Citing Government Information Sources Using MLA Style


The citations on this handout are recommended examples for entries in a works cited list. They have not been approved by the editorial board of the Modern Language Association. Consult your instructor or editor for specific elements of citation style. Citations should always be double-spaced on a works cited list (the citations here are single-spaced in order to save space).

Citing Sources in the Text of Your Manuscript or Paper: In-text Citations

MLA recommends "parenthetical documentation" of sources, whereby a cited author and specific page numbers are noted in parentheses in the text of your paper or manuscript, e.g., (Fairbanks 32) or (Rubenstein 101-102). Such citations refer to an alphabetically arranged list of works cited, placed at the end of your paper. See Part 1 of the *MLA Handbook* for examples of in-text citations.

Citing URLs in Web Publications

Always follow the requirements of your instructor or editor regarding URLs in citations. MLA’s editors suggest inclusion of URLs in citations. Even if a URL is outdated and no longer functions, it tells your reader where you found a source (*MLA Handbook* 48).

Citation Sources: Useful Links

- Style Guides for Research Papers: guides.library.unr.edu/general/citing
- MLA Style: Website of the Modern Language Association: www.mla.org/style
- Introduction to Basic Legal Citation (Cornell Law School): www.law.cornell.edu/citation

Explanation of Formats for Legal Citations

In this guide, citations to legal information sources such as *US Reports*, the *US Code*, the *Federal Register* and *Code of Federal Regulations* are given in two formats. The first is the legal citation style used in *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation*, 19th ed. (Harvard Law Review Association, 2010). The second format conforms closely to the examples in Diane Garner’s *The Complete Guide to Citing Government Information Resources: A Manual for Social Science & Business Research* (3rd ed., rev. by Debora Cheney. Congressional Information Service, 2002). Where Garner's sample citations to legal information differed significantly from MLA style, a citation was constructed to conform to MLA standards for a source published in a non-government periodical, such as a popular magazine.
CITY GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION (RENO, NEVADA)

CITY GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION (CHICAGO, IL: TWO RESPONSIBLE ENTITIES)
Commission on Chicago Landmarks, and Chicago Department of Planning and Development. Chicago Historic Resources Survey: An Inventory of Architecturally and Historically Significant Structures. Chicago Department of Planning and Development, 1996.

INTERNATIONAL TREATY

NATO PRESS RELEASE

STATE AGENCY, PAPER IN A PUBLISHED CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

STATE AGENCY PUBLICATION (NEVADA)
Nevada, Department of Transportation. Travel Demand Analysis of Selected Small Urban Areas of Nevada. Nevada. Department of Transportation [1996].

UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATION (OFFICIAL RECORD)

US-AMERICAN INDIAN TREATY
US CENSUS DATA (VIA AMERICAN FACTFINDER)

US CODE
Uniform System Citation (Bluebook):

Recommended Garner-style Citation:

(CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS)
Uniform System Citation (Bluebook):

Recommended Garner-style Citation:

US CONGRESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. EXECUTIVE DOCUMENT RETRIEVED FROM A LICENSED ONLINE DATABASE (READEX)

US CONGRESSIONAL BILL IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (FDsys: Federal Digital System)

US CONGRESSIONAL HEARING
US FEDERAL AGENCY. COUNTRY COMMERCIAL GUIDE


US FEDERAL AGENCY. DATASET


US FEDERAL AGENCY. GRAPHIC IMAGE FILE


US FEDERAL AGENCY REPORT WITH CORPORATE AUTHOR


US FEDERAL AGENCY REPORT WITH PERSONAL AUTHORS


US FEDERAL AGENCY. STATISTICAL TABLE


(US) FEDERAL REGISTER

Uniform System Citation (Bluebook):

Recommended MLA-style Citation:

US PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION REPORT

US PRESIDENTIAL PAPERS (MICROFILM EDITION)

(US) PUBLIC LAW
Uniform System Citation (Bluebook):

Recommended Garner-style Citation:

US SUPREME COURT DECISION
Uniform System Citation (Bluebook):

Recommended MLA-style Citation:

(US) WORLD FACTBOOK

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