



CSE Documentation Style

CSE style is a method of documentation used primarily in scientific writing and recommended by the Council of Science Editors (CSE). This style is comprised of three major systems of citation: **citation-sequence**, **citation-name**, and **name-year**. In each of the systems, **in-text references** acknowledge the sources of information used in writing your paper and correspond to a list of **end references** (variously called references, cited references, literature cited, reference list, or bibliography), which provide details about the sources.

FORMATTING GUIDELINES

- In-text references in CSE style either use numbers in superscript within the text to refer to the end references (illustrated in both **citation-sequence** and **citation-name** systems) or parenthetical citation of the surname of the author or authors and the year of publication (as illustrated in the **name-year** system).

- The major components within an end reference include the following (see below for more information):

Books and other monographs: Author(s); Title; Content designator; Medium designator; Edition; Secondary author(s); Place of publication; Publisher; Date; Extent (pagination); Physical description.

Journal and newspaper articles: Author(s); Article title; Content designator; Journal or newspaper title; Edition; Medium designator; Date; Volume; Issue; Location (pagination); Physical description.

- In all of the three systems, an end reference begins with author information. List the names of the authors in the order in which they appear in the original text. Begin with the surname of the first author, followed by the initial letters of the given first and middle names. Separate the surname and the initials of an author by a space; separate successive authors from each other by a comma and a space. Note that an organization such as a university, society, association, corporation, or government body may also serve as an author.
- In general, list a title as it appears in the original document. For monographs and articles in journals and newspapers, capitalize only the first word of a title, proper nouns, proper adjectives, and acronyms.
- Content and medium designators are used to provide information on the nature and physical format of a document. Content designators indicate forms such as databases and computer programs. Medium designators inform the reader that the item is in a nonprint format and requires special equipment.

- For books and other monographs, the place of publication is required in a reference; for journal articles, this information is omitted. If a newspaper title does not indicate the location where it is published, add the location within parentheses after or within the title.
- Publisher name is omitted from references to journal and newspaper articles but is required for all other types of publications.
- The date of publication is required for all references.
- Volume and issue information is found in both monographs and journals. Volume numbers are used for books and other monographs when citing one volume of a multivolume set. Both volume and issue number are required for references to journal articles.
- Location within a work (used rather than the more familiar “pagination”) indicates the specific point in a publication at which the item being referenced is located. Extent of a work is used for many newer types of items being cited without pagination.

SAMPLE CITATIONS

- In the **citation-sequence** system, use numbers within the text to refer to the end references. Number the references and order them within the list in the sequence in which they first appear within the text. Note: Use the same number for subsequent in-text references to the same document.

In-text reference: CSE style uses superscript numbers that appear **before** punctuation marks (commas and periods); however, many scientific journals suggest using square brackets [1], parentheses (1), or putting superscript numbers **after** the punctuation marks.

Traumatic life events and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are endemic among American civilians¹. Each year . . .

End reference: CSE style suggests using abbreviated titles for journals (e.g., **Arch Gen Psychiatry**). Note that references include **Date;volume(issue):pages** without spacing.

1. Kessler RC, Sonnega A, Bromet E, Hughes M, Nelson CB. Posttraumatic stress disorder in the National Comorbidity Survey. Arch Gen Psychiatry. 1995 Dec;52(12):1048-1060.

- In the **citation-name** system, complete the list of end references for the work and then sequence them alphabetically by author, then by title. See below: If “Kessler” was listed eighth alphabetically in the end references, the in-text reference would be as follows:

Traumatic life events and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are endemic among American civilians⁸. Each year . . .

Note: the end reference would begin: **8. Kessler RC . . .**

When several in-text references occur at the same point, place their corresponding reference list numbers in numeric order, as in the example below, to make it easier for readers to find them in the list of end references.

... have been shown ^{1,3,8-10,17} to abrogate the requirements of T-cells ...

- In the **name-year** system, in-text references consist of the surname of the author or authors and the year of publication of the document. Enclose the name or names and year in parentheses.

In-text reference:

The NIH has called for a change in smallpox vaccination policy (Fauci 2002) that ...

End reference:

Fauci AS. 2002. Smallpox vaccination policy—the need for dialogue. N Engl J Med. 346(17):1319-1320.

- An organization (university, society, association, corporation, or government body) as author:

In-text reference:

The landmark report on legalized abortion (IOM 1975) was ...

End reference:

[IOM] Institute of Medicine (US). 1975. Legalized abortion and the public health: report of a study by a committee of the Institute of Medicine. Washington (DC): National Academy of Sciences.

SAMPLE END REFERENCES

The goal of your end references list is to help your reader identify each numbered source quickly and clearly. CSE has standardized the information to be provided for ease and predictability of reading.

- Journal article: citation-sequence and citation-name

Smart N, Fang ZY, Marwick TH. A practical guide to exercise training for heart failure patients. J Card Fail. 2003;9(1):49-58

Journal article: name-year

Smart N, Fang ZY, Marwick TH. 2003. A practical guide to exercise training for heart failure patients. J Card Fail. 9(1):49-58

- Journal article on the Internet: citation-sequence and citation-name

Author(s) of article. Title of article. Title of journal (edition) [medium designator]. Date of publication [date updated; date cited]; volume(issue); location. Notes.

Savage E, Ramsay M, White J, Beard S, Lawson H, Hunjan R, Brown D. Mumps outbreaks across England and Wales in 2004: observational study. BMJ [Internet]. 2005 [cited 2005 May 31];330(7500):1119-1120. Available from: <http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/reprint/330/7500/1119doi:10.1136/bmj.330.7500.1119>

Journal article: name-year

Author(s) of article. Date of publication. Title of article. Title of journal (edition) [medium designator]. [date update; date cited]; Volume(issue):location. Notes.

Savage E, Ramsay M, White J, Beard S, Lawson H, Hunjan R, Brown D. 2005. Mumps outbreaks across England and Wales in 2004: observational study. BMJ [Internet]. 2005 [cited 2005 May 31];330(7500):1119-1120. Available from: <http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/reprint/330/7500/1119doi:10.1136/bmj.330.7500.1119>

- Newspaper article: citation-sequence and citation-name

Weiss R. Study shows problems in cloning people: researchers find replicating primates will be harder than other mammals. Washington Post (Home Ed.). 2003 Apr 11;Sect. A:12 (col. 1).

Newspaper article: name-year

Weiss R. 2003 Apr 11. Study shows problems in cloning people: researchers find replicating primates will be harder than other mammals. Washington Post (Home Ed.). Sect. A:12 (col. 1).

- Journal article in audiovisual format: citation-sequence and citation-name

Wilson JH, Singhoffer JH. Paradoxical embolus in evolution: report of a case. Dyn Cardiovasc Imaging [videocassette]. 1990;3(1):[presentation 2, 4:25 min.]. 1 videocassette: sound, color, ½ in.

Journal article in audiovisual format: name-year

Wilson JH, Singhoffer JH. 1990. Paradoxical embolus in evolution: report of a case. Dyn Cardiovasc Imaging [videocassette]. 3(1):[presentation 2, 4:25 min.]. 1 videocassette: sound, color, ½ in.

Further information is available from *Scientific Style and Format: The CSE Manual for Authors, Editors, and Publishers*, 8th ed. (2014)