**MLA 2016 --** What’s New

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**The Purpose of Citation Remains the Same**

* Demonstrate thoroughness of research/argument
* Give credit where credit is due
* Share information

**Overview MLA 8**

* Recognizes that there is more than one correct way to cite a source

“. . . . A writer whose primary purpose is to give credit for borrowed material may need to provide less information than a writer who is examining the distinguishing features of particular editions of sources text. Similarly, scholars working in specialized fields may need to cite details about their sources that other scholars making more use of the same resource do not.” (4)

* Uses a new format
* Changes are mostly contained in the works cited page
* Focus on principles rather than rules (p3)
* Requires only periods or commas:

**Principles**

* Cite Simple Traits Common to Most Works
* Old version: used styles/information based on publication format
* New version: uses information or common elements (author, title, page#s) assembled in a logical order.
* MORE than *ONE* way to cite a source

**What is new?**

* ***Abbreviations***
  + Editor, edited by, translator, reviewed by are NOT abbreviated (96)
* ***Authors***
  + Three or more cite only first followed by et al. (22)
* ***Printed Works***
  + Pagination uses either p. or pp. then numbers (in text is numbers only)
  + Publication city is no longer required
* ***Journals***
  + Volume and issue information: vol. 77, no. 2 (old: 77.2)
  + Months and seasons always cited with the year.
  + What’s New? (cont’d)
* ***Online sources --*** Retrievable information is provided always:
  + DOI preferred (replaces URL, 48) give example
  + What’s a DOI? (e.g: 10.1037/a0023101)

A digital object identifier (DOI) is a unique alphanumeric string assigned by a registration agency (the International DOI Foundation) to identify content and provide a persistent link to its location on the Internet. The publisher assigns a DOI when your article is published and made available electronically. (Wikipedia)

* + URL (***NO*** http(s):// or angle brackets):

[www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?artid/3145002&tool=pmcentrez&rendertype=abstract](http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?artid=3145002&tool=pmcentrez&rendertype=abstract)

* Medium of publication is gone (no: Print, Web, microfiche, interview)
* Date accessed is optional
* Use no placeholders : n.d., N.p., n.pag.
  + When an element is available in an external source use brackets. Otherwise omit.
* Publishers
  + Names are now in full but omit words like Company (or variations).
  + Academic press abbreviations remain the same: U, P, and UP.
  + Copublishers use a forward slash (e.g. MIT Press / Renaissance Quarterly )
  + Publisher as author, provide name only once, usually as publisher (omit author)
    - Other possible omits for publisher’s name:
      * Periodical names (journal, magazine, newspaper)
      * Website and publisher share same name
      * Archives, content services, blog services (these are containers, not publishers)
  + Reference materials now require full information as with other sources.
* What’s New? In Text--
* In text is unchanged but has added considerations:
  + Time based references are cited in text, e.g. (“Shameless*” 00:16:03-10).*
  + ½” indentation for block quotes (used to be a full 1”)
  + *A, An, The* as part of a periodical’s title is now recognized in works cites list*.*

**Helpful sites**

* <https://youtu.be/bjbMfL92b7g>
* Result
* Writers are asked to *think, select, and organize* (p4) information in an uncomplicated way.
* More than one way to correctly document sources
* Writers generate useful documentation