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AMA Style Guide: References

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This article aims to help students understand the formatting and complexities of an AMA References page according to the guidelines in the American Medical Association Style Guide (11th ed.).

Introduction

The American Medical Association, the gold standard for doctors and many other practitioners in health care has created the AMA Style Guide to provide standards for academic research in medicine, health, and other life sciences. The *Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA)* is the primary medium published by the AMA, and it is the most widely read medical journal worldwide. Though it is in many ways similar to APA, the AMA Style Guide has some fundamental distinctions you will want to be aware of when writing a paper in AMA.

References List

A paper written in styles like APA and MLA organizes the References list alphabetically by author, but AMA lists sources *in the order in which they appear* in the paper. This is because AMA does not use parenthetical citations like APA or MLA. Rather, like Chicago-Turabian, it uses footnotes, which often appear numerically. Interestingly, AMA emphasizes the importance of cross-listing. A source may appear again in the manuscript, so you can refer to this same footnote number later in the paper. The footnote should be located in direct reference to the source rather than at the end of a sentence. Further, if you make a statement supported by multiple sources, AMA uses multiple footnotes to refer to all those sources at once.

For example, an in-text citation referring to John Doe's article below may be cited multiple times; it may also be cross-listed with other articles and will look like this:

Many studies indicate institutions should chronicle their histories,^{1-4,7,10}

AMA does not like to waste space in journal references, so there won't be many spaces between year, volume, issue number, and page numbers. Some sources are often abbreviated or shortened to conserve space (be sure to abbreviate according to the listing provided in the PubMed Journals database).

Examples

AMA journal *article* citation:

1. Primary contributors. Article title. *Journal title*. Publication date; Volume(Issue): Page number(s).
1. Doe, JR. History of CBU and establishment as a university. *Interesting Facts About CBU*. 2024;1(3):324-326.

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AMA book chapter citation:

2. Primary contributors. Chapter title. In Editor name, ed. Book Title. Publisher name; date: Page number(s). DOI
2. Smith, J. The development of health sciences at CBU. In Jones, I, ed. CBU: A Pharmacological History. Springer; 2024:17-31. <https://doi.org/000000000000>

AMA website citation:

3. Primary contributors. Webpage title. Website Title. Published date. Accessed date. URL
3. Doe, JR, Smith J. CBU Graduate Admissions. California Baptist University. 2024. Accessed June 1, 2024. <https://calbaptist.edu>

These are just a few examples of the most common citations. Please consult the [11th AMA Style Guide](#) or [Purdue's OWL](#) for details of every kind of citation.

Conclusion

Though AMA style may differ in many ways from the more familiar APA, AMA has some unique advantages that make it easy to navigate. As for all research projects, list all sources accurately on the references page to avoid accidental plagiarism. While citing your sources, always remember to include each of the necessary components within the citation so it is clear what kind of source you are referencing.

Tips

1. Remember to number your sources in the order they appear in the paper.
2. If a source is cited multiple times in the paper, include the number designated to that source in each footnote.
3. Practice working with citations to become more adept at creating them on your own, or visit some trusted citation-generating websites to help.

Works Consulted

James Cook University. *AMA 11th Referencing Guide*. <https://libguides.jcu.edu.au/ama>

University of Waterloo. Creating your reference list. *AMA Style: The Basics for Pharmacy Writing*. <https://subjectguides.uwaterloo.ca/c.php?g=695555&p=4931907>

University of Southern California Libraries. AMA (11th ed): Citing your sources. *Research Guides*. <https://libguides.usc.edu/c.php?g=1029472&p=8076397>