MLA Citation Style

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Why do we use MLA style?
Features of MLA Citation Style

- Humanist focus on author and title
- In-text citations
- List of works cited
- 9 core elements
Why did MLA change the style?!!?
MLA Citation Style, 8th edition

- “rethinks documentation for an era of digital publication”
- Focuses on elements rather than formats
- Placeholders are eliminated, so if an element is missing, move on to the next.
How do I use the elements?
1. Author

- Format as in earlier editions
  - Doe, Jane.
  - Doe, Jane, and John Doe.
  - Doe, Jane, et al.
  - Doe, Jane, and John Doe, editors.

- Skip if there is no author
2. Title

- Must-have element. Do not skip!
- Italics for books, works of art, films, series, etc.
- Quotation marks for articles, stories, and poems within collections, etc.
- When creating a description for a work with no title, capitalize it like a sentence:

  Doe, Jane. Text message to author. 1 Sept. 2016.
3. **Container**

- May be an anthology, a television series, a periodical, a database, a website, etc.
- A website is a container when it is a platform of publication, not a store
- Some works do not have a container
- Some works have more than one
4. Other Contributors

Participants other than the primary author(s) important to the identification of a work:

- adapted by
- directed by
- edited by
- illustrated by
- translated by
- general editor
5. Version

For a work released in more than one form, identify the version

- new, revised, or abridged edition of a book
- version of a film
- remix of a song
- version number of a web project

3rd ed.  
revised and expanded ed.

director's cut  
radio edit  
version 1.3.1
6. Number

- Provide the number of a work that is part of a sequence
  - volume
  - issue
  - season
  - episode

- When an element contains more than one piece of information, separate them with a comma.

  vol. 128, no. 1
7. Publisher

- A publisher is an organization primarily responsible for producing a work.
  - Book: Oxford U P
  - Film or TV series: Twentieth Century Fox
  - Web Site: Harry Ransom Center, U of Texas, Austin

- Examples when the publisher element can be omitted
  - A periodical
  - A self-published work
  - A website for which the title is the same as the name of the publisher
8. Publication Date

- Give the full date as provided in the source itself.
  - 1999
  - 28 Dec. 2014
  - Jan.-Feb. 2015
  - Spring 2008
  - 25 Apr. 2013, 10:30 p.m.

- For non-traditional formats, may be date of composition, revision, etc.
- If a work carries more than one date, use the one most relevant to your use of the work.
9. Location

- **Note**: This is not the place of publication.

- Depending on the type of source, location may include
  - a page number or range of page numbers
  - the location of a performance, exhibition, conference, or archive
  - a URL or DOI
  - a disc number (for a box set of DVDs)
  - a manuscript number or other archival code

- pp. 156-78
- British Library, London
- doi:10.5406/amerlitereal.45.1.0038
- disc 3
- Harley MS 7334
Optional Elements

- See pp. 5053 of the *MLA Handbook* 8th ed.
- Examples
  - Original publication date
  - City of publication
  - Multivolume set
  - Book series
  - Type of work, if unusual (e.g., transcript, lecture)
  - Prior publication information
  - US Congress number and session
  - Date of access
Practice using the elements.
Source 1: An Essay in an Edited Volume

Source 3: A Monograph

Questions?

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