The CSE Citation Style: An Introduction

It is important to cite the original source when using an idea, quotation, data, image, etc. that is not your own. Failing to cite your sources constitutes plagiarism. The Council of Science Editors (CSE) style is a standard citation style used across many disciplines in the physical and life sciences. The CSE style encompasses three distinct systems:

- **Name-Year**: In-text citations appear in brackets, and consist of the author(s) last name, as well as the document’s year of publication (e.g. Smith 2008). The end reference list appears in alphabetical order by author last name.
- **Citation-Sequence**: A superscript number (e.g. 1) is assigned to a document the first time it appears in the text, and the same number is used whenever that work is cited. The references in the reference list are listed numerically in the order in which they first appeared in the text.
- **Citation-Name**: All references in the reference list are organized alphabetically by author last name, and assigned a number according to their order in the list. This number is then inserted in the text in superscript font (e.g. 1) wherever the work is cited.

This guide describes the Name-Year system only, and is based on Chapter 29 of the 8th edition of *Scientific Style and Format: The CSE Manual for Authors, Editors, and Publishers*, which is located in the Reference section of the Macdonald Campus Library (call number: T11 S386 2014). For more information, please consult the Manual.

### PART 1: IN-TEXT CITATIONS

The author’s surname and the year of publication are enclosed in parentheses immediately following the words or phrase to which it refers:

- This claim was later refuted (Jones 2008).
- A recent study (Markus 2004) indicated...

If the author’s name is clearly mentioned in the text, it can be directly followed by the year of publication, in parentheses:

- Jones (2008) later refuted this claim.

If both the author name and year are clearly mentioned in the text, there is no need to include a parenthetical reference:

- In 2008, Jones refuted this claim.

### Direct quotations

CSE does not specify a method for citing direct quotations as they are seldom used in scientific writing. However, if you are citing a specific part of a document (e.g. a direct quotation, or a figure, chart or table), we suggest including the page number on which that information is found:

> “These results clearly contradict those published in 2004 by the Smith lab.” (Jones 2008, p. 56).

### More than one author

If a document has two authors, include both surnames separated by “and”. For works with three or more authors, include only the first author name, followed by “et al.”:

- ... (Andrews and Gray 1995).
- ... (Gomez et al. 2003).

### Multiple works by different authors

If you are citing several sources at once, list them in chronological order, or alphabetically if two or more works were published in the same year, and separate each one with a semicolon:

- ... (Samson 1963; Carter and Bowles 1975; Grimes 1975; Anderson et al. 1992).

### Multiple works by the same author published in the same year

If you are citing two or more works written by the same author in the same year, add a designator (a, b, c...) to distinguish them. Use the same designators in the reference list:

- ... (Dubois 1976a, 1976b).

### Citing a secondary or indirect source

If you would like to cite a source that is cited in another document, it is always best to consult and cite the original source. However, if you are unable to locate and verify the original source document, you must cite the secondary source (as this is the item that you have actually seen). The original author can be...
acknowledged within the text, but only the item you have seen appears in your reference list.

... (Rawls 1971, cited in Brown 2008) or
... Brown (2008) describes Rawls’ 1971 study on...

In this example, the reference list would include only Brown’s work:


Organizations as authors

If the author of a document is an organization, corporation, government department, university, etc., use an abbreviated form of the organization in the in-text citation, by retaining the first letter of each word in the name, or some other recognized abbreviation:

... (FAO 2006).

PART 2: REFERENCE LIST

The reference list comes at the end of your paper and includes full bibliographic information for all of the sources cited in the text. The references are listed in alphabetical order by first author last name.

Components of references in the reference list

The following components, if available, are included when citing a source, in the following sequence:

Books and other monographs

- Author(s) or Editor(s)
- Year of publication
- Title
- Content or medium designator
- Edition
- Secondary author(s)
- Place of Publication
- Publisher
- Pagination
- Series

Journal and newspaper articles

- Author(s)
- Year of publication
- Article title
- Content or medium designator
- Journal or newspaper title
- Volume
- Issue
- Pagination

Author(s) or Editor(s)

List the last names and initials of the authors in the order in which they appear in the original document, and separate each one with a comma.

Mary-Beth Macdonald and Laurence G. Kaufman become Macdonald MB, Kaufman LG.

If the document has editors rather than authors, follow the names with a comma and “editor(s)”:

Macdonald MB, Kaufman LG, editors.

More than ten authors

Always include the names of the first ten authors. If there are more than ten, include the first ten author names only, followed by a comma and “et al.”

Secondary author(s)

Secondary authors include translators, illustrators, editors or producers, and may be included in the reference, in addition to the principal author(s), after the book title:


Organizations as authors

The full name of the organization must be identified in the reference list, but preceded by the abbreviation used in the text, in square brackets. Order the reference alphabetically by the full name, not the acronym:

[FAO] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. 2006. Gender and law: Women’s rights in agriculture...

Title

Include both the title and subtitle, retaining the punctuation used in the original document. For books and journal article titles, capitalise only the first word, as well as proper nouns, acronyms and initials. All significant words in journal titles may be capitalised:

Book: Plant cell culture: essential methods
Journal: Canadian Journal of Animal Science

Edition statement

Include the edition statement after the title, abbreviating the word “edition”. For a first edition that has no subsequent editions, it is not necessary to include this information.
Third edition should be indicated as: 3rd ed.

Content designator

Content designators describe the format of a document (e.g. dissertations, theses, bibliographies, and certain types of journal articles such as editorials, letters to the editor, news, etc.). Content designators are optional, and appear in square brackets directly after the title:

Bernier MH. 2009. Assessing on-farm water use efficiency in southern Ontario [master’s thesis]. Montreal...

Medium designator

Medium designators indicate that the document is in a non-print format, such as “microfiche”, “CD-ROM”, “DVD”. Medium designators are required and appear in square brackets directly after the title:

Gooderham CB. 1917. Bee diseases [microfiche]. Ottawa...

Place of Publication and Publisher

The place of publication refers to the city where the publisher is located. This information is usually found on the title page of the book in question. If no place of publication can be found use the words [place unknown] in square brackets. For Canadian or U.S. cities, the two letter province or state code may be included.


Pagination

If using only part of a published work (i.e. a journal article, or a book chapter), indicate the pagination of the section you are referring to. Pagination is optional if you are referring to the entire work.

Series

If the document is part of a series, you must add the series title and volume number at the end of the entry.

PART 3: EXAMPLES (PRINT)

Journal article


Book

Author(s). Year. Book Title. Edition. Place of Publication: Publisher.


Chapter in a book


Edited book

Editor name(s), editors. Year. Book title. Edition. Place of Publication: Publisher.


Chapter or article in an edited book


Article in a dictionary or encyclopedia

Cite as you would an article in an edited book; if the author of the part is not specified, the editor assumes the place of the author.

Book in a series

Author(s). Year. Book Title. Edition. Place of Publication: Publisher. (Series title; vol. #)

Inclusion of the URL in the reference will make the information evident to the reader. It is not necessary to include a medium designator (such as “Internet”) for an online item. For a permanent or persistent link, or, look for the article’s DOI (digital object identifier), which is often listed along with the rest of the citation information.

**Thesis or dissertation**

Author(s). Year. Title [content designator]. [Place of Publication]: Publisher (often a university).

**Conference papers or proceedings**

Author(s). Year. Title of paper. In: Editor name(s), editors. Title of Volume. Number and name of conference; date of conference; location of conference. Place of publication: Publisher. p. Pages.


**PART 4: EXAMPLES (ELECTRONIC)**

The proliferation of electronic information has introduced new challenges, as documents can exist in several different formats. Electronic sources are cited in the same way as their print counterparts, with some internet-specific items added: the date the document was last modified or updated (if available), the date you accessed it, the document URL and, if available, the DOI (digital object identifier).

It is not necessary to include a medium designator (such as “Internet”) for an online item since the inclusion of the URL in the reference will make this information evident to the reader.

When viewing journal articles online, the links that appear in your browser’s address box may be temporary and will no longer work after a few days. Many databases and publishers will provide a permanent or persistent link, or, look for the article’s DOI (digital object identifier), which is often listed along with the rest of the citation information.

### Online article

Author(s). Year. Article title. Journal name. [date updated; date accessed]; Volume(Issue): Pages (if available). URL. doi (if available).


### Electronic book

Author(s) or Editor(s). Year. Book Title. Edition. Place of Publication: Publisher; [date updated; date accessed]. URL. doi (if available).


### Article in an electronic dictionary or encyclopedia

Cite as you would an article in an electronic book


### Website

Title of website. Date of publication. Place of publication: Publisher; [date updated; date accessed]. URL. doi (if available).


### Online document

Author(s). Date of publication. Title. Edition. Place of publication: Publisher; [date updated; date accessed]. URL. doi (if available).