How to Cite Using CBE

This guide provides examples of the CBE (Council of Biology Editors) citation style as found in Scientific Style and Format: the CBE Manual for Authors, Editors, and Publishers, 6th edition (REF Closed T11.S386 1994). CBE is used primarily in the Life Sciences.

For additional assistance, please consult with a Reference Librarian.

References/Cited References Listing

The “References” or “Cited References” page is an alphabetical listing of sources used in your paper or report. Each entry includes the following: author, year of publication, title, and publishing data. Entries are not indented in any way.

Books

Book documentation may contain some or all of the following elements: Author(s) or Editor(s), Date of publication, Chapter Title, Book title, Publication Information, and Number of Pages. Do not put commas between the last name and initials or periods after the initials of an author’s name, except for the final period at the end of the author list. Author names can be spelled out (Li Thomas SC), but initials are recommended in reference list that include journal article references for consistency. Only the first word and proper names are capitalized in titles.

Single Author


Two to Ten Authors

Invert all authors’ last names and initials. Complete the entry as for any other book or journal.


More than Ten Authors

List the first ten authors, last names and initials, followed by “and others.”

Editor


Society, Institution, or Association as author

Organizational author names are preceded by an abbreviation in square brackets to simplify the in-text citation.


Book Chapter

Conference Proceeding
Format the author or editor names as for a book.


Dissertations
Include the note [dissertation] or [thesis] and availability information.


Documents
Government and technical reports are distinguished by (if available): the performing organization or author affiliation, report numbers (Report nr) and availability information.

Government Documents

Technical Reports

Articles
Article documentation may contain any or all of the following elements: Author(s), Date of Publication, Article Title, Periodical Title, and Publication Information. Authors' names are treated the same way as with books. Only the first word and proper names are capitalized in article titles. Single word journal titles should be spelled out, while multi-word titles are abbreviated according to the rules in Appendix 1 of the CBE Manual or other standard abbreviation sources. Titles of popular magazines should be spelled out. Duplicate digits in page numbers (1326-1338) should be eliminated (1326-38) unless alphabetic characters precede the page numbers (S546-S552).

Scholarly Journal


Magazine article
If a magazine has volume and issue number, format the reference as for a scholarly journal; otherwise include the date as in a weekly or daily publication.


Articles in Weekly Publications
Daily Newspaper Article, No Author


Internet/Electronic Texts

References for electronic and Internet sources are similar to print sources with the addition of a format reference [Internet, etc], availability information, and the date accessed. There is no period after the URL. The CBE Manual does not have specific recommendations for the formatting of most current online references. The following are based on the NLM format for Internet references (http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/formats/internet.pdf), the recommended reference in the CBE Manual.

Article in an Internet-Only Journal


Online Database


Internet Sources - No Date


Electronic Book (E-Book)


Daily Newspaper Article Retrieved on the Internet


In-text Parenthetical Citations

Parenthetical references are used in place of footnotes and endnotes. They direct the reader to a specific page in a book, journal, magazine, or other source. They provide the exact source of a quote without breaking the chain of thought in your paper. They increase the validity of your work, by informing the reader of sources you have drawn upon whether you are paraphrasing or including a direct quote. The CBE format keys parenthetical citations to the references which appear at the end of your paper in complete CBE format.

Parenthetical Reference Rules

1. When making an in-text reference, only a space is placed between the author’s name and the date of the publication.

Photographic materials should be stored at 30% relative humidity (Wilson 1995).

2. Do not include the author’s name and date if they are listed in text from which you are quoting.

In 2003, McCurry reported that 17% of HIV patients at a Japanese hospital had drug resistance strains of the virus.

3. References at the end of a sentence go inside the last punctuation mark.

Qualitative and quantitative research methods are only one way to categorize research (Hopkins 2002).
4. When including a direct quotation include the page number as well as the author’s last name and the date of publication.

“It has thus become the business of the schools to provide a place where teen-agers can work out their problems with understanding counsel.” (Cleminson 1958, 74)

5. When referencing a work with 2 authors, both names should be given, separated by “and”, followed by the publication year. Do not use the ampersand, “&”.

Intervening in play can help stimulate children’s intellectual and social development (Bodrova and Leong 2003).

6. Sources with 3 or more authors are cited in text by the first author’s name followed by “and others” and the publication year.

A number of picorna-like marine viruses were recently discovered (Culley and others 2003).

7. If you reference a book which is currently in press, do not give the year of the book. Instead use the phrase “in press”.

New types of antivirals are being developed that block HIV at different sites (Sebastian and Faruki in press).

8. If you use multiple works by the same author in the same year, assign letters to distinguish them (a, b, c, and so on) in your reference page and in any parenthetical references.

Taylor has done extensive research on modeling fish populations in streams and rivers (1999a, 1999b).

9. If you cite more than one source in the same sentence place them in chronological order according to the publication date. Separate the sources with a semi-colon.

Monitoring salmon migration in the Pacific Northwest is complicated by both biology and methodology (Dauble 1987; Hiebert 1999; Connor 2000).

10. If you have two different authors with the same last name, you must include the first initial of the author’s first name within the parentheses.

Ceramic composites have replaced aluminum in light weight aircraft design (Smith AB 2001).

11. If you cite a corporate author, use the abbreviation used in the references.

Both water and air pollution can be reduced through chemical means (ASC 1969).

12. Personal letters, telephone calls, and other materials which the reader can not retrieve are not listed in the Reference page, they are cited within the text of the paper, indicating the nature, source, and date. An indication that these citations are not in the reference list should also be included.

Fishery catches in the Bay of Maine have declined by 60% in the last 25 years (personal email from RE Goodall October 23, 2003, unreferenced).

Remember parenthetical references take the place of footnotes and/or endnotes. Therefore, all authors cited in the text of your paper must appear in your reference list, except personal sources as given above.

If you have any further questions, please consult a Reference Librarian.

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