

A Quick Guide to Reference Citations Using the ACS Style Guide (2006)

Listing sources of information at the end of a paper is an important part of professional scholarship and writing. Many disciplines have specific requirements for the layout of these references. In chemistry the standard is the *ACS Style Guide*, 3rd ed., published by the American Chemical Society. Chapter 14 of that publication is devoted to references and contains many examples. **This Guide is not a substitute for the ACS Style Guide.** It includes most commonly asked questions, but it doesn't have every possible document type or variation that could occur. I've also included notations of the appropriate pages in the *ACS Style Guide*.

EXCEPTIONS TO THE RULES:

Instructions in the *NIST Chemistry WebBook* indicate that it should be cited like a book even though it is a web site.

P.M. Chu, F.R. Guenther, G.C. Rhoderick, W.J. Lafferty, "Quantitative Infrared Database" in **NIST Chemistry WebBook, NIST Standard Reference Database Number 69**, Eds. P. J. Lindstrom and W.G. Mallard, National Institute of Standards and Technology: Gaithersburg, MD, <http://webbook.nist.gov>, (retrieved October 9, 2015)

Organic Syntheses and *Inorganic Syntheses*, although they look like books, are commonly cited like journals...except that book format should be used for the collective volumes of *Organic Syntheses*. (based on *ACS Style Guide* p 305)

Journal format: Yamamoto, T. *Inorg. Synth.* **1989**, *26*, 204-207.

Book format: *Organic Syntheses*; Wiley & Sons: New York, 1998; IX, pp 432-435.

ABSTRACTS:

There are some variations if the item being indexed is not a journal article.

Journal article indexed in a print publication; p.298.

Ferch, H. Highly Dispersive Filler for Emulsion Paints. *Plastics, Paint Rubber* **1966**, *10*, 85-86; *Chem. Abstr.* **1966**, *138*, 4195.

Journal article indexed in web-based index; based on p.318.

Beharry, S.; Bragg, P.D; Properties of Bound Inorganic Phosphate on Bovine Mitochondrial F1F0-ATP Synthase [Online]. *J. Bioenerg. Biomembr.* **2001**, *33*, 35-42; PubMed.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PubMed/PMID=11460924> (accessed July 2, 2001).

BOOKS:

There are many different variations on how to properly cite books. Whether or not the book is in a series, has an editor, is cited in its entirety or only in part, has different editions, etc. can all cause variations in the format.

Basic citation format; p.300, 319-320.

Beall, H.; Trimbur, J. *A Short Guide to Writing about Chemistry*, 2nd ed.; Longman: New York, 2001; pp 17-32.

Beall, H.; Trimbur, J. *A Short Guide to Writing about Chemistry* [Online], 2nd ed.; Longman: New York, 2001; pp 17-32. URL (accessed July 21, 2001).

Books with Editors; p.300.

Almlof, J.; Groppen, O. *Relativistic Effects in Chemistry*. In *Reviews in Computational Chemistry*; 2nd ed.

Lipkowitz, K.B., Boyd, D.B., Eds.; Longman: New York, 2001; pp 17-32.

Chapter; p.301, 306.

Richey, H.G., Jr., Ed. In *Grignard Reagents: New Developments*; John Wiley & Sons: Chichester, U.K., 2000; Chapter 8.

ACS series, entire volume; p.300.

Geochemical Transformation of Sedimentary Sulfur; Vairavamurthy, M.A., Schoonen, M.A.A., Eds; ACS Symposium Series 612; American Chemical Society: Washington, DC, 1995.

ACS series, chapter in book; p.300, 306.

Cornwell, J.C.; Sampou, P.A. In *Geochemical Transformation of Sedimentary Sulfur*; Vairavamurthy, M.A., Schoonen, M.A.A., Eds.; ACS Symposium Series 612; American Chemical Society: Washington, DC, 1995, pp 224-242.

Non-ACS series, one author for whole volume, no editor; p.306.

Taber, D.F. *Intramolecular Diels-Alder and Alder Ene Reactions*; Reactivity and Structure Concepts in Organic Chemistry, Vol. 18; Springer-Verlag: Berlin, 1984.

Non-ACS series, edited with separately authored chapters; p.306.

Martin, C.R.; Mitchell, D.T. In *Electroanalytical Chemistry: A Series of Advances*, Vol. 21, Bard, A.J., Rubinstein, I., Eds.; Marcel Dekker: New York, 1999; pp 1-74.

DATA SETS: based on p 314.

The Sadtler Standard Spectra: 300 MHz Proton NMR Standards; Bio-Rad, Sadlter Division: Philadelphia, PA, 1994; no. 7640 (1-Chloropentane).

DISSERTATIONS AND THESES: p 309-310.

King, K.J. Development of a Pressurized System for Oxidation Studies of Volatile Fluids. M.S. Thesis, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA, March 1983.

ENCYCLOPEDIAS: p 320

Diagnostic Reagents. *Ullmann's Encyclopedia of Industrial Chemistry*, 5th ed; VCH: Weinheim, Germany, 1985; Vol. A8, pp 455-491.

Diagnostic Reagents. *Ullmann's Encyclopedia of Industrial Chemistry* [Online], VCH, posted March 14, 2003. URL (accessed Nov 7, 2014)

HANDBOOKS:**Electronic; based on p 320.**

CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics [Online], 81st ed. Lide, D.R., Ed.; 2000; Chapter 4, p 73. URL (accessed July 21, 2015)

Print; based on p 305-306.

CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics, 81st ed. Lide, D.R., Ed.; 2000; Chapter 4, p 73.

The Merck Index: An Encyclopedia of Chemicals, Drugs, and Biologicals, 12th ed. Budavari, S.; O'Neal, M.J.; Smith, A.; Heckelman, P.E.; Kinneary, J.F., Eds.; Merck & Co.: Whitehouse Station, NJ, 1996; entry 4857.

JOURNALS:

Although the ACS Style Guide indicates that the article title provides valuable information (p 291), in practice the article title is often omitted from journal citations.

Articles from print versions: pp 291-299.

Labaree, D.C.; Reynolds, T.Y.; Hochberg, R.B. Estradiol-16 α -carboxylic Acid Esters as Locally Active Estrogens. *J. Med. Chem.* **2001**, *44*, 1802-1814.

Articles from electronic editions: p 318.

Rando, R.R. The Biochemistry of the Visual Cycle. *Chem. Rev.* [Online] **2001**, *101*, 881-896. URL (accessed July 21, 2015)

MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEETS; p315.

Also includes other related publications, such as the International Chemical Safety Cards; based on p 315; see also entries under **Web Sites**.

Hard copy: *Ethylene Glycol*; MSDS No. E5125; Mallenckrodt Baker: Phillipsburg, NJ, Feb 25, 1999

Electronic version: *Ethylene Glycol*; MSDS No. E5125 {online}; Mallenckrodt Baker: Phillipsburg, NJ, Feb 25, 1999, <http://www.jtbaker.com/msds/e5125.htm> (accessed July 21, 2001).

Ethylene Glycol; International Chemical Safety Card No. 0270 (U.S. National Version); National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Atlanta, GA, 2001, <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/ipcsneng/neng0270.html> (accessed July 21, 2001).

WEB SITES:

Based on p 320-321; see also entries under **Material Safety Data Sheets**.

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSCs) Database (U.S. National Version). <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/ipcs/nicstart.html> (accessed July 21, 2001).

A NOTE ABOUT JOURNAL ABBREVIATIONS

Chemists use a set of standard abbreviations for journal titles and the names of conference proceedings. These are published in *CASSI*, the *Chemical Abstracts Service Source Index* (<http://cassi.cas.org/>). When you look at a page in *CASSI*, note that, although full titles of the journals are given, the entries are actually arranged in order of the abbreviations, which are in boldface type. The *ACS Style Guide* has a listing on pp 328-339 of abbreviations for over 1000 heavily used chemistry journals.

CITING REFERENCES IN TEXT

You may cite references in text in three ways:

By superscript numbers, which appear outside the punctuation if the citation applies to the whole sentence or clause. Otherwise the number appears by the in the sentence.

The silicon compounds synthesis was reported previously.³

By italic numbers in parentheses on the line of text and inside the punctuation.

The silicon compounds synthesis was reported previously (3).

By author name and year of publication in parentheses inside the punctuation (known as author-date)

The silicon compounds synthesis was reported previously (Doe et al., 2015).

RESOURCE LIST

The ACS Style Guide: Effective Communication of Scientific Information, 3rd ed; Coghill, A.M., Garson, L.R., Eds.; American Chemical Society: Washington, DC, 2006, pp 287-341.