

CSE Citation Style QuickGuide

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Introduction

This guide is based on the *The CSE Manual: Scientific Style and Format for Authors, Editors, and Publishers* (9th edition, 2024). For more information and examples, see the [CSE Manual](#) (online).

For more citation resources, visit the [Citation and Reference Management guide](#). Have any questions? [Ask us!](#)

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Components of CSE style

The *CSE Manual* provides a choice of three different citation systems. **This guide uses the Name-Year system**, which includes two components: **In-text references** throughout your work and a **reference list** at the end of your work that gives full details about your cited sources.

In-text references

These guidelines will help you get started. For more detailed information, see the *CSE Manual*, section 29.2.

An in-text reference includes the author's last name and the year of publication. For example:
(Hofmann 2024)

In a sentence, it should be placed right after the word or phrase to which it refers. For example:
"Changes in the body during long-duration spaceflight (Lee et al 2020) can lead to ..."

To cite **multiple works at once**, list the works in chronological order, from earliest to most recent:

- *Works by different authors:* (Langue 2015; Hofmann 2024)
- *Works by the same author(s) in different years:* (Langue 2015, 2018)
- *Works by the same author(s) in the same year:* (Langue 2015a, 2015b). Add the same letters after the year in the reference list entries.

If a work has **no publication date**, instead put the phrase "date unknown" in square brackets in an in-text reference. For example:
(Davis [date unknown])

Author variations

To cite a work with **two authors**, include both authors' last names. For example:
(Bilgrami and Khan 2022)

For a work with **three or more authors**, include only the first author's last name, followed by the abbreviation "et al" (which means "and others"). For example:
(Hutchen et al 2024)

If the work is by an **organization**, use the name of the organization in the in-text citation. CSE recommends using an abbreviated organization name for in-text references. For example:
(WHO 2023)

If a work has **no listed author**, begin the in-text reference with the first word or first few words of the title (enough words to distinguish it from other titles in your references), followed by an ellipsis (see the *CSE Manual*, section 29.2.1.2.6). For example:

(Trees ... [date unknown])

Reference list entries

These guidelines will help you get started. For more detailed information, see the *CSE Manual*, section 29.3.

A reference list should include all of the information sources you cited in the text of your paper. Reference lists should have the heading “Cited References,” “References,” “Reference List,” or “Literature Cited.” Sort reference list entries alphabetically. An [Example reference list](#) is at the end of this guide.

Each reference includes all of the information someone would need to look up an information source. References usually include the author, date, title, and publication details.

Author

Format all author names with the last name first, followed by the author’s initials. For example:
Hofmann AH.

If a work has **between two and five authors**, include all of their names, separated with commas. For example:

Hutchen J, Berseth V, Nguyen V.

If there are **six or more authors**, include the first author’s name, followed by “et al.” For example:
Rodriguez-Rafael ED et al. 2024.

If an **organization is the author**, include the abbreviated name you are using for in-text references, in square brackets, followed by the full name of the organization. For example:
[WHO] World Health Organization.

If a work has **no author**, start the reference with the title. For example:
Trees of Canada.

Date

The date tells the reader when the work was published or updated. Here are some guidelines for dates in end references:

- Use the **year of publication** when available. For example: 2023.
- If the publication year is **uncertain or cannot be determined**, use the copyright year, with a “c” ahead of it. For example: c2025.
- If **no date is available**, put the phrase “date unknown” in square brackets instead. For example: [date unknown].
- For **online sources**:
 - Use the date the information was last updated. For example: 2024 Jul 16.

- If no date is given, use an access date instead. For example: [accessed 2024 May 11].

Title

Use these guidelines to format titles:

- For most titles, use **sentence case**: Capitalize only the first word in the title, along with any proper nouns.
- For journal, magazine, and newspaper titles, use **title case**: Capitalize all major words.

Journal titles are usually abbreviated. To find an abbreviation, search for the journal title in the following databases:

- [CAS Source Index Search Tool](#)
- [Web of Science Journal Title Abbreviations](#)
- [Journal database at NCBI](#)

If you cannot find the journal title in any of these databases, search for the root of each title word in the [List of Title Word Abbreviations](#). Articles, conjunctions, and prepositions are omitted from abbreviated titles (*CSE Manual*, section 29.4.1.1).

Publication details

Publication details will vary depending on the type of source, but they may include:

- The **volume and issue number** of a journal
- **Page numbers** within a book or journal
- A **digital object identifier (DOI)** or other **URL**

CSE recommends including a URL (link) at the end of the reference for any work accessed online (*CSE Manual*, section 29.4.1).

- If the work has a digital object identifier (DOI), use that as the URL. You can create a stable URL by starting with <https://doi.org/> and then adding the DOI. Test the URL to make sure it works.
- If the work does not have a DOI, use another stable URL (sometimes labeled as a permalink or permanent link).

Reference templates and examples

This guide includes templates for references to different types of sources. Sometimes, a template might not exactly match the source you are citing. You can use it as a guide, and if you need more information or examples, check the [CSE Manual](#) or other citation resources.

Articles in journals, magazines, and newspapers

Template

Authors. Year of publication. Article title. Publication Title. Volume(issue):page numbers. DOI or other URL

Note: If a publication does not have volume or issue numbers, skip that part of the reference. For more information about citing articles, see the *CSE Manual*, section 29.4.1 and 29.4.1.10.

Journal article, print

Hutchen J, Berseth V, Nguyen V. 2024. Whose authority drives the narrative?: framing the spread of mountain pine beetle in Canadian news media. *Environ Commun.* 18(4):465–483.

Journal article, online

Davies J, Davies D. 2010. Origins and evolution of antibiotic resistance. *Microbiol Mol Biol Rev.* 74(3):417–433. <https://doi.org/10.1128/MMBR.00016-10>

Journal article, online, with article number

Rodriguez-Rafael ED et al. 2024. Effects of warm oceanographic anomalies on the foraging variability of northern elephant seals. *Mar Biol.* 171(8):162. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00227-024-04476-5>

Note: If an article number is given, use it instead of the page numbers. An article number usually starts with the word “Article” and then a series of numbers and sometimes letters (e.g., Article 162).

Magazine article

Koren M. 2024 Jul 17. The search for alien life starts on earth. *The Atlantic*.

Note: The *CSE Manual* does not mention magazine articles, but they may be cited similarly to journal or news articles. They usually do not include volume or issue numbers.

Newspaper article, print

Weiss R. 2003 Apr 11. Study shows problems in cloning people: researchers find replicating primates will be harder than other mammals. *Washington Post (Home Ed.)*. Sect. A:12.

Note: If an edition is given, include it in parentheses after the publication title. Include the section, abbreviated as “Sect.,” in addition to the page number.

Newspaper article, online

Alam H. 2024 Jan 31. Fossils from Permian era exposed in PEI after Fiona storm. The Globe and Mail.

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-fossils-from-permian-era-exposed-in-peி-after-fiona-storm/>

Books

Template

Authors or editors. Year of publication. Title. Edition. Publisher. DOI or other URL

Note: For more information, see the *CSE Manual*, section 29.4.2.

Print book

Hofmann AH. 2024. Writing in the biological sciences: a comprehensive resource for scientific communication. 5th ed. Oxford University Press.

Ebook

Bilgrami AL, Khan A. 2022. Plant nematode biopesticides. Academic Press.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/C2019-0-05471-4>

Edited book

Van Kooten GC, Bulte E, Sinclair ARE, editors. 2017. Conserving nature's diversity: insights from biology, ethics and economics. Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315191263>

Note: Include the word "editor" or "editors" after the editor names.

Book chapters and encyclopedia & dictionary entries

Templates

If the book has editors, use this template:

Authors. Year of publication. Chapter or entry title. In: Editor Names, editors. Book title. Edition. Publisher. Page numbers of chapter or entry. DOI or other URL

If the entire book is by the same authors, use this template:

Authors. Year of publication. Book title. Edition. Publisher. Chapter title; page numbers of chapter. DOI or other URL

Note: For more information, see the *CSE Manual*, section 29.4.2.10.

Chapter in an edited book

Stoffle RW, Arnold R, Van Vlack K. 2024. Native American science in a living universe: a Paiute perspective. In: Johnson EA, Arlidge SM, editors. *Natural science and Indigenous knowledge: the Americas experience*. Cambridge University Press. p 107–136.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009416665.005>

Chapter in an authored book

Hernandez J. 2022. Fresh banana leaves: healing Indigenous landscapes through Indigenous science. North Atlantic Books. *Ecowars: seeking environmental justice*; p 125–154.

Encyclopedia entry

Lata S, Raghava G. 2013. Antimicrobial peptides. In: Dubitzky W, Wolkenhauer O, Cho K, Yokota H, editors. *Encyclopedia of systems biology*. Springer. p 31–33.
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4419-9863-7_87

Part of a lab manual or coursepack, with authors

Smart IM. 2023. AUBIO 251 laboratory manual. University of Alberta, Augustana Faculty. *Ecological sampling techniques: species-area relationships and species diversity*. p 27–29.

Part of a lab manual or coursepack, with editors

Langue T. 2015. Whale evolution. In: Strong B, editor. *AUBIO 101 laboratory manual: animal evolution*. University of Alberta, Augustana Faculty. p 15–19.

Note: If the author of the part you are citing is not known, move the section title to the beginning of the reference, ahead of the date.

Dissertations and theses

Template

Author. Year of publication. Title [description of content]. Publisher. URL

Note: For more information, see the *CSE Manual*, section 29.4.5.

Example

Davis MM. 2008. Temporal and spatial regulation of gene expression in drosophila melanogaster development and immunity [dissertation]. University of Alberta. <https://archive.org/details/davis2008>

Canadian statutes

Template

Title, statute volume jurisdiction year, chapter, section or other location element if applicable.

Note: For more information, see the *CSE Manual*, section 29.4.15, and the *Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation*, 10th edition, section 2.1.

Example

Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, RSA 2000, c E-12, s 2.

Government and organization reports

Template

Authors. Year of publication. Title of report. Publisher. URL

Note: For more information, see the *CSE Manual*, sections 29.4.4 and 29.4.11.

Example

[WHO] World Health Organization. 2023. World health statistics 2023: monitoring health for the SDGs. World Health Organization. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240074323>

Note: If you abbreviate an organization's name in-text, put the abbreviation in square brackets at the beginning of the entry.

Webpages

Template

Authors. Year, Month, day of publication or update. Title of page. Publisher; [date accessed if publication date is unknown]. URL

Note: For more information, see the *CSE Manual*, section 29.4.11.

Webpage with personal author

Thurton D. 2024 Jul 16. Ottawa unveils plan to phase out oil-fired furnaces and support heat pumps. CBC.
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/oil-furnace-green-strategy-canada-wilkinson-heat-pump-1.7264385>

Webpage, no author and no date

Trees of Canada. [date unknown]. Tree Canada; [accessed 2024 May 11].
<https://treecanada.ca/resources/trees-of-canada/>

Note: When a webpage has no author, start the reference with the title.

Online videos

Template

Title of video [description of content]. Date posted. Title of Program/Channel. Publisher. URL

Note: For more information, see the *CSE Manual*, section 29.4.14.2.

Example

Photosynthesis and respiration [YouTube video]. 2011 Jul 7. Bozeman Science. YouTube.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0IJMRsTcwcg>

Podcast episodes

Template

Presenters. Date posted. Title of episode [description of content]. Title of Podcast Program.
 Producer. URL

Note: For more information, see the *CSE Manual*, section 29.4.14.1.

Example

Smith C. 2022 Apr 12. Contagious cancers [podcast]. The Naked Scientists. University of Cambridge.
<https://www.thenakedscientists.com/podcasts/naked-scientists-podcast/contagious-cancers>

Social media posts

Template

Username or page name. Date of posting. Title or text of post. Platform. URL

Note: For more information, see the *CSE Manual*, section 29.4.13.

Example

@blogTO. 2024 Jul 17. People were out kayaking and catching fish on flooded Toronto streets.
X. <https://x.com/blogTO/status/1813561635224633590>

Personal communications

CSE recommends placing references to personal communications such as letters and conversations within the running text, not as formal references. Here is an example of how to cite personal communications in a parenthetical citation:

(2021 conversation between J Mickelson and me; unreferenced)

Note: For more information, see the *CSE Manual*, section 29.4.16.2.

Example reference list

References

- Alam H. 2024 Jan 31. Fossils from Permian era exposed in PEI after Fiona storm. *The Globe and Mail*.
<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-fossils-from-permian-era-exposed-in-pe-1-after-fiona-storm/>
- Davies J, Davies D. 2010. Origins and evolution of antibiotic resistance. *Microbiol Mol Biol Rev*. 74(3):417–433. <https://doi.org/10.1128/MMBR.00016-10>
- Davis MM. 2008. Temporal and spatial regulation of gene expression in *Drosophila melanogaster* development and immunity [dissertation]. University of Alberta.
<https://archive.org/details/davis2008>
- Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, RSA 2000, c E-12, s 2.
- Hernandez J. 2022. Fresh banana leaves: healing Indigenous landscapes through Indigenous science. North Atlantic Books. *Ecowars: seeking environmental justice*; p 125–154.
- Hutchen J, Berseth V, Nguyen V. 2024. Whose authority drives the narrative?: framing the spread of mountain pine beetle in Canadian news media. *Environ Commun*. 18(4):465–483.
- Koren M. 2024 Jul 17. The search for alien life starts on earth. *The Atlantic*.
<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2024/07/alien-life-earth-climate-change/679039/>
- Rodriguez-Rafael ED et al. 2024. Effects of warm oceanographic anomalies on the foraging variability of northern elephant seals. *Mar Biol*. 171(8):162.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00227-024-04476-5>
- Trees of Canada. [date unknown]. Tree Canada; [accessed 2024 May 11].
<https://treecanada.ca/resources/trees-of-canada/>
- Van Kooten GC, Bulte E, Sinclair ARE, editors. 2017. *Conserving nature's diversity: insights from biology, ethics and economics*. Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315191263>
- Weiss R. 2003 Apr 11. Study shows problems in cloning people: researchers find replicating primates will be harder than other mammals. *Washington Post (Home Ed.)*. Sect. A:12.
- [WHO] World Health Organization. 2023. *World health statistics 2023: monitoring health for the SDGs*. World Health Organization. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240074323>