



## GETTING STARTED WITH...

# Citing References

There are 2 main types of reference styles, author-date (Harvard) or numbered (Vancouver). These are often adapted by institutions and organisations into their own house styles. You should always check which reference style to use before submitting a piece of course work, a thesis or an article.

### Harvard style:

In this style, the references are denoted by author and date in the main part of the text. The bibliography at the end gives the full reference, listed alphabetically by author name. Example of a Harvard style bibliography:

Burkhardt, M.A. & Nathaniel, A.K. (2002), *Ethics and issues in contemporary nursing*, 2nd edition. Thomson Learning Inc., New York.

Mizgerd, J.P. (2008), Mechanisms of disease: acute lower respiratory tract infection', *New England Journal of Medicine*, vol. 358, no. 7, pp. 716-727.

### Vancouver style:

In this style, the references are denoted by running numbers in the main part of the text. The bibliography at the end gives the full reference in number order. Example of a Vancouver style bibliography:

(1) Mizgerd, JP. Mechanisms of disease: acute lower respiratory tract infection. *N Engl J Med*. 2008;358:716-27.

(2) Burkhardt MA, Nathaniel AK. *Ethics and issues in contemporary nursing*. 2nd ed. New York: Thomson Learning Inc; 2002.

### More information:

BMA Library. Reference Styles: Harvard and Vancouver. Available at:

[http://www.bma.org.uk/library\\_services/ask\\_for\\_help/libraryreferencetypes.jsp](http://www.bma.org.uk/library_services/ask_for_help/libraryreferencetypes.jsp)

ICMJE. Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals: writing and editing for biomedical publication. Available at: <http://www.icmje.org/>



### **Citing electronic resources:**

You need to reference all material used in the preparation of a piece of work, including web-sites, DVDs etc. At a minimum a reference for an electronic source should provide:

A document title or description

A date - either date of publication or update

A web address, otherwise known as a URL

If possible, the person / organisation responsible for the document

The date you accessed the resource

Example of citing an electronic source:

Handwashing Liaison Group (1999) Hand washing. *BMJ* [online], 318 (7185),686. Available from: <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/318/7185/686> [Accessed 4th July 2001].

### **For more information:**

BMA Library. Citing Electronic Sources. Available at:

[http://www.bma.org.uk/library\\_services/ask\\_for\\_help/librarycitingeresources.jsp](http://www.bma.org.uk/library_services/ask_for_help/librarycitingeresources.jsp)

### **Health Care Library resources:**

The library has several books that have sections on citing references and creating bibliographies:

Aveyard, H. (2010), *Doing a literature review in health and social care: A practical guide*. 2nd edition, Open University Press, Maidenhead. Shelf mark: LB2369 AVE 2010

Hall G.M. (2008), *How to write a paper, 4th Edition*, BMJ Books, London. Shelf mark: WZ 345 How 2008

### **Reference Management systems:**

There are several software packages available that can help in managing references and creating bibliographies. Library staff can provide training on the following resources, but cannot make them available for individuals on their personal computers:

**Endnote**—available on computers in the library. <http://www.endnote.com>

**Refworks**—available free of charge to all members of the University of Oxford. <http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/eresources/refworks>

**Reference Manager**. <http://www.refman.com>