ACS Citation Style
Brief Guide

This is a very brief guide to creating in-text and reference list citations according to the ACS (American Chemical Society) citation style. For the authoritative explanation of the style, refer to The ACS Style Guide: Effective Communication of Scientific Information, 3rd ed. (2006), particularly Chapter 14.

In-Text Citations
The ACS citation style gives you a choice between three systems for in-text citation: (1) by author name and publication date in parentheses—the author-date system, (2) by superscript numbers, or (3) by italicized numbers in parentheses.

Author-Date (Parenthetical)
The author-date system is so named because the in-text citations take the form of author surname(s), followed by a comma and space, and then the publication year, all within parentheses. The in-text citation is placed inside punctuation. If the author's name is mentioned in the running text, only the year is placed in parentheses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Examples of author-date in-text citations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single author</td>
<td>(Mahaffy, 2006)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two authors</td>
<td>(Ooms and Wasylishen, 2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three or more authors</td>
<td>(Martin-Visscher et al., 2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple sources, different authors</td>
<td>(Mahaffy, 2014; Woudstra and Ooms, 2012; Starke et al., 1994)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple sources, same principal author</td>
<td>(Mahaffy, 2006, 2014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Ooms et al., 2008a, 2008b)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(White, 2013; White and Pinkman, 2013)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Superscript numbers
In this system, references are numbered with a superscript number, ordered in the sequence in which they are called out in the text. For example, if a reference by Smart is the first mentioned in the text, then it will be numbered “1” and listed first in the reference list at the end of the paper, even if it is not alphabetically the first reference. Further mentions of the Smart reference in the text will also be numbered “1”. Also, the numbers are placed outside punctuation if the reference applies to an entire sentence or clause.

Italicized numbers in parentheses
Similarly, in this system, references are numbered with an italicized number within parentheses, ordered in the sequence in which they are cited, rather than alphabetically. In this system, the numbers are placed inside punctuation.
### Examples of numerical in-text citations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Single source                  | The effect of the added acid was negligible.\(^{41}\)  
The effect of the added acid was negligible (41). |
| Two sources (continuous or noncontinuous) | Smith’s studies of changeable bonds\(^{6,7}\) have shown that…  
…judged by earlier observations of animal experimentation.\(^{6,11}\)  
Smith’s studies of changeable bonds (6, 7) have shown that…  
…judged by earlier observations of animal experimentation (6, 11). |
| Three or more sources (in continuous sequence) | …and the most recent work on proteome research\(^{23–25}\) is…  
…and the most recent work on proteome research (23–25) is… |
| Multiple sources               | If Fraser’s studies\(^{1–4, 12, 13, 20–22}\) are closely examined …  
If Fraser’s studies (1–4, 12, 13, 20–22) are closely examined … |
| Multiple sources, same principal author | To cite multiple sources by the same principal author and various coauthors, use the principal author’s name followed by “and co-workers” or “and colleagues”:  
Pauling and co-workers\(^{10,11}\)  
Cram and colleagues (27-29) |

### Reference Lists

In the numerical systems, the reference list will be a numbered list and the references will be ordered by the sequence in which they appear in the text. In the **author-date** system, the reference list will be ordered alphabetically.

The following chart provides the order and format of components, as well as examples, of some of the more common sources. This information is applicable regardless of the system used.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Components</th>
<th>Reference List Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Journal article                | Authors. Article title. *Journal title* *Year,*  
| Journal article (online)       | Authors. Article title. *Journal title [Online]*  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Components</th>
<th>Reference List Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

These notes provide information about the contents and formatting of various components within a reference.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Reference List Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Author/Editor names | • List the author names in the order they appear in the source, including all author names.  
• Begin each author's name with the surname, followed by the initials of the first and middle name and any suffix, such as "Jr".  
• Use only semicolons to separate author names regardless of the number of authors.  
• Editor names are treated the same as author names, but are separated by commas and followed by ", Ed." or ", Eds." | Schafer, F. W., Jr.  
Basconi, J.; Lin, P. B.  
Caruso, R. A.; Susha, A.; Caruso, F.  
Saha, B. C., Hayashi, K., Eds. |
| Article titles  | • Article titles are neither italicized nor placed in quotation marks.  
• In ACS journals, capitalization follows that of the original publication; in others, the main words should be capitalized. | Nickel-Catalyzed Addition of Grignard Reagents: Ring-Opening Reactions with Nucleophiles. |
| Journal titles | • Journal titles should be italicized.  
• Journal titles should be abbreviated per the Chemical Abstracts Service Source Index (CASSI) database: http://cassi.cas.org.  
• One-word journal titles, however, should not be abbreviated and hence are not ended with a period. | *J. Chem. Phys.*  
*Pure Appl. Chem.*  
*Macromolecules* |
| Publication date | • The publication year for articles and books is followed by a comma; both the year and the comma are set in boldface type.  
• Only the year is required unless citing either an article published online in advance of the print issue or a non-scientific magazine or newspaper article; in those cases, the text is not set in boldface.  
• For online-early articles, include the text [Online early access].  
• Prior to the abbreviated month, day, and of year of publication. |
| --- | --- |
| Volume and issue numbers | • Issue numbers are included after volume numbers if each issue begins with page 1, in which case they appear in parentheses after the volume and a space.  
• Issue numbers are also included if there is no volume number, in which case it is prefaced by the publication year and "No. ".  
• If issue information is required, but the issue is not numbered, use the date of issue instead.  
• Supplements should be formatted like issues, but also include "Suppl." before the issue number.  
• Volume and issue numbers should be Arabic numerals.  
• Volume numbers are italicized, while issue numbers are not. |
2005, 83 (42), 7–12.  
2005, 83 (Oct 17), 7–12.  
2012, 40 (Suppl. S1), 781. |
| Book titles | • Book titles are italicized and title case, with the main words capitalized.  
• Chapter titles are not italicized. |
| Ionic Liquids in Polymer Systems: Solvents, Additives, and Novel Applications; |
| Editions | • The number of an edition should be an arabic ordinal.  
• Abbreviate the word “edition” as “ed.” |
| 8th ed. |
| Publisher | • Do not abbreviate publisher names, though words such as “Co.”, “Inc.”, “Publisher”, and “Press” can be omitted.  
• It is not necessary to repeat the publisher’s name, if it is the same as the organization which authored it. |
| Elsevier  
University of Chicago |
| Publication location | • The country or state is not required if the city is well-known and not likely to be confused with others of the same name.  
• If abbreviations are needed for US and Canadian cities, use the two-letter state or province abbreviations,  
• Spell out the country name unless it has a standard abbreviation. |
| New York  
London, ON  
London, U.K. |
| Page ranges | • Page ranges for books should be preceded by “p” or “pp” while page ranges for journal articles should not.  
• Page ranges not required for entire books, but are required for book chapters or sections.  
• Include all digits of the last page number in the range.  
• Initial page numbers are acceptable (use "ff" to denote pages following), but the full page range is preferable.  
• If a publication uses article numbering rather than page numbering, use the article number in this place. |
| 345–349.  
pp 56–61, 76.  
60 ff.  
No. 7. |

For further reference

  - https://pubs.acs.org/doi/pdf/10.1021/bk-2006-STYG.ch014

- University of Alberta Libraries: ACS Citation Style Quick Guide
  - https://guides.library.ualberta.ca/ld.php?content_id=15336878