

ICMJE Recommendations Guide

(Formerly Uniform Requirements/Vancouver Style)

This is a basic guide to the ICMJE Recommendations citation style. The ICMJE is the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors.

References should always be numbered consecutively in the order in which they are first mentioned in the text.

When following the ICMJE guidelines, you should always check the ICMJE website first. See link below:

- Samples of formatted references for authors of journal articles [Internet]. Bethesda, MD: National Library of Medicine (US); c2003 [updated 2016 May 25; cited 2016 Aug 11]. Available from: https://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html

If there is no instruction within the ICMJE guidelines for the specific material you are citing, you should then refer to the NLM/CSE guidelines to create the citation. See link below:

- Patrias K. Citing medicine: the NLM style guide for authors, editors, and publishers [Internet]. 2nd ed. Wendling DL, technical editor. Bethesda, MD: National Library of Medicine (US); 2007- [updated 2015 Oct 2; cited 2016 Aug 11]. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK7256/>.

This style relies on journal abbreviations. For assistance with abbreviating journal titles, try:

- The NLM Journal Catalog: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nlmcatalog/journals>
- Web of Science: https://images.webofknowledge.com/images/help/WOS/A_abrvjt.html

Journals and Other Periodicals	
References	
One to six authors	1. Author AA, Author BB. Title of article. Abbr Journal Title. Year;Volume(Issue):page-page. https://doi.org/xx-xxxxxxxx
	1. Halpern SD, Ubel PA, Caplan AL. Solid-organ transplantation in HIV-infected patients. N Engl J Med. 2002;347(4):284-7. https://doi.org/10.1157 2002-x34742847 .
Seven or more authors	2. Author AA, Author BB, Author CC, Author DD, Author EE, Author FF, et al. Title of article. Abbr Journal Title. Year;Volume(Issue):page-page. https://doi.org/xx-xxxxxxxx
	2. Rose ME, Huerbin MB, Melick J, Marion DW, Palmer AM, Schiding JK, et al. Regulation of interstitial excitatory amino acid concentrations after cortical contusion injury. Brain Res. 2002;935(1-2):40-6. https://doi.org/10. 18.x548689553 .
Organization as author	3. Organization. Title of article. Abbr Journal Title. Year;Volume(Issue):page-page. https://doi.org/xx-xxxxxxxx
	3. Diabetes Prevention Program Research Group. Hypertension, insulin, and proinsulin in participants with impaired glucose tolerance. Hypertension. 2002;40(5):679-86. https://doi.org/1243-x445662 .
	4. Author AA, Author BB, Author CC; Organization. Title of article. Abbr Journal Title. Year;Volume(Issue):page-page. https://doi.org/xx-xxxxxxxx

Personal and organization as authors	4. Vallancien G, Erberton M, Harving N; Alf-One Study Group. Sexual dysfunction in 1274 European men suffering from lower urinary tract symptoms. J Urol. 2003;169(6):2257-61. https://doi.org/10.1136/jurol/2003169558 .
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No author	5. Title of article. Abbr Journal Title. Year;Volume(Issue):page-page. https://doi.org/xx-xxxxxxxx
	5. 21st century heart solution may have a sting in the tail. BMJ. 2002;325(7357):184-5. https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.a.7357 .
Volume with supplement	6. Author AA, Author BB, Author CC. Title of article. Abbr Journal Title. Year;Volume # Supplement:Spage-page. https://doi.org/xx-xxxxxxxx
	6. Geraud G, Spierings EL, Keywood C. Tolerability and safety of frovatriptan with short- and long-term use for treatment of migraine in comparison with sumatriptan. Headache. 2002;42 Suppl 2:S93-9. https://doi.org/10.1046/j.1526-4610.42.s2.7.x .
Forthcoming publication	7. Author AA, Author BB, Author CC. Title of article. Abbr Journal Title. Forthcoming Year.
	7. Tian D, Araki H, Stalh EE, Bergelson, JC. Signature of balancing selection in Arabidopsis. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA. Forthcoming 2012.
Article published ahead of issue	8. Author AA, Author BB, Author CC. Title of article. Abbr Journal Title. Year;Volume:page-page. Epub date.
	8. Yu WM, Hawley TS, Hawley RG, Qu CK. Immortalization of yolk sac-derived precursor cells. Blood. 2002;100(10):3828-31. Epub 2002 Jul 5.
Print version of article	10. Author AA, Author BB, Author CC. Title of article. Abbr Journal Title. Year;Volume(Issue):page-page.
	10. Starkman JS, Wolder CE, Gomelsky A, Scarpero HM. Voiding dysfunction after removal of eroded slings. J Urol. 2006;61(12):909-15.
Magazines - online version	11. Author AA. Title of article. Magazine Title. [Internet]. Year Month Day [cited Date]; Volume(Issue):page-page or [estimated length]. Available from: URL.
	11. Gillis C, Lunau K. A world of 10 billion. Macleans [Internet]. 2011 Jun 20 [cited 2011 Aug 4]; 124(23):60. Available from: http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=2385355611&sid=5&Fmt=3&clientId=11263&RQT=309&VName=PQD .
Newspapers - online version	12. Author AA. Title of article. Newspaper Title. Edition. [Internet]. Year Month Day [cited Date];Section Letter/Name:page-page or [estimated length]. Available from: URL.
	12. Carey B. Psychiatrists revise the book of human troubles. New York Times [Internet]. 2008 Dec 17 [cited 2008 Dec 19];Health:[about 3 p.]. Available from: http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/18/health/18psych.html?_r=1&em .

Further examples for Journals and Periodicals can be found at https://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html or in Citing Medicine at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK7281/> (Internet) and <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK7282/> (Print).

Books	
Authors	1. Author AA, Author BB, Author CC. Title of book. Location: Publisher; Year. Total #p.
	1. Eyre HJ, Lange DP, Morris LB. Informed decisions: the complete book of cancer diagnosis, treatment, and recovery. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2002. 768 p.
Editor in place of author	2. Editor AA, Editor BB, editors. Title of book. Location: Publisher; Date. Total #p.
	2. Izzo JL Jr, Black HR, editors. Hypertension primer: the essentials of high blood pressure. 3rd ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2003. 532 p.
Editor and author	3. Author AA, Author BB. Title of book. Editor AA, Editor BB, editors. Location: Publisher; Date. Total #p.
	3. Martin EW. Hazards of medication. Ruskin A, Napke E, Alexander S, Kelsey FO, Farage DJ, Mills DH, Elkas RW, editors. Philadelphia: Lippincott; 1978. 686 p.
Organization as author	4. Organization Name. Title of book. Location: Publisher; Date. Total #p.
	4. Advanced Life Support Group. Acute medical emergencies: the practical approach. London: BMJ Books; 2001. 454 p.
Multiple editions	5. Author AA, Author BB, Author CC. Title of book. # ed. Location: Publisher; Date. Total #p.
	5. Wenger NK, Sivarajan Froelicher E, Smith LK. Cardiac rehabilitation. 9th ed. Rockville (MD): Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (US); 1995. 202 p.
Multiple volumes	6. Author/Editor AA. Title of series. Vol. #, Title of volume. Location: Publisher; Date. Total #p.
	6. Cicchetti D, Cohen DJ, editors. Developmental psychopathology. Vol. 1, Theory and methods. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.; 1995. 787 p.
Chapter in book	7. Chapter Author AA. Title of chapter. In: Editor AA, Editor BB, editors. Title of book. Location: Publisher; Date. chapter pages.
	7. Whiteside TL, Heberman RB. Effectors of immunity and rationale for immunotherapy. In: Kufe DW, Pollock RE, Weichselbaum RR, Bast RC Jr, Gansler TS, Holland JF, editors. Cancer medicine 6. Hamilton (ON): BC Decker Inc; 2003. p. 221-8.
Electronic book	8. Author AA. Title of book [Internet]. Version # (if applicable). Location: Publisher; Date [cited Date]. Available from URL.
	8. Richardson ML. Approaches to differential diagnosis in musculoskeletal imaging [Internet]. Version 2.0. Seattle (WA): University of Washington School of Medicine; c2000 [cited 2006 Nov 1]. Available from: http://www.rad.washington.edu/mskbook/index.html .
Dictionary entry - online version	9. Title of dictionary [Internet]. Location: Publisher; Date [cited Date]. Available from: URL.
	9. Merriam-Webster medical dictionary [Internet]. Springfield (MA): Merriam-Webster Incorporated; 2005 [cited 2006 Nov 16]. Available from: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/plusdictionary.html .
Encyclopedia entry - online version	10. Title of encyclopedia [Internet]. Location: Publisher; Date [cited Date]. Available from: URL.
	10. A.D.A.M. medical encyclopedia [Internet]. Atlanta (GA): A.D.A.M., Inc.; 2005 [cited 2006 Nov 3]. Available from: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/encyclopedia.html .
Further examples for Books can be found at https://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html or in Citing Medicine at http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK7269/ (Internet) http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK7271/ (Print).	

Informally or Unpublished Material - Reports, Theses, Lecture Notes, etc.

Report - online version	1. Author AA/Organization. Title of report [Internet]. Location: Sponsor/Publisher; Date [revised Date, if applicable; cited Date]. Length. Report No. if available. Available from: URL.
	1. United States Federal Communicators Network. Communicators guide for federal, state, regional, and local communicators [Internet]. Washington (DC): Department of Agriculture (US); 2000 [revised 2001 Dec; cited 2006 Nov 1]. 75 p. Available from: http://www.usda.gov/news/pubs/fcn/table.htm .
Conference paper	2. Presenter/Author AA. Title of paper. Paper presented at: Title of conference. # Conference Name; Date of Conference; Location of Conference.
	2. Patrias K. Computer-compatible writing and editing. Paper presented at: Interacting with the digital environment. 46th Annual Meeting of the Council of Science Editors; 2003 May 3-6; Pittsburgh, PA.

Conference poster	3. Presenter/Author AA. Title of poster. Poster session presented at: Title of conference. # Conference Name; Date of Conference; Location of Conference.
	3. Chasman J, Kaplan RF. The effects of occupation on preserved cognitive functioning in dementia. Poster session presented at: Excellence in clinical practice. 4th Annual Conference of the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology; 2006 Jun 15-17; Philadelphia, PA.

Dissertation or Thesis - online version	4. Author AA. Title of dissertation/thesis [dissertation/thesis on the Internet]. Location of Institution: Institution; Date [cited Date]. # p. Available from: URL.
	4. Jones DL. The role of physical activity on the need for revision total knee arthroplasty in individuals with osteoarthritis of the knee [dissertation on the Internet]. Pittsburgh (PA): University of Pittsburgh; 2001 [cited 2011 Nov 12]. 436 p. Available from: http://www.upitts.edu/research/01/archive/jones.html

Course materials (lecture slides, etc)	<i>Check with your professor before using these types of resources in your assignment (such as PowerPoint slides, class handouts, overheads, etc). Do not cite Custom Course Packs in this format: try to find the original source.</i>
	5. Author AA. (Department, Affiliation, Location). [Title; Description of item]. Date. # p.
	5. Matthews J. (Division of Food and Nutritional Sciences, Brescia University College, London, ON) [Benefits of community gardening; Course handout for Foods and Nutrition 1031E]. 2011. 3p.

Lectures	Personal communications are not included in the reference list as they are not retrievable. Introduce in text, making it clear that no corresponding reference entry is available:
	. "...as discussed in class by Dr. Michael Prangley (course lecture, 2011 Oct 15; unreferenced) it becomes clear that..."

Personal interviews	Personal communications are not included in the reference list as they are not retrievable. Introduce in text, making it clear that no corresponding reference entry is available:
	"...does not recommend this treatment (2011 personal interview with JM Campbell; unreferenced)..."

Email	6. Author AA. Title of message [Internet]. Message to: AA Recipient. Date [cited Date]. [Estimated length].
	6. Backus J. Physician Internet search behavior: detailed study [Internet]. Message to: K Patrias. 2007 Mar 27 [cited 2007 Mar 28]. [2 paragraphs].

Further examples for informally and unpublished material can be found at https://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html or in Citing Medicine at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK7242/> (Personal Communications), <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK7255/> (Conference Papers and Posters),

Legislation and Government Publications

Legislation - online or print	<i>Uniform Requirements relies on The Bluebook: a Uniform System of Citation for citing legal documents and government publications. Many of the Bluebooks' examples are for American government, and often use abbreviations. Please consult this text for further information: Brescia Reference KF245.H36 2010.</i>
	For the Publishing Body, use "R.S.C." for the Revised Statutes of Canada, or C.R.C. for the Consolidated Regulations of Canada. More abbreviations are listed in the <i>Bluebook</i> .
	1. Statute/Regulation name, Publishing Body [Abbr]. Date, chapter #. 1. Canada Labour Code, R.S.C. 1985, c. L-2.
Government report - online	Use "Reports" example from section above. A detailed example is given below.
	2. Public Health Agency of Canada. Tracking heart disease and stroke in Canada [Internet]. Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada; 2009 [cited 2011 Sep 7]. 132 p. Available from: http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/2009/cvd-avc/pdf/cvd-avs-2009-eng.pdf .

Webpages and Websites

Webpage/ Section of website	1. Title of website [Internet]. Location of site sponsor/publisher: Sponsor/Publisher; Copyright date [updated Date; cited Date]. Title of webpage/section of website; [Estimated length in screens or paragraphs]. Available from: URL.
	1. American Medical Association [Internet]. Chicago: The Association; c1995-2011 [updated 2011 Aug 23; cited 2011 Nov 12]. AMA Office of Group Practice Liaison; [about 2 screens]. Available from: http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/1736.html .
Entire website	2. Title of website [Internet]. Location of site sponsor/publisher: Sponsor/Publisher; Copyright date [updated Date; cited Date]. Available from: URL.
	2. Cancer-Pain.org [Internet]. New York: Association of Cancer Online Resources, Inc; c.2000-2010 [updated 2010 May 16; cited 2011 Oct 3]. Available from: http://www.cancer-pain.org .
Wiki entry	3. Title of wiki [Internet]. Location: Publisher. Date - [modified Date; cited Date]. Available from: URL.
	3. Wikisurgery [Internet]. London: Surgical Associates Ltd. 2006 Sep - [modified 2007 Jan 30; cited 2007 May 3]. Available from: http://www.wikisurgery.com/ .
Blog post	4. Author AA. Title of blog [Internet]. Location of site sponsor/publication: Sponsor/publisher. [Start date of blog] - [End date of blog, if available]. Title of post. Posted date [cited Date]; [estimated length of post]. Available from: URL.
	4. Kraft M. The Krafty Librarian [Internet]. Cleveland (OH): Michelle Kraft. [2004 Jun] - . Collaborative technologies and science: more tools or more risk? 2008 Jan 21 [cited 2008 Apr 28]; [about 1 screen]. Available from: http://kraftylibrarian.com/2008/01/collaborative-technologies-and-science.html .

Further examples of webpages and websites can be found at https://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html or in Citing Medicine at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK7274/>. Email and Discussion Forums can be found at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK7266/>.

Media	
<i>Uniform Requirements treat videos as individual titles, and therefore lists these examples under “Books and Other Individual Titles” based by medium (i.e. print, electronic, and web-based).</i>	
Videos - DVD format	2. Writer/Creator. Title of video [DVD]. Location: Production Company; Date. # DVD’s: physical description.
	2. Subbarao M. Tough cases in carotid stenting [DVD]. Woodbury (CT): Cine-Med, Inc.; 2003. 1 DVD: sound, color, 4 3/4 in.
Video - online format	3. Writer/Creator AA. Title of video [Internet]. Location: Production Company/Publisher; Date. Video: Length. Available from: URL.
	3. Alberts B. Spreading science throughout the world: how, why and when? [Internet]. Bethesda (MD): National Institutes of Health (US); 2003 [cited 2006 Nov 1]. Videocast: 65 min. Available from: http://videocast.nih.gov/launch.asp?10488 .
Podcast	4. Writer/Creator AA. [Podcast date]. [Internet]. Location: Sponsor/Publisher; Date [cited Date]. Podcast: Length. Available from: URL.
	4. Tracey E, Lange R. [Podcast for week of November 6, 2006] [Internet]. Baltimore (MD): Johns Hopkins Medicine; 2006 Nov 6 [cited 2006 Nov 7]. Podcast: 10 min. Available from: http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/mediaII/Podcasts.html .
<i>Further media examples can be found at https://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html or in Citing Medicine at http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK7268/ (DVD), http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK7263/ (Cassettes and Fiche), and http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK7269/ (Online Videos and Podcasts).</i>	

Additional rules	
Secondary citation	<i>Citing a source from a secondary source is discouraged, since authors are expected to have examined the works they cite. See library staff for assistance in locating original works. List the secondary source (the one you actually read) in the reference list. Only introduce the original work in text.</i>
	“...the work of JB Smith found similar conclusions [as cited in Meneton (13)]...”
	1. Meneton P, Jeunemaitre X, de Wardener HE, MacGregor GA. Links between dietary salt intake, blood pressure, and cardiovascular diseases. <i>Physiol Rev.</i> 2005 Apr;85(2):679-715.
No date	Use the citation format appropriate to work; for internet documents, just use Cited Date. Example below is a website.
	2. growthhouse.org: improving care for the dying [Internet]. San Francisco: Growth House, Inc.; [cited 2007 Feb 20]. Available from: http://www.growthhouse.org/ .

Formatting Guidelines:

Below you will find Brescia’s general guidelines for formatting references, however, they may vary depending on the preferences of your professor or a particular journal if you are submitting for publishing.

1. Identify references in text, tables, and legends by Arabic numerals in parentheses
 - Examples “... needed to influence policy (1). The results have found...”

2. Title your list of references either References, End References, Literature Cited, or Bibliography
3. References should be numbered consecutively in the order in which they are first mentioned in the text.
4. Align references to the left with no indent on the second line.
5. Each individual citation is single-spaced, followed by a double space between each reference.
6. The journal titles should be abbreviated according to the style used in the list of *Journals Indexed for Medline*, posted by the National Library of Medicine. For the list of journal abbreviations included in the National Library of Medicine, see:
 - NLM Journal Catalog: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nlmcatalog/journals>
7. A journal article citation ends with a Digital Object Identifier, better known as a DOI. Keep in mind that not all journal articles have a DOI associated with them. If you've done an extensive search and still cannot find one, simply leave it blank where you would otherwise put the DOI.
 - For additional information on citing using this style, make sure to consult the *International Committee of Medical Journal Editors: Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals: Publication*: <http://www.icmje.org/>.