

MHRA Referencing Guidelines - 4th Edition

The following guidelines are based on the Fourth Edition (2024) of the MHRA Style Guide, which superseded the Third Edition (2013) in February 2024. For further advice contact your school to confirm the school's style guidelines and remember when following a guide to maintain consistency throughout.

MHRA is a numeric referencing style published by the *Modern Humanities Research Association*. It uses footnotes for in-text citations which are identified by a superscript number, usually at the end of a sentence, after the full stop.

e.g. Machiavelli contends that the end justifies the means.¹

The numbers in the text are then linked to the footnotes. Note: The first time you cite a source, **full** details are given. Additional references to the same source are then provided in abbreviated form.

The first time you cite a source, full details should be given.

e.g. Geoffrey Nowell-Smith, *Luchino Visconti*, 3rd edn. (London: BFI, 2003), p. 137

Subsequent references to the same source can then be **abbreviated** to the surname and page number(s).

e.g. Nowell-Smith, p. 142

If more than one work by an author is cited, a **short title** can be used for subsequent references. e.g. Nowell-Smith, *Visconti*, p. 142

Further references to the same source and use of ibid

ibid. means "in the same place". If two or more consecutive references are from the same source, then they are cited using ibid.

For example...

1. Jonathan Kalb, *Beckett in Performance* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989), p. 12.
2. ibid., p. 17.
3. ibid., p. 36.

Author names

In footnotes the author's name(s) should be in the format FORENAME then SURNAME. e.g. Tim Crawford, ...

In the bibliography this is reversed: SURNAME then FORENAME. e.g. Crawford, Tim, ...

Multiple author names

If a source has four or more authors, you should cite the first author in full, followed by "and others". This format must be used in both bibliography and footnotes when a work has four or more authors

Footnote:

Jonathan Culler, and others, *Modern Literary Theory: A Reader*, 3rd edn (London: Arnold, 2005) p.142.

Bibliography:

Culler, Jonathan, and others, *Modern Literary Theory: A Reader*, 3rd edn (London: Arnold, 2005)

Short quotations

Up to two lines:

- Include as part of the main text
- Use single quotation marks

For example:

Charles Rennie Mackintosh is one of the most influential Scottish architects. Mackintosh's Glasgow School of Art 'heralded the birth of a new style in 20th century European Architecture'.¹

Long Quotations

Three lines or greater:

- start on separate line
- indent
- no quotation marks
- if you refer to a quotation within a quotation then use double quotation marks
- use [...] to signify omission of words from the quotation

For example:

Charles Dickens' novel *Bleak House* opens with the following description to set the scene for his story:

London [...] Implacable November weather. As much mud in the streets as if the water had but newly retired from the face of the earth, and it would not be wonderful to meet a *Megalosaurus*, forty feet long or so, waddling like an elephantine lizard up Holborn Hill.²

How to reference...

Book

- Author(s) / Editor(s) - forename then surname
- Title (in *italics*)
- Edition (if not first)
- (Place of publication: Publisher, Year of publication) - note the use of round brackets, colon and comma.
- Page number(s) - p. or pp.

Example:

Francesco Casettie, *Theories of Cinema: 1945-1995* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1999), p.142.

Chapter in a book

- Author of chapter - forename then surname
- Title of chapter (in single quotation marks)
- In
- Title of book (in *italics*)
- ed. by
- Name of editor(s)
- (Place of publication: Publisher, Year of publication)
- Page numbers of chapter - pp.

Example:

Janelle Reinelt, 'Caryl Churchill and the Politics of Style', in *The Cambridge Companion to Modern British Women Playwrights*, ed. by Elaine Aston and Janelle Reinelt (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000), pp. 174-192.

Print Journal article

- Author of article - forename then surname
- Title of article (in single quotation marks)
- Title of journal (in *italics*)
- Volume and issue numbers
- (Year of publication) - in round brackets
- Page numbers of article
- (Page number of particular reference) - if necessary

Example:

David Ian Rabey, 'Defining Difference: Timberlake Wertenbaker's Drama of Language, Disposition and Discovery', *Modern Drama*, 33, (1990), 518-528 (p. 520).

Online Journal article without a DOI

- Author of article - forename then surname
- Title of article (in single quotation marks)
- Title of journal (in *italics*)
- Volume and issue numbers
- (Year of publication) - in round brackets
- Page numbers of article
- (Page number of particular reference) - if necessary
- <URL>
- [access date]

Example:

W. Richard Comstock, 'Myth and Contemporary Cinema', *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, 43.3 (1975), pp. 598–600 <<https://www.jstor.org/stable/1461856>> [accessed 22 May 2025].

Online Journal article with a DOI

- Author of article - forename then surname
- Title of article (in single quotation marks)
- Title of journal (in *italics*)
- Volume and issue numbers
- (Year of publication) - in round brackets
- Page numbers of article
- (Page number of particular reference) - if necessary
- No access date needed if DOI is present
- Doi (in lower case letters)

Example:

Mark E. Workman, 'The Role of Mythology in Modern Literature', *Journal of the Folklore Institute*, 18.1 (1981), pp. 35–48 (p.38), doi.org/10.2307/3814186

Web page without a DOI

- Author
- Title of internet site (in *italics*)
- Year site was published / last updated (in round brackets)
- <URL>

- [accessed date]

Example:

James Garrett, Wordsworth Variorum Archive (2004) <<http://www.wordsworthvariorum.com/>> [accessed 1st July 2011].

Newspaper article

- Author
- Title of article (in single quotation marks)
- Title of newspaper (in *italics*)
- Day, month and year
- Page reference

Example:

Jonathan Friedland, 'Across the Divide', *Guardian*, 15th January 2002, section G2, pp. 10-11.

Film or Documentary

- Title of film or documentary (in *italics*)
- Directed by — dir. By Director's name, forename then surname of director
- Production company or studio
- Year of release

Example:

The Godfather, directed by Francis Ford Coppola (Paramount Pictures, 1972).

Bibliography

In nearly all respects, the material provided in a bibliography matches that provided in notes, in terms of both information and presentation. There are 3 main exceptions to this:

Format

- The first authors' names should appear in **alphabetical order by surname**
- Exclude the full stop at the end of each reference
- Omit specific page numbers, unless referring to a chapter or article.

Example:

Footnote

Jonathan Kalb, *Beckett in Performance* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989), p. 12.

Bibliography

Kalb, Jonathan, *Beckett in Performance* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989)

Example:

Footnote

Mark E. Workman, 'The Role of Mythology in Modern Literature', *Journal of the Folklore Institute*, 18.1 (1981), pp. 35–48 (p. 38), doi.org/10.2307/3814186.

Bibliography:

Workman, Mark E., 'The Role of Mythology in Modern Literature', *Journal of the Folklore Institute*, 18.1 (1981), pp. 35–48 <https://doi.org/10.2307/3814186>

Multiple Authors

For works with more than one author (but less than four) only the first author has the name and surname reverse, do not reverse the normal order of names after the first)

Example:

Footnote:

Peter Burke, Donald R. Kelley, and Lynn Hunt, *Enlightenment and Its Effects* (London: Routledge, 2000), p. 123.

Bibliography:

Burke, Peter, Donald R. Kelley, and Lynn Hunt, *Enlightenment and Its Effects* (London: Routledge, 2000)

Again, for four or more authors, the first author has their name and surname reversed, followed by and others.

Example:

Bibliography:

Culler, Jonathan, and others, *Modern Literary Theory: A Reader*, 3rd edn (London: Arnold, 2005)