CSE Citation Style  
(Citation-Sequence and Citation-Name Systems)  
Brief Guide

This is a very brief guide to creating in-text and reference list citations according to the Citation-Sequence and Citation-Name systems of the CSE (Council of Science Editors) citation style. For the authoritative explanation of the style, refer to Scientific Style and Format: The CSE Manual for Authors, Editors, and Publishers, 8th ed. (2014), particularly Chapter 29.

IN-TEXT CITATIONS:

The Citation-Sequence system is so named because references are numbered and 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, even if it is not alphabetically the first reference. Further mentions of the Smart reference in the text will also be numbered “1”.

The Citation-Name system orders the references alphabetically, and then numbers them in that sequence. For example, even if a reference by Smart is the first mentioned in the text, it will be numbered according to where it appears in the alphabetical list of references, such as “10”.

In both systems, an in-text citation takes the form of a superscripted number referring to the correspondingly numbered reference in the reference list that is being cited at that point.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Example of in-text citations at the same point</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single source</td>
<td>The NIH has called for a change in smallpox vaccination policy (^{41}) that…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two sources (continuous or noncontinuous)</td>
<td>Smith’s studies of arbovirus infections (^{6,7}) have shown that… Earlier commentary on animal experimentation (^{6,11}) showed…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three or more sources (in continuous sequence)</td>
<td>…and the most recent work on albuterol administration (^{23-25}) is… Drug dosage recommendations for elderly patients (^{27-32}) depart from…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple sources</td>
<td>…have been shown (^{3,8-10,17,33,34}) to abrogate the requirements of T-cells… When Chen’s studies (^{1-4,12,13,20-22}) are examined closely…</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCE LISTS:

In both systems, the reference list will be a numbered list; the difference is how the lists are ordered. In the Citation-Sequence system, the references will ordered by the sequence in which they appear in the text, while in the Citation-Name system, the references 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Components</th>
<th>Reference List Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</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.  
  • 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 commas to separate author names.  
  • Editor names are treated the same as author names, but followed by “, editor” or “, editors”. | Takagi R, Harada J, Chiarugi A Jr, Moskowitz MA.  
  Matthews DD, Bellenir K, editors.                                                                                   |
| **Publication date**       | • Only the year is required unless citing a newspaper article, a journal with no volume or issue number, or an electronic source with revision dates.  
  • Abbreviate months to the first three letters with no punctuation.  
  • For electronic sources with a publication date and a copyright date, use only the publication date.  
  • If the publication date can’t be determined, use the copyright year, preceded by “c”. | 2002.  
  2012 Jan-Feb.  
  2016 Mar 22.  
  2017 Summer.  
  c1997.                                                                                                           |
| **Article and book titles**| • Titles should be “sentence case,” with only the first word and any proper words capitalized.  
  • If no punctuation separates a title from the subtitle in the source, separate them in the citation with a colon followed by a space.  
  • Do not capitalize the first word of a subtitle when it follows a colon. | Vaccination policy in Canada: methods and protocols.  
  Let’s defeat cancer! The biological effect of deuterium depression.                                                   |
| **Editions**               | • The number of an edition should be an arabic ordinal.  
  • Abbreviate the word “edition” as “ed.” | 8th ed.                                                                                     |
| **Volume and issue numbers** | • Volume and issue numbers should be Arabic numerals.  
  • Issues appear in parentheses after the volume and prior to a colon and the page range.  
  • Supplements and parts should be abbreviated as “Suppl” and “Pt” with no periods. | 3(2):27-30.  
  44 Suppl B:15-19.  
| **Publication location**   | • Follow US and Canadian cities with two-letter state or province abbreviation.  
  • Follow other countries’ cities with two-letter country abbreviation.                                             | London (ON)  
  London (GB)                                                                                                   |
| **Page ranges**            | • Include all digits of the last page number in the range.  
  • Page ranges not required for entire books, but are required for book chapters.                                 | 345-349.                                                                                     |
| **Access dates**           | • Not required for online journal articles if content is same as print.  
  • Within square dates, put access date in square brackets after “accessed”.  
  • Access date is followed by a semicolon and the volume number.                                                   | [accessed 2005 May 31];330(7500):1119-1120.                                                  |
| **URL**                    | • Not required for online journal articles if content is same as print.  
  • The address displayed by the browser is usually the one to use.                                                | http://www.cgd.csiro.au/.                                                                    |
For further reference

Here are some other quick guides to CSE style that contain more detail than this brief guide, but are much more concise than the full *CSE Manual*:

- CSE’s *Scientific Style and Format* website
  - [http://www.scientificstyleandformat.org/Tools/SSF-Citation-Quick-Guide.html](http://www.scientificstyleandformat.org/Tools/SSF-Citation-Quick-Guide.html)

PLEASE NOTE the following two guides detail the **Name-Year** system, rather than the **Citation-Sequence** or **Citation-Name** systems, but some of the information regarding the format of reference components is still applicable.

- University of Alberta
  - [https://guides.library.ualberta.ca/id.php?content_id=16869133](https://guides.library.ualberta.ca/id.php?content_id=16869133)

- Dalhousie University
  - [http://dal.ca.libguides.com/CitationStyleGuide/CSE](http://dal.ca.libguides.com/CitationStyleGuide/CSE)
  - [https://cdn.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/library/Style_Guides/CSE%20-revised%20to%20conform%20to%20Knisely%20Sept%202017.pdf](https://cdn.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/library/Style_Guides/CSE%20-revised%20to%20conform%20to%20Knisely%20Sept%202017.pdf)