Containers

Visualize information as being stored in a series of nested containers, like a series of stacking cubes. The innermost cube is the actual article you used. It is contained in a book, journal, video, or other unit. That, in turn, might be contained within a larger unit such as an anthology, a database, or a web site. You might even have three or four containers.

### Definitions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Author</strong></td>
<td>Creator of the main content. It could be a writer, editor, performer, pseudonym, or corporation. When none exists, start the citation with the source.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title of Source</strong></td>
<td>The title of the article, story, dictionary entry, video episode, etc. When untitled, use a description.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Container Title</strong></td>
<td>The book, video, database, journal, website or sometimes the series that encapsulates the source.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other contributors</strong></td>
<td>Editors, translators, performers, illustrators, if pertinent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Version</strong></td>
<td>Edition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number</strong></td>
<td>Volume, issue, episode, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Publisher</strong></td>
<td>Book publisher, production company, website, or database. Use only when not named as the container.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Publication date</strong></td>
<td>Print sources, use the most recent edition as shown on the title page or verso. Web sources generally use the posting date, and sometimes both. A blog, email or tweet may also use the time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location</strong></td>
<td>For a book or journal article, this means page numbers; for an electronic source, a DOI, permalink or web address; for an artwork or live performance, a physical location.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Examples:

Author. "Title of Source." **Title of Container**, Other contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication date, Location.

Books

Book with one author [p. 21]

Ebook [p. 34]


Book with three or more authors [p. 22]

Book with three or more editors [p. 23]

Book with no author or a corporate author that is also the publisher [pp. 24-25]

Corporate author, [pp. 104-05]

Corporate author also publisher [p. 104]

Entry in an anthology [pp. 27, 50].

Government document [p. 104] print edition or online [p. 48]


Dictionary entry in a book or online.
Access date when no other date is available. [p. 53] (optional)


ARTICLES

Previously published article, reprinted in a book [p. 53] and then in a database, [pp. 31-32], with a permalink [p. 48] or document number [p. 50]


Journal article in print without a doi, [p. 45] Three or more authors, [p. 22]


Journal article from a database, with a DOI [p. 48]. A DOI is preferred, when available.


Journal article from a database, with a permalink [p. 49]. Most of our databases offer permalinks. Use when a DOI is not available.


Newspaper article on the web [p. 45]. Two authors, [p. 21]


MEDIA

Tweet or other untitled source [p. 28-29]

@cia. "We can neither confirm nor deny that this is our first tweet." *Twitter*, 6 June 2014, 10:49 a.m., twitter.com/CIA/status/474971393852182528.


Art [pp. 29. 41, 49]


Music [p. 28]


Video streaming on the web [p. 44]


Video from a database [p. 42]


Video episode [p. 28]

Use 1” margins on all sides. Double space throughout. Include your last name and the page number on all pages. [Style.MLA.org/formatting-papers/]

**General rules:**

» Italicize titles of books, plays, magazines, scholarly journals, and web sites. Enclose titles of articles, essays, songs, poems, and short stories in quotation marks. [pp. 27-29]

» If the author is anonymous or is the same as the publisher, start the citation with the title. [pp. 24-25]

» When the author uses a pseudonym, use that pseudonym. If you know the real name, include it in parentheses. @Oprah (Oprah Winfrey). [pp. 24, 102]

» In publishers’ names, ignore imprints and divisions. [pp. 108-09]

» For pages that are not consecutive, such as newspapers, use a plus sign: “192+.” [p. 110]

» URLs should be hyperlinked, with the beginning http:// removed. [p. 110]

» Alphabetize citations in the Works Cited. When alphabetizing, ignore beginning articles a, an, or the, and symbols such as @ or “. Numbers should be alphabetized as they would be spelled. [pp. 112, 114]

**In-Text Citations:** [pp. 116–26]

» All sources cited in the text must be listed in the Works Cited. All sources listed in the Works Cited must be used in the text. [p. 20]

» In-text citations, use the first element of the works cited entry. Usually, that will be the authors’ last names. Follow with the page number (Federson and Richardson 11). [p. 54]

» Use as little information as possible, usually the author(s) and page number (Berlant 834). However, if there are two items by the same author, you must include part of the title (Berlant, “Race” 834). [p. 55]

» When a government agency is the author, use all parts as the author (United States, Dept. of Labor, Bur. of Labor Statistics). [p. 117]

» The author’s last name may be included in the text and only the page numbers in parentheses: According to Federson and Richardson, the film has two narratives (11). [p. 54]

» If your citation starts with the title, use part of the title, with the same punctuation or italics (Diagnostic 441) or (“Lallygag” 598). [pp. 55-56]

» For video and audio media, give the time (“Life” 00:07:25-30). [p. 57]

» When an author uses a pseudonym, use that pseudonym (@cia). [p. 24]

» Use indirect sources only when the original is not available. This occurs when Person A is quoted or summarized in Person B’s essay. Indicate an indirect source by using “qtd. in” before the source cited: Hemingway believes that “courage is grace under pressure” (qtd. in Berlant 834). [p. 124]