#### Research Paper Citations (MLA Format)

#### Basic Style for Citations of Electronic Sources

Here are some common features you should try and find before citing electronic sources in MLA style. Not every Web page will provide all of the following information. However, collect as much of the following information as possible both for your citations and for your research notes:

* Author and/or editor names (if available)
* Article name in quotation marks (if applicable)
* Title of the Website, project, or book in italics. (Remember that some Print publications have Web publications with slightly different names. They may, for example, include the additional information or otherwise modified information, like domain names [e.g. .com or .net].)
* Any version numbers available, including revisions, posting dates, volumes, or issue numbers.
* Publisher information, including the publisher name and publishing date.
* Take note of any page numbers (if available).
* Medium of publication.
* Date you accessed the material.
* URL (if required, or for your own personal reference; MLA does not require a URL).

**Citing an Entire Web Site**

It is necessary to list your date of access because web postings are often updated, and information available on one date may no longer be available later. Be sure to include the complete address for the site. Remember to use *n.p.* if no publisher name is available and *n.d.* if no publishing date is given.

Editor, author, or compiler name (if available). *Name of Site*. Version number. Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (sponsor or publisher), date of resource creation (if available). Medium of publication. Date of access.

Examples:

*The Purdue OWL Family of Sites*. The Writing Lab and OWL at Purdue and Purdue U, 2008. Web. 23 Apr. 2008.

Felluga, Dino. *Guide to Literary and Critical Theory*. Purdue U, 28 Nov. 2003. Web. 10 May 2006.

**A Page on a Web Site**

For an individual page on a Web site, list the author or alias if known, followed by the information covered above for entire Web sites. Remember to use *n.p.* if no publisher name is available and *n.d.* if no publishing date is given.

Example:

"How to Make Vegetarian Chili." *eHow*. Demand Media, n.d. Web. 24 Feb. 2009.

**An Article from an Online Database (or Other Electronic Subscription Service)**

Cite articles from online databases (e.g. LexisNexis, ProQuest, JSTOR, ScienceDirect) and other subscription services just as you would print sources. Since these articles usually come from periodicals, be sure to consult the appropriate sections of the Works Cited: Periodicals page, which you can access via its link at the bottom of this page. In addition to this information, provide the title of the database italicized, the medium of publication, and the date of access.

Examples:

Junge, Wolfgang, and Nathan Nelson. “Nature's Rotary Electromotors.”*Science* 29 Apr. 2005: 642-44. *Science Online*. Web. 5 Mar. 2009.

Langhamer, Claire. “Love and Courtship in Mid-Twentieth-Century England.” *Historical Journal* 50.1 (2007): 173-96. *ProQuest*. Web. 27 May 2009.

**Parenthetical Citations**

#### Basic in-text citation rules

In MLA style, referring to the works of others in your text is done by using what is known as a **parenthetical citation**. This method involves placing relevant source information in parentheses after a quote or a paraphrase.

MLA format follows the author-page method of in-text citation. This means that the author's last name and the page number(s) from which the quotation or paraphrase is taken must appear in the text, **and a complete reference should appear on your Works Cited page**. The author's name may appear either in the sentence itself or in parentheses following the quotation or paraphrase, but the page number(s) should always appear in the parentheses, not in the text of your sentence.

Examples:  
Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (Wordsworth 263).

Wordsworth extensively explored the role of emotion in the creative process (263).

#### When a citation is not needed

Common sense and ethics should determine your need for documenting sources. You do not need to give sources for familiar sayings, well-known quotations or **common knowledge**.