**About the ACS Style Guide**

From the American Chemical Society, the *ACS Style Guide: Effective Communication of Scientific Information* provides a standard for chemistry scholars to use when citing sources, formatting papers, and more. The ACS rules differ from other styles (such as APA and MLA), but the purpose is the same: to provide a common set of rules for documenting sources and communicating scientific information.

**About This Handout**

This guide provides examples for frequently used types of sources. For more in-depth information:

- Ask your instructor or a librarian

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### General Formats for Books

**a print book**

AuthorLastName, Initials. *Name of the Book in Italics*; Publisher: Place of Publication, Year; Volume Number (if any).

**an online book**

AuthorLastName, Initials. *Name of the Book in Italics* [Online]; Publisher: Place of Publication, Year; Volume Number (if any). URL (accessed Month Day, Year).

### Examples of Books (Use the labels in the left column as headers to identify the sources in your bibliography.)

**print book with a single author**


**print book with an editor, no individual authors for chapters**


**print book with an editor, individual authors for chapters (subject encyclopedia)**


**online book with an author**


**online book with an editor, individual authors for chapters**


**online encyclopedia article (Access Science)**

Types of Periodicals

**Periodical** is the generic name for something published on a regular basis—daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, etc. Newspapers, magazines and journals are types of periodicals.

**Newspapers & Magazines**
- Not peer-reviewed

**Journals**
- Academic, scholarly. Most, but not all, are peer-reviewed.

**Peer-Reviewed Journals: Characteristics**
- Articles always name the author(s).
- Author(s) always have academic credentials (e.g. biologist, chemist, anthropologist, lawyer).
- Articles often have a sober, serious look.
- Articles may contain many graphs and charts; few glossy pages or color pictures.
- Author(s) write in the language of the discipline (e.g. biology, chemistry, anthropology, law, etc.).
- Authors *always* cite their sources in footnotes, bibliographies, notes, etc.
- Often (but not always) associated with universities or professional organizations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Typical Sections of Peer-Reviewed Articles</th>
<th>Is It Peer-Reviewed? Tips!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>In databases, click the periodical title for information, or...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Search the journal name online and read about it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials and Methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analysis</td>
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<td>Discussion</td>
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<td>References</td>
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**CQ Researcher: It’s a Periodical**

*CQ Researcher* is a library database that provides unbiased, factual information on “hot topics.” Technically not a scientific source, *CQ Researcher* is a good source for background information on current issues. Because new issues are published weekly, *CQ Researcher* is considered a periodical.

Treat *CQ Researcher* articles as “Popular (not peer-reviewed) magazine or newspaper article from a library database.” Use the URL from the address bar. Example:


**Is Your Periodical Scientific? Check CASSI cassi.cas.org**

In the discipline of chemistry, when writing papers and citations, researchers need to determine if the article they are using is recognized by the Chemical Abstracts Service, or CAS. The citations are slightly different for journals recognized by CAS.

Use the CASSI database to find out if the article you are citing is from a journal recognized by CAS. If it is, CASSI will provide the appropriate journal abbreviation for you to use in your citation.

1. Enter the name of the periodical and click Search.
2. If the next screen has options, click on your title.
3. This is the abbreviation to use in the citation.
4. If the title is not in CASSI, ACS does not consider it to be a scientific article. Use the full name of the periodical in the citation.
Types of Periodicals (Use the labels in the left column as headers to identify the sources in your bibliography.)

| Peer-reviewed article from a print periodical |
| AuthorLastName, Initials. Title of Article. *Journal Abbreviation* Year, Volume (Issue), Inclusive Pagination. |
| Example |

| Peer-reviewed online article (not from a library database) |
| Examples |

| Peer-reviewed article from a library database |
| AuthorLastName, Initials. Title of Article. *Journal Abbreviation* [Online] Year, Volume (Issue), Article Number or other identifying information, like inclusive pagination. Database Name. Permalink, DOI, or URL (accessed Month Day, Year). |
| Example |

| Popular (not peer-reviewed) magazine or newspaper article from a library database |
| AuthorLastName, Initials. Title of Article. *Title of Periodical* [Online], Complete Date, Pagination. Database Name. Permalink, DOI, or URL (accessed Month Day, Year). |
| Examples |

ACS Abbreviations for Months

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>April</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sept</th>
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About Websites

Q: Can a website be peer-reviewed?
A: No, or at least, if so, it is rare. Some websites are highly selective about their content; the Union of Concerned Scientists (ucusa.org), is a good example. But that does not necessarily mean the articles are peer-reviewed. Some websites provide you with access to peer-reviewed articles (PubMed and PLOS are examples), but a website itself is rarely, if ever, peer-reviewed. When in doubt, review the features of a peer-reviewed article on page 2 of this handout.

For sites on the open web (i.e. not library databases) most of the time you will use the formatting styles listed on this page.

Types of websites (Use the labels in the left column as headers to identify the sources in your bibliography.)

Article or website from the open web

ACs is unclear about whether you use the title of the website or the title of the article. Choose the one you think best informs your instructor and classmates.

General Format
Author (if any). Title of Site. URL (accessed Month Day, Year), other identifying information (if any).

Examples

Online document from institutions and agencies

General Format
AuthorLastName, Initials. Title of Document, Year. Title of Site. URL (accessed Month Day, Year).

Examples

Article from a web-based news source, newspaper or magazine (i.e. CNN.com)

General Format
Note: Include all of the information as you would for a newspaper/magazine source, but cite it like a web page. If no author, use the name of the news service, such as Reuters.

AuthorLastName, Initials. Title of Article. Title of Site. Month Day, Year. URL (accessed Month Day, Year).

Examples