ACS Style

This handout outlines the basic and most commonly used forms of citations and references in the American Chemical Society (ACS) style of writing. For the complete online ACS Style Guide, visit this website: http://pubs.acs.org/isbn/9780841239999. For the chapter on referencing (Chapter 14), visit these webpages: http://pubs.acs.org/doi/pdf/10.1021/bk-2006-STYG.ch014.

In-text Citations

There are three ways to cite in-text:

1. Use superscript numbers that appear at the end of the sentence (before the period).
   Eg. Effects of carbon monoxide on hemoglobin and myoglobin have been studied previously\(^1\).

2. Use italic reference numbers in parentheses at the end of the sentence (before the period).
   Eg. Effects of carbon monoxide on hemoglobin and myoglobin have been studied previously (1).

3. Use the name of the author followed by a comma and the year of publication, all enclosed in parentheses (before the period).
   Eg. Effects of carbon monoxide on hemoglobin and myoglobin have been studied previously (Rossi-Fanelli and Antonini, 1958).

The Reference List

Two things to remember:

1. Arrangement
   If you choose to use numerical in-text referencing styles (styles 1 and 2 above), your reference page must be arranged in numerical order. If you choose to use the name and date referencing style (style 3), your references must be in alphabetical order.

2. Hanging Indent
   Most academic referencing styles require a hanging indent in the References section. This means that all lines of a reference, except the first line, must be indented 0.5”. (There are very good online tutorials for setting up a proper hanging indent.)
Periodicals (Scientific Journals)

General Structure:
Author 1; Author 2; Author 3; etc. Title of Article. Journal Abbreviation Year, Volume, Inclusive Pagination.

Example:

A Note on Journal Abbreviations:
Journal abbreviations should be used for all references. The abbreviation for any given journal can be found on the Chemical Abstracts Service Source Index (CASSI) website: http://cassi.cas.org/. One-word journals are not abbreviated, and only those journals with abbreviated names have a period preceding the year of publication.

Online Periodicals

General Structure (Periodicals Based on Print Editions):
Author 1; Author 2; Author 3; etc. Title of Article. Journal Abbreviation [Online] Year, Volume, Inclusive pagination or other identifying information. URL (accessed Month Day, Year).

Example:

General Structure (Periodicals Only in Electronic Format):
Author 1; Author 2; Author 3; etc. Title of Article. Journal Abbreviation [Online] Year, Volume, Article Number or other identifying information. URL (accessed Month Day, Year).

Example:
**Books**

**General Structure (Books without Editors):**
Author 1; Author 2; Author 3; etc. Chapter Title. *Book Title*, Edition Number; Series Information (if any); Publisher: Place of Publication, Year; Volume Number, Pagination.

Example:

**General Structure (Books with Editors):**
Author 1; Author 2; Author 3; etc. Chapter Title. In *Book Title*, Edition Number; Editor 1, Editor 2, etc., Eds.; Series Information (if any); Publisher: Place of Publication, Year; Volume Number, Pagination.

Example:

A *Note on Editors*:
When a book has editors, it means that different authors wrote different parts of the book independently of each other. The authors you mention at the beginning of your reference are the authors who wrote the *chapter* from which you are referencing. This is indicated by placing “In” before the title of the book. The rest of the authors are mentioned in the editors section.

**Web Sites**

**General Structure:**
Author(s) (if any). Title of Site. URL (accessed Month Day, Year), other identifying information (if any).

Example:

**Handbooks**

**General Structure (Print):**
*Book Title*, Edition Number; Editor 1, Editor 2, etc., Eds.; Series Information (if any); Publisher: Place of Publication, Year; Volume Number, Pagination.

Example:
General Structure (Electronic):

*Book Title*, Edition Number [Online]; Editor 1, Editor 2, etc., Eds.; Series Information (if any);
Publisher: Place of Publication, Year; Volume Number, Chapter Number, Pagination.
URL (accessed Month Day, Year).

Example:


PubChem

General Structure:
National Center for Biotechnology Information. PubChem Compound Database; CID=compound identification number, URL (accessed Month Day, Year).

Example:

Safety Data Sheets (SDSs)

Note: These were formerly called Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs).

General Structure (Online SDS):

*Title; SDS Number* [Online]; Manufacturing Company: Location of Company, Date. URL (accessed Month Day, Year).

Example:


General Structure (Print SDS):

*Title; SDS Number; Manufacturing Company: Location of Company, Date.*

Example:

*Acetone; SDS No. 650501; Sigma-Aldrich Corporation: St. Louis, MO, October 30, 2014.*