Citation Guidelines

Here are step-by-step instructions for citing the information you find using your SIRS database. Ask your instructor which citation format (MLA, APA or Turabian) is preferred.

MLA (Modern Language Association) Citation Format

Periodical Article

Author's name. "Title of the Article." Original Source of Article. Date of publication: page numbers (if none, use "n.pag."). Title of the Database. Web. Date of access (day, month and year).


Reference Book Article

Author name (if known). "Title of article." Title of the Book. City of Publication: Publisher, Year. Title of the Database. Web. Date of access (day, month and year).


Government Documents

Name of government. Name of Agency. Title of Publication. City of Publication: Publisher, Date of Publication. Title of the Database. Web. Date of access (date, month and year).


Graphics & Media

"Title of graphic." Graphic Type. Publisher, Date of Publication. Title of the Database. Web. Date of access (date, month, and year).


Internet Sites

Name of the editor, compiler, or translator (if available). “Title of the Work.” (if distinct from the site) Title of the Web Site. Publisher or Sponsor of Site (if unknown, use “n.p.”), Date of publication (day, month and year; if unknown, use “n.d.”). Web. Date of access (day, month and year).


Leading Issues

Name of the editor, compiler, or translator (if available). “Title of the Work.” (if distinct from the site) Title of the Web Site. Publisher or Sponsor of Site (if unknown, use “n.p.”), Date of publication (day, month and year; if not known, use “n.d.”). Web. Date of access (day, month and year).


APA (American Psychological Association) Format

Periodicals

Author Surname, Initials. (Date published as Year, Month Day). Article title. Publication Name, Volume(Issue), page numbers, if provided. Retrieved from Homepage URL


Note: Not all publications offer volume and issue information. For document title and subtitle (if any), capitalize only the first word and any proper nouns. For homepage URL, it is no longer necessary to reference the database name or date of access. Do not include period after URL.
Reference Book Entry

Author Surname, Initials. (Year published). Entry title. In Book Author/Editor Initials. Surname (Ed.), Reference Book Title. Publisher Location City, Country: Publisher Name. Retrieved from Homepage URL


Note: For document title and subtitle (if any), capitalize only the first word and any proper nouns. For homepage URL, it is no longer necessary to reference the database name or date of access. Do not include period after URL.

Government Document

Government agency releasing document. (Year, Month Published). Document Title (Issue Brief Number—if provided). Retrieved from Homepage URL


Note: For document title and subtitle (if any), capitalize only the first word and any proper nouns. For homepage URL, it is no longer necessary to reference the database name or date of access. Do not include period after URL.

Map

Creator Name (Contribution). (Publication Date). Title [Media type]. Retrieved From Homepage URL


Note: For document title and subtitle (if any), capitalize only the first word and any proper nouns. For homepage URL, it is no longer necessary to reference the database name or date of access. Do not include period after URL.

Photo or Graphic

Creator Surname, Initials (Contribution), and Copyright Holder (Contribution). (Copyright year). Title of Image [Media type]. Retrieved From Homepage URL


Note: APA, Sixth edition, does not include a specific example for an image or graphic. The above examples represent one possible interpretation based on guidelines provided on p. 209 of the Publication Manual. For document title and subtitle (if any), capitalize only the first word and any proper nouns. For homepage URL, it is no longer necessary to reference the database name or date of access. Do not include period after URL.
SIRS WebSelect Sites

Name of Specific Document. (Date of online publication, Year, Month Day). In Name of online reference work. Retrieved from Homepage URL


Note: Since WebSelect includes links to external Websites, it is not necessary to reference the recommending database in the reference, based on guidelines provided on p. 192 of the Sixth Edition of the APA Publication Manual.

SIRS Leading Issues


Note: Applying the guidance for "Entry in an online reference work" (p. 205) for this instance. For document title and subtitle (if any), capitalize only the first word and any proper nouns. For homepage URL, it is no longer necessary to reference the database name or date of access. Do not include period after URL.

Turabian Format

Full-Text Articles

Bibliography entry:

Author. "Article title." Original source of article, date of original source, page numbers. Available on Product name: URL of site (Location of site publisher: publisher, date of access).


Note entry:

Number of footnote Author, "Article title," Original source of article, date of original source, page numbers, Product name: URL of site (Location of site publisher: publisher, date of access).

Government Documents

Bibliography entry:

Issuing agency. Article title, Author. Government district, Date of original article. Available on Product name: URL of site (Location of site publisher: publisher, date of access).


Note entry:

Number of footnote Issuing agency. Title, Author (Government district, Date of original article), page number, Product name: URL of site (Location of site publisher: publisher, date of access), page numbers.


Graphics & Media

"Title of graphic." Graphic Type. Copyright Holder. Name of site providing graphic. Date of access <URL of service's homepage>.


Internet Sites

Name of sponsoring organization or institution. Title of Internet site. Date of site. Internet on-line. <Electronic address or URL>. (Date of access).


SIRS Leading Issues

Name of sponsoring organization or institution. Title of Internet site. Date of site. Internet on-line. <Electronic address or URL>. (Date of access).

** Please, note that the guidelines for citing electronic sources are not yet completely standardized.

Detailed guidelines on documenting online sources are explained in the seventh edition of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (2009) and the sixth edition of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (2010). Since there is no official Turabian standard for documenting online sources, the examples above provide only one possible interpretation.

*Updated October 2009*