

MLA WORKS CITED: ONLINE TEXTS AND REFERENCE WORKS

(database items, online articles, e-books, online encyclopedias/dictionaries)

The MLA system now requires URLs (Internet addresses) in works-cited entries for online sources. If you are citing an online article that has a DOI number (a digital object identifier), you should use that in place of the URL, preceded by “doi” and a full colon.

MATERIAL FROM A DATABASE

For an article or other item from an online database, give its original publication details. The database provides all the information you need. You must also include the name of the database (in italics) and the URL. In the second model below, a DOI number has been used in place of the URL.

Sims, Janet. “Ravaged by Recession.” *The Gazette* [Montreal], 27 Jan. 1994, D8. *ProQuest: Major*

Canadian Dailies, search.proquest.com/canadiannews/4325524/C19B45/7?accountid=27014.

Urungi, John. “A Crisis in Contemporary African Governance.” *African Issues*, vol. 31, no. 2, Oct. 2003,

pp. 9-23. *JSTOR*, doi: 10.2307/1535097.

TIP: A DATABASE WILL CREATE A WORKS-CITED ENTRY FOR YOU—BUT MAKE SURE IT IS IN THE CURRENT MLA FORMAT. CHECK IT AGAINST A RELIABLE MODEL: THE PUNCTUATION, SPACING, ITALICIZATION, ETC. MIGHT HAVE TO BE CORRECTED.

ONLINE VERSION OF A PUBLISHED ARTICLE

Following the author and title, give the original publication details and then the URL (or the DOI).

Wilson, Georgina A. “Teaching North American Culture in the ESL Classroom.” *Journal of Progressive*

Pedagogy, vol. 7, no. 3, Dec. 2014, www.frisco.edu/JPP/83465985.

ARTICLE FROM AN ONLINE JOURNAL / MAGAZINE

The article’s title appears in quotation marks; the name of the magazine or portal follows in italics. The date might be a specific day or just a month, season, or year. If the article is anonymous, open with the title.

Hill, Vera. “Journalists Under Attack in the Middle East.” *Probe Weekly*, vol. 13, no. 20, 16 Dec. 2015,

www.probeweekly.com/876t00d/juame.001.

AN E-BOOK

Cite the original publication details along with the name and URL of the digital library or other online source.

Baylor, Diana C. *Achievements of the French Renaissance*. 3rd ed., Morningstar Press, 1976. *Digital Library of the Humanities*, lib.humn.org/5726/jku.0766.0003.001.

Conroy, Martin, and Alberta Frobisher. *Journalism: A Critical History*. Sage Publications, 2007. *Google Books*, books.google.com/books?isbn=0761941002.

When citing a brief work (e.g. an essay or short story) from an e-book that contains other items, open with the author and title of the brief work, and then give the book title. Usually there will be an editor's name and page numbers to include.

Gill, Susan M. "An Essay on Hope." *Collected Essays on the Human Spirit*. Edited by Janet Bligh, Wessex Publishers, 1955, pp. 37-51. *eBook Matrix*, www.ematrix.org/h6800.u6/cehs/01.

AN ONLINE ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLE

Many online reference sources such as *Encyclopaedia Britannica Online* and the *Canadian Encyclopedia* are acceptable in formal research—but many teachers regard *Wikipedia* as unreliable and will not accept it.

Simply give the article's heading in quotation marks; then the name of the source and the article's URL.

"Iceland." *Encyclopaedia Britannica Online*, www.britannica.com/.

"McLean Gang." *Canadian Encyclopedia*, thecanadianencyclopedia.com/en/article/mclean-gang/.

AN ONLINE DICTIONARY DEFINITION

Instead of listing a dictionary as an actual 'work cited,' it's best to simply name it in your discussion, saying, for example, ". . . *Lexicom Online Dictionary* defines *integrity* as . . ." and then quote the definition. That way, you don't need a citation or a works-cited entry. However, if you decide to cite a dictionary as an actual research source, use the model below.

Open with the word you looked up—capitalized and in quotation marks, like the heading of an article. Give the name of the dictionary (in italics) and the URL.

"Integrity." *The Cambridge Dictionary*, cambridge.org/dictionary/english/integrity.