN ONLINE IMAGE
Delisle GJ, Tomalty L, Queens University. Encapsulated streptococcus pneumonia [image on the Internet]. [Date Unknown] [cited 2010 Mar 2]. Available from: http://pathmicro.med.sc.edu/fox/Spneumo.jpg

A GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT

Note: If the author or publisher is a division of a larger body, give the names of the divisions in descending hierarchical order, separated by commas. If a nationality is not part of the organization’s name, indicate the country in parentheses after the name, using the two-letter ISO country code (e.g. National Academy of Sciences (US)). ISO country codes can be found here: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bookshelf/br.fcgi?book=citmed&part=appd

OTHER MATERIAL
Video Recording (Basic Format)
Author Surname Initial (If available). Title [medium]. Producer Surname Initial, producer. Place of Publication: Publisher; Date. Extent: Physical description.

Inside the living cell [DVD]. Russell BJ, Russell ER, producers. [Loom is (CA)]: BioMedia Associates; 2004. 1 disc: 75 min., sound, colour, 4 ¾ in.

STREAMING VIDEO

EMAIL
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For the most up-to-date examples of Vancouver Style citations to almost any type of document, see Citing Medicine: The NLM Style Guide for Authors, Editors, and Publishers, available free online: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bookshelf/br.fcgi?book=citmed

A growing number of websites offer examples and explanations of Vancouver Style. For instance, try Vancouver Community College’s guide: http://library.vcc.ca/research/apa-mla-harvard-vancouver-asa/

Or, the guide from The University of Western Australia: http://guides.library.uwa.edu.au/friendly.php?s=vancouver

To find examples of certain types of citations, you can also Google “Vancouver style” or “Vancouver citation” and keywords for the type of document you want to cite. Remember to choose websites that are reliable and recently updated, such as those produced by a university, university library, or university writing centre.