
VANCOUVER STYLE



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

Laudicina RJ. Searching for hereditary hemochromatosis. Clin Lab Sci. 2006 Summer; 19(3):174–183.

In Print, Multiple authors

Cariappa A, Chase C, Liu H, Russell P, Pillai S. Naive recirculating B cells mature simultaneously in the spleen and bone marrow. Blood. 2007 Mar 15; 109(6):2339–45.

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.**

Cariappa A, Chase C, Liu H, et al. Naive recirculating B cells mature simultaneously in the spleen and bone marrow. Blood. 2007 Mar 15;109(6): 2339–45.

Ghevaert C, Rankin A, Huiskes E, Porcelijn L, Javela K, Kekomaki R, et al. Alloantibodies against low-frequency human platelet antigens do not account for a significant proportion of cases of fetomaternal alloimmune thrombocytopenia: evidence from 1054 cases. Transfusion. 2009 Oct;49(10): 2084–9.

In Print, Anonymous Author

Family planning. New Sci. 2010 Jan 30;205(2745):6.

Accessed through a Website

Lau WH, Leong WS, Ismail Z, Gam LH. Qualification and application of an ELI SA for the determination of Tamm Horsfall Protein [THP] in human urine and its use for screening of kidney stone disease. *Int J Biol Sci* [Internet]. 2008 [cited 2010 Feb 11];4(4): 215–222. Available from: <http://www.biolsci.org/v04p0215.htm>

Accessed through a Database

Hanson E, Agosti S, Kang L. Can a clinical LAP procedure be made reproducible and easy to perform? MLO Med Lab Obs [Internet]. 2009 Nov [cited 2010 Feb 12];41(11):44–46. Available from: Biomedical Reference Collection: Comprehensive: <http://0-web.b.ebscohost.com/innopac.lib.bcit.ca/ehost/search/advanced?sid=1a3df227-e707-4291-ad3b-9263dcb64cbc%40sessionmgr112&vid=0&hid=101>

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

Smyth M, Moore J, Goldsmith C. Urinary tract infections: role of the clinical microbiology laboratory. Urol Nurs [Internet]. 2006 June [cited 2010 Feb 12];26(3):198–203. Available from: Biomedical Reference Collection: Comprehensive: <http://bit.ly/agq0i0>

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

Second-hand smoke linked to thicker arteries in children. *Globe and Mail* [British Columbia Ed.]. 2010 Mar 3;Sect. L:4.

Steenhuysen J. Gene-based test can identify tumour DNA in blood. *Vancouver Sun* [Internet]. 2010 Feb 19 [cited 2010 Mar 3]; Health. Available from: <http://bit.ly/cUU9rg>

Blood from Vancouver games athletes will be kept until 2018. *National Post* [Internet]. 2010 Feb 26 [cited 2010 Mar 3]; Sect. OL:9. Available from Canadian Newsstand Major Dailies: <http://bit.ly/9tUpFy>

BOOKS

Basic Format (Print)

Author/Editor Surname Initials. Title: subtitle. Edition (if not first). Place of publication: Publisher; Year. Length.

Basic Format (Online)

Author/Editor Surname Initials. Title: subtitle. Edition (if not first) [Internet]. Place of publication: Publisher; Year. [cited Date of Access]. Length. Available from Database Name [use simply "Available from" if not accessed through a database]: URL

In Print, One Author/Editor

Adley C. Food-borne pathogens: methods and protocols. Totowa: Humana Press; 2006. 267 p.

Lorian V, editor. Antibiotics in laboratory medicine. 5th ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2005. 889 p.

In Print, Multiple Authors/Editors

Di Lorenzo MS, Strasinger SK. Blood collection in healthcare. Philadelphia: F. A. Davis; 2002. 98 p.

Young NS, Gerson SL, High KA, editors. Clinical hematology. Philadelphia: Mosby/Elsevier; 2006. 1420 p.

Note: When a book has more than three authors, you may give the first **three** or the **first six** authors' names followed by **et al.**

Traldi P, Magno F, Lavagninil, et al. Quantitative applications of mass spectrometry. Chichester: Wiley; 2006. 138 p.

Stamtoyannopoulos G, Majerus PW, Perimutter RM, et al., editors. The molecular basis of blood diseases. 3rd ed. Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders; 2001. 1028 p.

In Print, Corporate Author/Editor

American Chemical Society, Task Force on Laboratory Waste Management. Laboratory waste management: a guidebook. Washington: American Chemical Society; 1994. 211 p.

ELECTRONIC BOOK

Armarego WLF, Chai CLL. Purification of laboratory chemicals. 6th ed [Internet]. Amsterdam: Elsevier; 2009 [cited 2010 Feb 19]. 743 p. Available from Knovel: <http://bit.ly/b6eN07>

Chapter in an Edited Collection

Mackenzie JS, Barrett ADT, Deubel V. The Japanese encephalitis serological group of flaviviruses: a brief introduction to the group. In: Mackenzie JS, Barrett ADI, Deubel V, editors. Japanese encephalitis and West Nile viruses. New York: Springer; 2002. p. 1–10.

Jurado C. Hair analysis for cocaine. In: Kintz P, editor. Analytical and practical aspects of drug testing in hair [Internet]. Boca Raton: CRC Press; 2007 [cited 2010 Feb 19]. p. 95–125. Available from: CRCnet BASE: <http://www.crcnetbase.com/doi/abs/10.1201/9781420006193.ch4>

Signed Entry in an Encyclopedia or Other Reference Book

Thivierge B, Frey RJ. Heavy metal poisoning. In: The Gale encyclopedia of medicine. 3rd ed. Vol. 3. Detroit: Thomson Gale; 2006. p. 1731–3.

Mogridge J, Starnbach MN. Anthrax toxin. In: Wiley encyclopedia of molecular medicine [Internet]. New York: John Wiley & Sons; 2002 [cited 2010 Feb 19]. Available from: Knovel: <http://bit.ly/cpVrEv>

Unsigned Entry in an Encyclopedia or Other Reference Book

Merriam-Webster's medical desk dictionary. Revised ed. Springfield: Merriam-Webster; 2005. Hemoglobin; p. 341.

WEB SITES AND OTHER ONLINE REFERENCES

Web Site (Basic Format)

Author Surname Initials (if available). Title of web site [Internet]. Place of Publication: Publisher; Date of First Publication [Date of Last Update; Date of Access]. Available from: URL

Note: Websites vary considerably in the amount of publication information supplied. Be sure to look for information such as author name in a variety of places – it may be given somewhere on the web page you wish to cite, on the web site's home page, or elsewhere within the site.

If you cannot find the place of publication, publisher, or date of first publication, use: [Place unknown], [Publisher unknown], or [date unknown]. Other elements, such as author, can simply be omitted if they are not specified.

Bellham S. Histology–World! [Internet] [Publisher unknown]: Histology–World; [date unknown] [cited 2010 Feb 20]. Available from: <http://www.histology-world.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

Stains file [Internet]. [Place unknown]: Bryan Llewellyn; [updated 2009 Nov]. Histotechnology; [updated 2005 May] [cited 2010 Feb 25]; [about one screen]. Available from: <http://stainsfile.info/StainsFile/histek.htm>

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

Haematology & blood transfusion science [blog on the Internet]. [Place unknown]: [Publisher unknown]; 2009 Dec – [cited 2010 Feb 25]. Available from: <http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/primate-diaries/>

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

Johnson EM. The primate diaries: notes on science, politics and history from a primate in the human zoo [blog on the Internet]. New York: ScienceBlogs. 2009 Jun – . Hairy crustaceous substances in the urine revealed; 2010 Feb 25 [cited 2010 Feb 25]; [about 2 screens]. Available from: <http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/primate-diaries/>

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. [length of contribution]. Available from: URL

Saunders B. Comments on: Who will build food safety partnerships? 2009 Sep 30 [cited 2010 Feb 26]. In: Smith M. Public Health LabLog [blog on the Internet]. [Silver Spring [MD]]: Association of Public Health Laboratories. 2009 May – . [about 1 screen]. Available from: <http://www.aphlblog.org/2009/09/who-will-help-build-food-safety-partnerships/>

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

Health Canada, Population and Public Health Branch, Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response. Laboratory biosafety guidelines. 3rd ed [Internet]. Ottawa: Health Canada; 2004 [cited 2010 Mar 4]. Available from: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ols-bsl/lbg-ldmbl/>

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

Senter301. New student trying venipuncture [failed] [Internet]. [Place unknown]: [publisher unknown]; 2008 Aug 27 [cited 2010 Mar 2]. Streaming video: 0:22 min. Available from: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ssCrH6Sh_DE

EMAIL

Skibo, Raymond. Blood sample practice [Internet]. Message to: Lavonne Strang. 2010 Jan 23 [cited 2010 Mar 3]. [1 paragraph].

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.



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