
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.


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)


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

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

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

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.

Books with Editors; p.300.

Chapter; p.301, 306.

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

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

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

DATA SETS: based on p 314.


ENCYCLOPEDIAS: p 320

HANDBOOKS:
Electronic; based on p 320.
Print; based on p 305-306.
CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics, 81st ed. Lide, D.R., Ed.; 2000; Chapter 4, p 73.

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.
Articles from electronic editions: p 318.

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.


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

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