MLA Style (7th ed.): Electronic Resources (Databases, Web Sites, Media, etc.)

Library Media Center url: lib.gccaz.edu/lmc/

This is based on the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (7th ed.)*. It provides a basic guide to citing documents that appear in full or complete text in the databases subscribed to by the library plus other on-line resources. The MLA Handbook should be consulted for more complete information on specific sources and formats. Consult your instructor about interpretations of MLA standards and preferences. The English department at GCC recommends including urls with web sites!

Examples in this guide are single-spaced to conserve space. MLA requires double-spaced entries.

Online guides for MLA styles: http://lib.gccaz.edu/lmc/help/guides/ (Citation Formats)


Basic format for a magazine article retrieved from a database at GCC:

Author's name. “Title of the article.” Name of the magazine. Date: pages. Name of the database used. Web. Date accessed.

A typical works cited entry for a journal would be as follows:

Author's name. “Title of the article.” Name of the journal Volume Number (Year): pages.

Name of database used. Web. Date accessed.

Parenthetical in-text References (see Chapter 6 of MLA Handbook - there are multiple possibilities!!):

Typically:

(author's last name page number) (Smith 15)

Many subscription databases provide “How to cite this article” help information. Compare the database recommendation carefully with the format (MLA 7th) you are using. Also, citation generators automatically format the citation based on the information you provide or export; however, check them carefully to ensure all data is included and in the proper sequence.

Number in parentheses following type (e.g., 5.6) refer to relevant chapters and sections in the MLA Handbook.
Listed below are some of the databases available from GCC’s Library Media Center home pages and typical citation formats for articles retrieved from them.

**InfoTrac Power Search (formerly General OneFile, Academic Onefile or Infotrac)**

(magazine, separately paged, beginning page number provided, but not last page)


(scholarly journal; issues paged separately)


**EBSCOhost MasterFILE Premier.**

(magazine)


(scholarly journal, continuously paged)


**EBSCOhost Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection**


**JSTOR**


**Arizona Republic (newspaper)**


**LexisNexis**


[Interview transcript – combination of mediums 3.6.3, 5.7.1, 5.7.7 – check with your instructor]


**ProQuest Databases: Newspapers (ProQuest Newspapers)**

FirstSearch Database

(scholarly journal example)


(magazine example)


CQ Researcher (online version of the paper/print resource; no page numbers in online version)


African American Experience, Latino American Experience, World Folklore and Folklife, Daily Life Online

These databases from Greenwood Press provide information from a variety of publications. Cite the original source and the database information.


Gale Literature Criticism – Short Story Criticism, Poetry Criticism, Drama Criticism

Many of the essays in the Gale databases – Gale Literature Criticism, Gale Literature Resource Center, Gale Opposing Viewpoints – were originally published in other publications.

MLA 5.6.3: “To cite a work from a periodical in an online database, such as an article, a review, an editorial, or a letter to the editors, begin the entry by following the recommendations in 5.5. for citing works in print periodicals, but drop the medium of original publication.” (e.g., “Print.”)
MLA 5.5.6: “To cite a previously published scholarly article in a collection, give the complete data for the earlier publication and then add *Rpt. In* ("Reprinted in"), the title of the collection, and the new publication facts.”
So, a citation includes the original source, the collection where it is anthologized, and then the database.

Gale Literature Criticism Online


Gale Literature Resource Center


Gale Virtual Library


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**Issues and controversies** (online version of the paper/print resource)


**Encyclopedia Britannica (online)**


**Electronic Book (ebrary, netLibrary, other online) (Begin with relevant facts about the print publication – 5.5, 5.6.2.c.)**

**Ebrary**

Ebrary is a subscription database for electronic books (e-books). “If the guidelines in 5.5 call for inclusive page numbers and they are not present in the source, use N. pag.” (p. 179, p.187) See also 5.5.24.


**Images**

**AP Images**

The *AP Images* provides images in the form of photographs and graphics. The content is a primary source, and is provided by The Associated Press® (AP). The AP, winner of numerous Pulitzer Prizes for news, is considered a credible source for reporting.

Entry for a works cited page for this type of source is open to interpretation. AccuWeather, the vendor of the database, treats the citation of each image as a web page. Reference is not made to the photographer or caption, but to the file name. So with this interpretation the format is similar to citing a web page. MLA has several sections devoted to images (5.6.2.d, 5.7.6, 5.7.18). It is highly recommended that you use your instructor’s preference for image citations.

Following a database format (5.6.4):


Following a web page format (5.6.2.b. and d.)


**Online Sources**

From the GCC English Department’s *Modern Language Association Documentation Guidelines for Research:*

“Online sources include websites. When a website offers information useful in research, the information is considered a screen of information, NOT a page of information. Consequently, page numbers are not used in the parenthetical reference in online sources.

“The formats for online sources includes two dates: the first date is the publication date of the online article, or the date the material online was most recently updated. The second date is called the “access date.” This date is always the date the researcher retrieved the online information.

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"Finally, the online sources require the URL as part of the Works Cited entry to allow readers to locate the source easily."

Examples that follow are from the English Dept. guide and/or the Library Media Center.

**Web Sites (5.6.1.-5.6.4 in the MLA Handbook)**

Web sites vary by type, such as a personal or professional or commercial site, online books, and online periodicals, and by source, such as .com, .edu, .gov, .org, etc. Sites themselves vary widely in the amount of information they provide. This brief guide does NOT cover all possibilities. Generally you will need to cite what is available. You should read sec. 5.6.1 (also 3.6.2-3) of the *MLA Handbook*!

The following information should be supplied if at all possible for a typical site for a non-periodical publication (5.6.2.b):

1. Author. (if known) [if no author or editor, begin entry with item 2, Title of the document.]
2. “Title of the document.” (italicized if the work is independent; in roman type and quotation marks if the work is part of a larger work)
3. *Title/Name of the Site.* – if distinct from item 2. (Untitled works may be identified by a genre label (e.g., *Home Page, Introduction*…neither italicized nor enclosed in quotation marks, in the place where the title goes)
4. Version/edition (see 5.5.13 in the *MLA Handbook*).
5. Publisher or sponsor of the site. If not available, use. N.p. (follow with a comma)
6. Date of publication. (day, month, and year as available)(if no date is listed use n.d.)
7. Medium of publication (Web.)
8. Date of access (day, month, year).
9. url in < >. [This is recommended by the GCC English Department; consult your instructor.]

Examples:

Typical site. (.com) [no author]


**Article in an electronic journal ()**

*If part of a database:*


*If direct access to the journal:*


**Article in an electronic magazine (5.6.2)**


**Online Information Database (not offered by a subscriber)**


**Government Source (5.6.c.)**


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Newspaper article from a website (5.6.2.b)


Posting to a Blog, Discussion Threads, Blog Comments (5.7.13)


Personal Site (5.6.2.b.)


Email message (5.7.13)

Penning, Sarah. "Re:Mentor Advice." E-mail to the author. 6 May 2009.

Television or Radio Broadcast (5.7.1) (see also interview)

"Title of episode or segment." Title of program. Name of the network (if any). Call letters and city of the local station (if any). Broadcast date. Medium (Radio, Television). Supplementary information (such as, Transcript).


Streamed Videos (Streamed videos from Glendale CC FMG collection) (5.7.3, 5.6.2.d)

Title of video. Director of Video. Publisher of Video. Date of Publication. Database. Web. Date of access. <url>.


Online video clip on Internet (You Tube, for example)

The following was adapted from UC-Berkeley model.

Name of creator (if known). "Title of program." Description (if other than a program, e.g., commercial, online video clip). YouTube. Web. Date of access. <url>.
