

Footnotes, Bibliographies, and the Good Life

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Proper citations are the backbone of modern scholarship. Here is a template for how to format footnote and bibliography entries. These are neither “suggestions” nor “guidelines,” but rather unyielding, sacrosanct rules. Failure to follow these rules will lead, in all likelihood, to anarchy—cats and dogs living together, time flowing backward, the works. Do not risk even the slightest deviation. Exceptions will not be tolerated.

Although not as potent in its destructive powers as bad citation practice, the lack of page numbers is the demonic half-sibling of mangled footnote and bibliography entries. Use page numbers on your documents, and do your part to hold the forces of darkness at bay.

FOOTNOTES

General information

The first time an item appears in a footnote, you must provide the full and complete citation for it. Whenever the same item appears in later footnotes, you should use only the author’s last name and an abbreviated title, along with the appropriate page references for the specific point you are either paraphrasing or quoting. The abbreviated title may be as short as one word, or as long as a phrase. The point is that the form of your footnote should allow your reader to identify uniquely the source you are citing. Examples may be found below.

Sometimes you will want to cite an item in its entirety, without specifying particular pages or chapters; other times you will need to be more specific in your citation. Make certain your footnote conveys all of the required information: if you mean to cite a particular portion or section or page of the item, then do so.

If you are quoting directly from a source in the body of your text, then your footnote **must** include the specific page number on which the quotation appears.

Footnotes should be indented by one tab. Note also where periods and commas appear, what is capitalized and what is not, as well as the order in which authors’ names appear.

If an item has more than three authors, you may list the first author followed by “*et al.*” “Et” has no period; “al.” does: it is an abbreviation for “alia.”

Some journals now require that the month (and sometimes also date) be given in journal citations, in addition to year. Feel free to include such information, although I do not require it. If you *do* include it, it should be in standard abbreviated-date format, as indicated below in sample footnotes 16 and 18.

Publishers often have offices in more than one city, and may list several cities on the title or copyright pages of their books. In your references, it is common to use only the city closest to where you are working (a holdover from pre-global-market days, no doubt). For instance, in Boston it is common to write “New York” when citing books published by Cambridge University Press, rather than Cambridge, England. [Note: the

Chicago Manual of Style still recommends using *only* city name and not publisher name in both footnote and bibliography entries. This is a sign of madness, especially given the dispersal of publishers: city name alone offers little to no information that can be used to identify the publisher. Ignore the much-vaunted *Manual* on this point. They are just plain wrong.]

Often the sources you cite will be reprints or later editions of a work that had appeared much earlier. The page numbers, and even chapter ordering, can change between various editions, so it is imperative that you cite the exact edition from which you have found your quotation or material. Additionally, even if you are citing a facsimile reproduction of an older source, it is usually important to include the original date of publication, even if the page numbers in your version have not changed from the original. Your reader will be much better informed if you indicate that Thomas Sprat's *The History of the Royal Society* was published originally in 1667, even though you happen to be working from an edition published in 1958.

If citing a web-based source, you should aim to make the citation as close as possible to that for an ordinary journal article. If the web content has a signed author (individual or collective), include that author name. If the web content has a specific title, include that title. In addition, you should include enough of the URL so that any reasonable user could re-trace your steps and find the same material. You *need not* reproduce the entire URL, which can often run several lines long, *if* the URL in question is an obvious link off of a main page, such as the web exhibitions available at the American Institute of Physics's Center for History of Physics page (<http://www.aip.org/history>). Since web material can float in and out of accessibility, you must also include the date on which you accessed that material.

When more than one item appears in a footnote, separate each entry with a semicolon, as in sample footnote 25.

Books:

¹Lorraine Daston and Katherine Park, *Wonders and the Order of Nature, 1150-1750* (New York: Zone Books, 1998), chaps. 2, 3.

²Daston and Park, *Wonders*, 455.

³Alison Winter, *Mesmerized: Powers of Mind in Victorian Britain* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998), 132.

⁴Robert Kohler, *Lords of the Fly: Drosophila Genetics and the Experimental Life* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1994).

⁵Daniel Kevles, *The Physicists: The History of a Scientific Community in Modern America*, 3rd ed. (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1995 [1978]).

⁶Thomas Sprat, *The History of the Royal Society*, ed. Jackson Cope and Harald W. Jones (St. Louis: Washington University Press, 1958 [1667]), 1-51.

Edited volumes, when citing the volume as a whole, rather than specific chapters within it:

⁷Peter Galison and Bruce Hevly, eds., *Big Science: The Growth of Large-Scale Research* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1992).

⁸Galison and Hevly, *Big Science*.

⁹Gerald Holton and Yehuda Elkana, eds., *Albert Einstein: Historical and Cultural Perspectives* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1982).

¹⁰Holton and Elkana, *Einstein*.

Chapters in edited volumes:

¹¹Loren Graham, “The reception of Einstein’s ideas: Two examples from contrasting political cultures,” in *Albert Einstein: Historical and Cultural Perspectives*, ed. Gerald Holton and Yehuda Elkana (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1982), 107-36, on 112.

¹²Graham, “Reception of Einstein’s ideas,” 133.

¹³Dmitri Shirkov, “Historical remarks on the renormalization group,” in *Renormalization: From Lorentz to Landau (and Beyond)*, ed. Laurie Brown (New York: Springer, 1993), 169-86, on 170-5.

Journal articles:

¹⁴Karen Rader, “The mouse people: Murine genetics work at the Bussey Institution, 1909-1936,” *Journal for the History of Biology* **31** (1998): 327-54, quotation on 332.

¹⁵Rader, “Mouse people,” 334.

¹⁶Naomi Oreskes, Kristin Shrader-Frechette, and Kenneth Belitz, “Verification, validation, and confirmation of numerical models in the earth sciences,” *Science* **263** (4 Feb 1994): 641-6, on 643.

¹⁷Oreskes, Shrader-Frechette, and Belitz, “Verification,” 642.

¹⁸F. J. Dyson *et al.*, “Meson-nucleon scattering in the Tamm-Dancoff approximation,” *Physical Review* **95** (Sep 1954): 1644-58.

¹⁹Dyson *et al.*, “Meson-nucleon scattering,” 1650.

Web sources:

²⁰Naomi Pasachoff, “Marie Curie and the science of radioactivity,” available at <http://www.aip.org/history/curie> (accessed 15 Apr 2006).

²¹The Newton Project, “An introduction to Isaac Newton’s writings,” available at <http://www.newtonproject.sussex.ac.uk> (accessed 15 Febr 2007).

²²Jaume Garriga, Alan Guth, and Alexander Vilenkin, “Eternal inflation, bubble collisions, and the persistence of memory,” preprint hep-th/0612242, available at <http://www.arxiv.org> (accessed 15 Feb 2007).

²³On the founding of Kanazawa University, see <http://www.kanazawa-u.ac.jp/history> (accessed 3 June 2003).

Course lectures:

²⁴Professor Mary McGee, class lecture in STS.001, MIT, 6 November 2002.

The mother lode:

²⁵Daston and Park, *Wonders*, chaps. 2, 3; Steven Shapin and Simon Shaffer, *Leviathan and the Air Pump: Boyle, Hobbes, and the Experimental Life* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1985), 144; Sprat, *History*, 49; Steven Shapin and Arnold Thackray, "Prosopography as a research tool in history of science: The British scientific community, 1700-1900," *History of Science* **12** (1974): 1-28, on 19; Winter, *Mesmerized*, 266; and David Lindberg, "Conceptions of the Scientific Revolution from Bacon to Butterfield: A preliminary sketch," in *Reappraisals of the Scientific Revolution*, ed. David Lindberg and Robert Westman (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1990), 1-26, on 13-22. See also Newton Project, "An introduction to Isaac Newton's writings," available at <http://www.newtonproject.sussex.ac.uk> (accessed 15 Feb 2007); and Professor Mary McGee, class lecture in STS.001, MIT, 6 Nov 2002.

BIBLIOGRAPHY ENTRIES

General information

Every published item that appears in a footnote should also appear in your bibliography. Web-based sources that have both a named author and a title should appear in your bibliography as well.

The format for bibliography entries is distinct from that for footnotes. Pay attention to the placement of commas, periods, and the rest. Note also where page numbers and editors' names appear in entries for chapters in edited volumes.

List items alphabetically by the first author's last name. You do not need to include the page or chapter references which appeared in the corresponding footnote entry. Obviously, full page references must be given in citations to both journal articles and chapters in edited volumes; here "full page references" refers to the first and last page of the item, not to the specific pages from which you might have quoted material in the body of your text.

Bibliography entries should have all lines *past* the first line indented by one tab.

You should add a section heading just above your bibliography, indicating either "Bibliography," or "References," or "Works Cited."

Bibliography

Daston, Lorraine and Katherine Park. 1998. *Wonders and the Order of Nature, 1150-1750*. New York: Zone Books.

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- Shapin, Steven and Simon Shaffer. 1985. *Leviathan and the Air Pump: Boyle, Hobbes, and the Experimental Life*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
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