MLA WORKS CITED: PRINT SOURCES

The following models show how to enter common types of print sources in your works-cited list. If you’re using a source not covered here, see the MLA Handbook or visit the Academic Skills Centre.

Many changes to MLA work-cited entries were introduced in 2016. If you’ve used the MLA system in the past, you’ll notice significant differences in the models and instructions that follow.

Certain things that used to be abbreviated are now written in full, but certain abbreviations are still used. Cities of publication are no longer included, nor is the term “Print.” The abbreviations “vol.” and “no.” are now used, as are “p.” and “pp.” The punctuation has been simplified.

When preparing a works-cited entry for a book, take the information from the inside title page and copyright page—not from the cover.

BASICS

author's name, last name first \[ \downarrow \]

\[ \uparrow \]
title of the book, in italics \[ \downarrow \]

date of publication \[ \downarrow \]


 indentation publisher year of publication

- If no edition is mentioned in the book, go directly from title to publisher. The abbreviation “ed.” is still used for numbered editions such as “2nd ed.” and with designations such as “Revised ed.” or “Canadian ed.”
- Give publishers’ names in full, but drop corporate terms, such as “Company” and “Ltd.” When naming university presses, use “U” for University and “P” for Press (e.g. U of Ottawa P).
- In a book, look for the publication date on the copyright page (which follows the inside title page). If several copyright dates are given, use the most recent one. (Ignore printing dates.)
- For anonymous sources, skip the ‘author’ part of the entry and open with the title. When it seems more appropriate, an organization may be named as ‘author’ at the beginning of the entry.

VARIATIONS

A book with two authors: Give both names. Note that only the first author’s name is reversed.


A book with more than three authors: Name the first author only, and use the Latin abbreviation “et al.” meaning “and others.”

An essay in a book of essays: The author of the essay is named first; the editor's name comes later. Give the page numbers of the entire essay.


A work of fiction or poetry in an anthology or a teacher's course manual:


A magazine article: If the magazine is published weekly, give the exact date; if published monthly, give the month and year. Include the page numbers of the entire article. If pages are not continuous, give the first page with a plus sign.


A scholarly journal article: Give the volume number and issue number. Include month and year (or season, or just the year—whatever is indicated). Include the page numbers of the entire article.


A newspaper article: If the newspaper's name does not include the city, add the city's name in square brackets. Give the full date of publication and the page numbers of the entire article. If the pages are not continuous, give the first page with a plus sign. (Note that newspaper pages often include a letter indicating the section.)


A pamphlet: Treated like a book, but often has no individual author and/or no date. If it is published by an organization, begin your entry with the pamphlet's title, citing the organization as publisher. (Note that “n.d.” is no longer used when no date is available.)


*Radon Risks: Check Your Basement*. Canadian Cancer Society.