Composite Reference Citation Format Guidelines

Introductory comments
The following guidelines should be used for reference citation formatting. While two major sources were used for the basis of these guidelines, in several cases, some changes have been made usually for consistency. The two major sources (AJHP\(^1\) and ICMJE\(^2\)) are cited at the end of this document however, referring to them is not necessary. The guidelines specified below in this document should be followed the way they are stated. This document is not intended to be all inclusive. You may find sources that need to be referenced that are not covered here. If that is the case, it is better to ask the course instructor, before completing and handing in the assignment. An answer will be provided based on the best available information and in a format as consistent as possible with other examples given in the document, but some may be an educated guess.

There are two categories of sources that are excluded. The first is any reference source that requires your personal subscription, and is therefore, not universally available to all students in the course. Examples would include, but are not limited to Lexi-Comp Complete\(^{TM}\), PEPID\(^{TM}\) and Epocrates\(^{TM}\) which are available only to you, on your personal hand-held or laptop computer. It does not matter if a few of your colleagues also have their own personal subscriptions. If it is not universally available to all the students in the course, by way of the AHSLS web site, then it is excluded from use. The reason for this policy is that the purpose of a reference citation is so that a reader of your work can access your sources, to check validity and interpretation. If a source is not available, it cannot be accessed. Despite this, there are a few of the “not allowed” resources that are mentioned in this document, complete with an example citation. The reason for retaining the examples is that you may use these sources after completion of this course. The second type of source that is excluded from use is any source that is available only in abstract, preliminary or incomplete form. Examples are abstracts of upcoming meetings and poster presentations. The reasons for this policy are twofold. First, these are often not accessible sources (similar to sources which require personal subscriptions, as mentioned above). The second reason is that abstracts, poster presentations and even many preliminary publications are never approved for final, complete publication. This is often because they are deficient in some way, including some aspect of methodology.

Since the numerous textbooks that are available through STAT!Ref or MD Consult (both accessible in AHSLS web site) are considered to be universally accessible to all students they may be used as tertiary references.

Also, the correct journal abbreviation is an essential part of a complete and correct reference citation. This document does not deal with that issue. Another source will be made available on the D2L course site for that purpose using in the National Library of Medicine (NLM) document.

The types of reference citations are listed, with a numbered example indented below most of them. Comments in blue print which follow the example are added details for clarification (note that Internet URLs are also in blue, but they are also underlined as hypertext).
Journal articles

Standard journal article:

   • List all authors when three or fewer; when four or more, list only first three and add “et al.” with no comma following the third author’s name before “et al.”
   • In contrast to the system used by some journals, note that the month (and day) of the journal publication is not to be included.
   • Note that the only words in the article title that begin with a capital (upper case) letter are the first word, any proper nouns and acronyms. This is the citation format used by most journals.
   • Inclusion of issue number is optional, e.g., “…1995;52(4):623-34.” Some people like the improved ease with which a specific article can be found, because the issue is included in the citation. However, some journals do not use the issue number. For the course, be consistent to either use issue number for all references where possible or do not use it for any references.
   • There should be no spaces between the punctuation marks separating the numbers for year, volume number, issue number (when used) and page number(s), as shown in the sample.
   • Use of italics for the journal name/abbreviation is optional, but this feature must be consistent within a given assignment or document.
   • Remove duplicated page numbers to the fullest extent possible. This rule should be used in all types of citations to which it applies, not just standard (print) journal articles. For example, if the article spans pages 722-729, record them as 722-9 (not as 722-729 and not as 722-29). Similarly, if the article spans pages 722-732, record them as 722-32.

Standard journal article, but an organization is indicated as the “author” instead of specific people:

Standard journal article, but both some specific people and an organization are indicated as the “authors:”

Standard journal article, but no author (or organization) stated as author (The Medical Letter is like this; see later in this document, under “Proprietary sources….” section on page 8):
4. Twenty-first century heart solution may have a sting in the tail. BMJ. 2002;325(7357):184.

   • The above example also serves another purpose. Some journals (specifically BMJ, Lancet journals and The Medical Letter) use an “issue number” which is chronological and continuous. It may be included as an option, as it is in the citation above (in parentheses).

Standard journal article, but the volume has a supplement (be careful; also see next example):

   • Note that this article appears in a journal which has a supplement to the volume (42). In this case, the abbreviation for supplement (“Suppl”) and the supplement number both follow the volume number, but they are not within parentheses. The “S” which appears before the page number also indicates that the article is in a supplement.
Standard journal article, but the issue has a supplement (this is different from above; read them carefully):

   • Note that this article appears in a journal which has a supplement to the issue (12). In this case the indication that it is a supplement and the supplement number (“Suppl 7”) should follow the issue number, and they are all within parentheses. Again, an “S appears before the first page number.

Standard journal article, but the volume has a “part” (be careful; see next example, also):


Standard journal article, but the issue has a “part” (this is different from above; read them carefully):


Journal article where there is no volume number, but only an issue number (this is quite unusual):

   • Note that the rule is consistent; there is no volume number, so no number that is outside of parentheses follows the year, but rather, the issue number appears at that location, but within parentheses.

Journal article where there is neither a volume nor an issue number (again, this is quite unusual):

   • Note well, that this is the only situation in which it is appropriate to use the month (and sometimes day) of publication in a print journal article reference citation.

Journal article with pagination in lower case Roman numerals (this is unusual):


Journal article with published erratum (somewhat unusual):


Journal article in which pagination is by individual issue and article is not on continuous pages, but rather interrupted (usually be advertisements):


Letter, editorial, or abstract:

   • Note that the qualifying word (Letter, or Editorial or Abstract) is listed at the end, with the first letter in upper case, and followed by a period.
Books

An introductory note about book citations

One necessary element of formatting a book citation correctly is to ascertain whether the names on the cover of the book (and on the title page) are: 1) authors of the book; 2) editors of the book; or 3) names of those who were involved with the first edition of the book, and whose names, therefore, are retained as part of the title of the book (whether or not they are still authors or editors). If the table of contents (TOC) includes names of people who are different from or in addition to those whose names are on the title page, that usually means that each chapter has one or more separate authors and the names on the cover are therefore editors (although editors may also be authors of one or more specific chapters). If there are no names indicated with each chapter title in the TOC, then the names on the title page of the book are probably authors (i.e., of all chapters in the entire book). An example of the third situation above is the infectious diseases text, known as “Mandell’s.” Following is a correct citation from the 7th (current) edition of that text. The most important issue to note is that the three names that are listed after “In:” (Mandell, Bennett and Dolin) are the three editors of this edition, but that the three names that are part of the title of the book (i.e., those names following “eds.”) are those people involved with the first edition of the book. Note carefully, that Dr Douglas is no longer an active editor. His name, however, remains as part of the title of the book. Also, somewhat beside the main point, note that the first author named (Schlossberg) is the author only of the chapter cited.


Book - personal author(s):


- Note that the book title is not italicized. Use of italics for the book title is optional, but this feature must be consistent within a given assignment or document. If there were more than three authors and/or editors, the rule stated in example 1., above would apply.
- Also, note that only the first letter of the first word of the book title is in upper case. The only other words that would begin with a capital (upper case) letter (if any were present) would be proper nouns and acronyms.
- If the state in which the city of publication is not considered universally known, then the usual postal service abbreviation for that state should be added in parentheses after the city name. If the city of publication is outside the United States, the country should be indicated in parentheses.

Chapter or article in a book:


- The notes following example 15., above, also apply to this type of citation.

Editor, compiler, or chair as author of book:


- The notes following example 15., above, also apply to this type of citation.

Government agency publication:

- In this citation, the NIH publication number is in the analogous place where page numbers would be in a journal article citation.

**Electronic sources** (also, see later under “Proprietary sources…” beginning on page 8):

Use of italics for journal names/abbreviations and book titles from electronic sources is optional, as above. Creation of a hypertext link of the URL listed in a citation for an online source is optional. For all of these situations, be consistent within a given assignment or document.

Online (Internet) sources:

Journal published **online only** (two, slightly different examples are given):

20. Harrison CL, Schmidt PQ, Jones JD. Aspirin compared with acetaminophen for relief of headache. Online J Ther [serial online]. 1992 Jan 2; (in place of month/day, use volume, issue and pages, if known in the format for a journal [example 1., above]).

- It is optional to add the URL and the date accessed. If this is done, use the format shown in example 21., below (i.e., “Retrieved at [URL]. Accessed [year month abbreviation day of month].”)

- **Note well**, that the brackets indicated in blue above are for instruction and are not to be included in the real citation.


- Again, omit the brackets indicated here in blue, from the real citation.

- Example 21 is a slightly different format, which can be used if the information is available (as it is for the PLoS [Public Library of Science] and BMC [BioMed Central] journal series). The unique pieces of information are: 1) the “e” (electronic) page number; and 2) the “doi” (digital object identifier) designation. It is likely that the “doi” is as functional as the URL for finding the article, but, again, for consistency, the designated reference citation format above should be used for online only journals, when the “doi” is available.

- For both examples above, note that when a URL is included in a citation, the following rule will apply:
  - When the URL includes the letters “www” immediately after the “http://” then the URL part of the citation should begin with “www” and omit the “http://” portion.
  - However, when the letters “www” do not immediately follow the “http://” then the URL citation should begin with the “http://” portion (see example 40.).

- Online journal citations can be very confusing, as there appears to be no universal format yet. Follow the above examples as closely as possible. Also, the use of journal articles that are published online ahead of publication in print is strongly discouraged. This is because the citation will change after it is published in print. The purpose of any citation is to make the author’s source available (retrievable) to the reader. It is preferred that you simply not use online publications that will be published later in print. Note that this does not apply to publications that are online only (as the examples 20. and 21. above illustrate).

- The URL citation rule (specified above in examples 20. and 21., above) also applies here.

Monograph online:

Web site sources:
- Home page of a web site:

- Include the date that the site was updated in brackets, as indicated above, if it is readily available on the web site.

Part of a web site:

Database on the Internet:

CD-ROM sources:

- This format is like that for a book, but adds the type of medium (in this case, CD-ROM) in brackets after the title of the source.

Miscellaneous sources
Package insert:

- Use the term “package insert” instead of any alternatives (e.g., “package, label or prescribing information”). The month should be stated if it appears on the package insert, to differentiate it from other versions in the same year.

Paper or poster presented at a meeting:
  29. Saltiel E, Nishimura LY, Shane R. Pharmacoeconomic analysis of enoxaparin in orthopedic patients. Paper presented at ASHP Annual Meeting. Reno, NV; 1994 Jun 7. [Note: Give date paper was presented, not range of dates of meeting.]
• You are not allowed to use reference citations of presentations made at meetings. The citation format is retained for general information purposes only, as someday in your post-graduation career, there may be situations where it is useful to use such sources.

Newspaper article:
• If a newspaper article source is online, add the “Retrieved at [URL]. Accessed [date].” information, all in the format as shown in example 22., above.
• Again, omit the instructional brackets from the real citation.

Dictionary or similar reference:
• Note that this is essentially the same as a book citation, but without an author/editor and with the addition of the term/word and page number(s) for where the definition appears.

Proprietary sources of drug information and other special cases
The information about some of these proprietary sources is less clear. In some cases the publishers have no preferred format, while others offer numerous options. The guidelines suggested in this section represent a compromise, intended to be as consistent with other citation formats as possible. There is a mix of forms for proprietary sources: print; electronic and Internet. Remember, however, the admonition for the information source to be universally accessible to all students in the course, through some UA resource, to be allowed.

The Medical Letter™ (currently, not available for UA COP students by universal access)
• Note that there is no author designation.

Treatment Guidelines from The Medical Letter™ (currently, not available for UA COP students by universal access)
• As with regular edition of The Medical Letter, no author designation is given.

American Hospital Formulary Service™ (AHFS) (available in STAT!Ref through AHSL web page)

STAT!Ref™ (available through AHSL web page)
STAT!Ref™ is a collection of books in an online subscription service. As a UA CoP student, you can access this information source through the AHSL web site.
• When you want to cite information, it is best to click the “bibliography” link (near the upper right hand corner) or click on the “+/- show/hide bibliography” link near the bottom of the page. Either way, the information about the book from which the information came, will be shown at the bottom of the page. Use the information to construct a reference citation in the format for a textbook, (see examples 15. - 19., above).
Sometimes, STAT!Ref™ indicates fewer than three authors/editors when there may be more. So, record the citation in the format as close to the examples above as possible. Then, to the book citation, add the information following in quotes, but without either the quotation marks or the brackets: “Retrieved via STAT!Ref at: [URL in usual format; see example 21., above]. Accessed [date in usual format; see example 21., above].”

Micromedex™ (Thompson Healthcare)
CoP students have access to the Internet version of Micromedex™, through the Internal Links page of the CoP web site. Reference citation format for Micromedex™ sources can be complicated, especially because their home page indicates four options, none of which are consistent with the conventions used in this guideline. So, again, please follow the directions provided below for information extracted from Micromedex™.

- The basic format is similar to a chapter in a book, but without chapter author(s), book author(s) or editor(s), or city (state) of publication.
- Also, the Internet version is updated “periodically” but the last update cannot be determined from the monograph, so the only date needed in the citation is the date accessed (in the usual format; see example 22., above). The URL does not have to be the actual page where the actual information comes from, as this may vary depending on the venue (e.g., university) from which the program is accessed.


Format specific for drug interactions section of Micromedex™

Lexi-Comp™
This company has information available in several forms. The guidelines below are based on suggestions directly from Lexi-Comp™, but modified for consistency. At this time, Lexi-Comp Online™ is available to all CoP students through the Internal Links page of the CoP web site. Also, the drug monographs from Lexi-Online™ and the Lexi-Interact™ program are available through UpToDate™ (see next page).

Books
- Use format as for any book (invoking the three author rule). Use “Hudson (OH)” for the city (state) of publication and use “Lexi-Comp, Inc.” as the publisher.

Handheld software (Note well that this source is not allowed for this course, as it is handheld software that requires a personal subscription. The citation format is retained for your future general information.)
Format: Name of company that licensed the software, (name of PDA book or database).publisher location: publisher; version and/or date program accessed.
Databases/online software
Format: Online database accessed. publisher location: publisher; date database was published; date updated/accessed.


Facts & Comparisons™
This drug information program is currently available to CoP students via the Internal Links page of the CoP web site (as for Micromedex™ and Lexi-Comp Online™). The citation format for this source is similar to that for other proprietary monograph-based drug information sources. The general format is: Subject. Facts & Comparisons. Last modified [date]. Wolters Kluwer Health, Inc. 2012. Retrieved at: [URL]. Accessed [year month day]. Following is an example. Note that in the example, the brackets (used above) are correctly not included in the citation, except for the last date modified.


MD Consult™ (MDC)
This proprietary source requires a paid subscription, however, at this time it is available to CoP students through the AHSL web site, for those working from an “on site” computer terminal. Follow the guidelines below for the reference citation format of information from this source very carefully. The italicized and bracketed words “citation text” should be included in the actual citation.

• Note, again, that the URL can be general and not indicate the exact page, as it may vary with the source venue.

Books
Book resources are indicated within MD Consult under the section headed “Reference Books” (if any are located) after a given search. Information about a chapter (i.e., the author[s], and title) can be obtained by scrolling down the table of contents panel on the left hand side of the screen, to the appropriate chapter number (indicated in the original search result) and clicking on the hypertext link. Additional information for the citation (editors, book title, edition number, city of publication, publisher and year of publication) can also be obtained by using the panel on the left hand side of the screen. Scroll back upwards, until the word “Frontmatter” reappears. Press that hypertext link, and the necessary information, except for the page number, will appear. There is no way to discern the page numbers (of the print version of the book) from this online version. However, your citation will automatically indicate that the online version of the book was used, viewed through MD Consult™, and that will obviate the need for the page number. Otherwise, use format based on examples 16. - 18., above and add the following (without quotation marks): “[Citation text] Viewed online at: www.mdconsult.com. Accessed [date in usual format; see example 21., above].”

Following is an example of a book citation from a search using the word “pleconaril” done in MD Consult on January 5, 2010. The source was the sixth book listed in the search results (identifiable by clicking “Show All 35 Results” at the bottom of the list of the first 5 “Reference Books). Note that chapter indication is on the page where the book sources are listed. Also, however, it can be found by sliding downward on the window in the left hand side of the screen. It is the chapter that is expanded. And, in this case (but not in all cases), it is indicated at the top of the page of text (scroll upwards with
the right hand scroll bar). The chapter title and author(s) can be identified by any of these methods. The remaining pieces for the citation must be found by scrolling back upwards in the left hand window, to “Frontmatter” then clicking on that hypertext link.


Journals
Journal article resources are indicated within MD Consult under the section headed “Journals/MEDLINE” (if any are located) after a given search. Clicking on the hypertext link associated with that journal article usually brings you to a copy of the article, from which all the necessary information for a correct citation can be found. Use format based on examples 1.-14., above and add the following (without the quotation marks): “[Citation text] Viewed online at: www.mdconsult.com. Accessed [date in usual format; see example 22., above].”

Following is an example of a journal citation from a search using the word “pleconaril” done in MD Consult on January 5, 2010. The source was the second journal article listed under the category “Clinics” which alludes to a series of hard bound journals and routinely appears in MD Consult, under the “Journals/MEDLINE” category, if any relate to the given search. All the necessary information for a complete journal article citation will show up with the article when the PDF hypertext link for the chosen article is selected and clicked.


• In the following example (#43.), note that the most specific URL possible should be used. That is, enter the URL of the actual page from which the cited information was found.

Drug monographs, clinical images, and patient education materials

First Consult™
First Consult™ is one portion of MD Consult™. The basic approach for citing material that is within First Consult™ is to deal with it as though it is a chapter in the book that is MD Consult™. This is analogous to the system applied to citing monographs from within UpToDate™ (see next page). See the following example of a First Consult™ citation resulting from a search on the investigational drug pleconaril as it is used for viral meningitis. It might be a good idea for you to repeat this search in First Consult yourselves, to confirm the details of the citation.


UpToDate™
This proprietary source usually requires a paid subscription, however, at this time it is available to CoP students through AHSL, for those working from an “on site” computer terminal. Follow the guidelines below for the reference citation format of information from this source.
45a. Zaetta JM, Mohler ER, Baum R. Percutaneous interventional procedures in the patient with claudication. In: Basow DS, ed., UpToDate [this is the title of the “book”]. Waltham (MA): UpToDate [this is also the publisher]; 2010 [use year when last updated].

- This format is similar to that for a chapter in a book (see example 16., above). If it is not obvious, do not include the information within brackets ( […] ) in the example above. Omit the section and deputy editors mentioned at the beginning of each monograph.
- Use only the author(s) names (at the beginning of the citation), and always use “Basow DS” as the editor.

For drug monographs obtained from within UpToDate, use the format below. This is because Lexi-Comp is the real source (they are subcontracted by UpToDate and their monographs are embedded within UpToDate). Then see example 45b.

Drug name. In: Lexi-Comp Online™, Lexi-Drugs Online™. Hudson (OH): Lexi-Comp, Inc.; Accessed via UpToDate [year month {3 letter abbreviation} day {as Arabic numeral}]. Note that the brackets should not be included in the citation.


Epocrates™

Epocrates™ handheld applications and the full program online, both of which require a personal subscription, are not allowed for the purposes of this course. However, the very basic, universally available web-based version may be cited as a database on the Internet, in a format that is consistent with examples above.

Some of the information below, including examples 46. and 47., are retained for your possible future use, but they involve the disallowed personal subscription requiring software. Note well, that example 48. below involves a source that is allowed for this course.

All citations follow the same basic format: Name of database [medium/content designator]. Program version. City (state abbreviation) of publication: Company software is licensed to with original publication date [updated date]. Retrieved at [URL]. Accessed [date].

To identify the version of the handheld application, tap the “e” icon at the upper left hand corner of the handheld device screen, then tap “Tools” and choose “Disclaimer” or “About Epocrates.” The version number and date of last update will appear.


- Note above, that “Web-based; continuous content updates.” verbiage is unique to this source.


- Note above that “Drug information……via Hot Sync.” verbiage is unique to this source.
Also, there is still a version of Epocrates™ that is free of charge and universally accessible, although the information provided is quite limited, and registration is required. If this source is used, the basic citation format is shown below followed by an example.

Subject title on page. Tab title. Epocrates online. Retrieved at: [use a general URL \{https://online.epocrates.com/\}, not the most specific URL possible.]. Accessed 20xx Month abbreviation Day (as above).


Clinical Pharmacology™ (another drug information resource available online by subscription) - This source requires a paid subscription. While it is not generally available to UA CoP students, some have acquired access in the past, and therefore, this citation format, with an example are included. Again, however, the source is not allowed for purposes of this course, and the citation is included for your possible future use.

The general format is as follows:


References for composite reference citation format guidelines:

Just to be complete, there is another source that could have been used for citation formatting. We considered this source to be too detailed. For example, there are five chapters that deal with citation formatting for online sources! So, yes, it could be worse.