Referencing Electronic Resources

There is no standard method for citing electronic sources of information as yet, but remember to remain consistent with whatever method you are using (e.g. MLA, Harvard etc).

A useful website to consult outlining guidelines for referencing is: https://www.dkit.ie/system/files/dkit_guide_to_harvard_referencing_0.pdf

**The basic form** of the citations follow the principles listed for print sources:

- name/s of author/s
- date of publication
- title of publication
- publisher/organisation
- edition, if other than first
- type of medium
- Name / site address on internet
- date item retrieved

**Electronic Book**

Author’s Surname, Initial(s), Year. Title [online]. Place: Publisher. Available from: web address or database name [Date accessed].


**Website with Author**

Author’s Surname, Initial(s), Year. Title [Online]. Available from: web address of site [Date accessed]


**Website with no author**

Title of website, Year [online]. Available from: web address of site [Date accessed]


**Electronic Journal Articles**

Author’s Surname, Initial(s), Year. ‘Title of article’. Journal title [Online]. Volume (issue number), page numbers. Available from: web address of site or name of database [Date accessed].


For more information or training on Citing and Referencing your sources, please contact the library.
Why Reference?

In writing a thesis or research project, you will consult a variety of sources (e.g. books, journals, the internet, databases). It is essential that you provide references to the ideas, facts, quotations etc. that you use to support your argument:

- To assist readers in finding further information about the topic
- To prove that your work has a substantial factual basis
- To give credit where it is due and to avoid plagiarism. See GMIT guide about plagiarism at [http://www.gmit.ie/sites/default/files/public/general/docs/3-5-plagiarism.pdf](http://www.gmit.ie/sites/default/files/public/general/docs/3-5-plagiarism.pdf)

Which style should you use?

A number of different citing styles can be used. Check with your lecturer as to which style is preferred by your department. Whichever style you choose, stick to the one system throughout your project. This guide will show the Harvard System. It is based on the British Standard BS ISO 690: 2010.

Further information

GMIT Library also has several books and guides available detailing the different styles and giving information on how to reference, for example:

- Pears, R., 2013. *Cite them right: the essential referencing guide*. Held at 808.027

Referencing using the Harvard Style

Using this style, you need to give brief citations in your text and a reference list at the end of the project.

1. Citations

These are the brief details of the reference within the text of your assignment (e.g. Smith 2011).

**Direct Quote**

Put the quote in single quotation marks. List the surname of the author, the date of publication and the page number(s) it appeared on directly after the quote.

*Example:*

It can be seen that ‘West Belfast is an ideal location to examine whether tourism builds peace or reproduces processes of conflict’ (Wiedenhoft Murphy 2010, p.543)

**Paraphrase or Summary**

List the name of the author(s) and the date of publication directly after the paraphrase.

*Example:*

Many tourists surf the internet prior to their trip to Ireland and many fantasize about the marketed image of Ireland portrayed online for visitors (Costa 2009).

2. Reference List

This is an alphabetical list, by authors surname, of the full details of all sources you have cited.

**References**


Books

Author’s Surname, Initial(s), Year. *Title*, Edition, City of Publication: Name of publisher.


Chapter in a book (edited)

Author’s Surname, Initial(s), Year. ‘Title of chapter’. In: Editor Initial, Surname(s), (ed.) *Title of book*. City of Publication: Publisher, page numbers of chapter.


Journal Articles

Author’s Surname, Initial(s), Year. ‘Title of article’, *Journal Title*, Journal volume (issue number) or date, page number(s).


Theses and Dissertations

Author’s Surname, Initial(s), Year. *Title of thesis*, Award Type, Awarding Institution.