Quick Guide To MLA Style For Common Library Database Sources

Author
Title
Examples from library databases
Gale Virtual Reference Library
WebSites

Author Formats- for all source types:

One Author: Last name, First name.

Gleick, James

Two Authors: Last name, first name; and first name last name.

Gillespie, Paula, and Neal Lerner

Three Authors: MLA Handbook section 5.5.4

If there are three authors, you may choose to list only the first author followed by the phrase et al. (Latin for "and others") in place of the subsequent authors' names, or you may list all the authors in the order in which their names appear on the title page.

Smith, Paul, Mary Jones, and Robert Weis.

OR

Smith, Paul, et al.

More Than Three Authors

Use only the first author and et al.

Smith, Paul, et al.

Editors – same format as authors – add ed or eds after the names

Peterson, Nancy J., ed.

Hill, Charles A., and Marguerite Helmers, eds.

No Author or Editor – begin with the title.

Title Format:

In titles of works, all words are capitalized except articles (a, an, the), prepositions (to, from, between, and so on), coordinating conjunctions (and, but, or, nor, for, so, yet), and the to in infinitives — unless they are the first or last word of the title or subtitle.

Titles of periodical articles, book chapters, and other short works, such as brief documents from Web sites, are put in quotation marks; titles of books and other long works, such as entire Web sites, are italicized.

Library Databases Examples:

**Journal:**


**Magazine:**

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Periodical* Day Month Year: pages. *Name of Database*. Medium of publication. Date accessed.


**Newspaper:**

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Newspaper* Day Month Year: edition.: pages. *Name of Database*. Medium of publication. Date accessed.

*Only when the edition is available*

No Edition Listed:


Edition Listed:

Gale Virtual Reference Library:

Specialized Reference Books:

Lastname, First name. "Title of Chapter or Section." *Title of Collection*. Ed. Editor's Name(s). edition (if available). Vol.#. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year. Pages. Name of Database. Medium of Publication. Date accessed.


Reference Book with No Editor:


Other Online Database Reference Sources

Dictionary Entry


Encyclopedia Entry

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**Web Sites** The most basic entry for a website consists of the author name(s), page title, website title, sponsoring institution/publisher, date published, medium, and date accessed.

Last Name, First Name. "Page Title." Website title. Sponsoring Institution/Publisher, Publication Date. Medium. Date Accessed.

**Short Work from a Web Site** – Short works include articles, poems, and other documents that are not book length or that appear as internal pages on a Web site.


**Short Work from a Web Site – No Author:**


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