

# NLM citation quick reference

Reference patterns, online markers and the preprint and dataset forms. Checked against Citing Medicine, the NLM Style Guide.

## REFERENCE PATTERNS

**Journal article**  
Author AA, Author BB. Title of article. Journal Abbrev. YYYY Mon;12(3):100-10. doi:10.xxxx/xxxxx

**Article by PMID**  
Author AA. Title of article. Journal Abbrev. YYYY;12(3):100-10. PubMed PMID: 12345678.

**Book**  
Author AA. Title of book. 3rd ed. City (ST): Publisher; YYYY. (No state for a well-known city: New York: Publisher; YYYY.)

**Chapter**  
Author AA. Title of chapter. In: Editor AA, editor. Title of book. City (ST): Publisher; YYYY. p. 100-25.

**Website**  
Name of Organisation. Title of page [Internet]. City (ST): Publisher; YYYY [cited YYYY Mon DD]. Available from: https://example.com/page

**Report**  
Author AA. Title of report. City (ST): Name of Agency (US); YYYY Mon. Report No.: NNNN.

**Preprint**  
Author AA. Title of preprint. medRxiv 12345678. Preprint posted YYYY Mon DD. doi:10.1101/YYYY.MM.DD.NNNNNN

**Dataset**  
Author AA. Title of dataset [dataset]. Repository Name; YYYY [cited YYYY Mon DD]. Available from: https://doi.org/10.xxxx/xxxxx

## IN-TEXT CITATIONS

|                  |                                         |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Superscript      | ...has been reported. <sup>1</sup>      |
| On the line      | ...has been reported (1).               |
| A run of sources | ...has been reported.1-3                |
| Separate sources | ...has been reported.1,4                |
| Order            | By first appearance, never alphabetical |

## AUTHOR NAMES

|              |                                                                        |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Order        | Surname then initials, run together: Watson JD, Crick FHC.             |
| Up to six    | Name every author.                                                     |
| Over six     | Name the first six, then et al. Citing Medicine also allows all names. |
| Organisation | Printed in full, with (US) after a federal agency.                     |

## ONLINE SOURCE MARKERS

- [Internet] follows the title of any online source.
- [cited YYYY Mon DD] records when you consulted it.
- [updated YYYY Mon DD] is added when the page says it was revised.
- "Available from:" precedes the URL, with no full stop after it.

## WHERE NLM IS REQUIRED

- PubMed records and the NLM Catalog.
- NIH grant applications, biosketches and progress reports.
- Many biomedical publishers, under the name Vancouver.
- NCBI Bookshelf and other NLM publications.

## SIX MISTAKES THAT COST MARKS

- Alphabetising the reference list.
- Spelling journal names out in full.
- Omitting [Internet] for an online source.
- Leaving out the cited date.
- Writing the full closing page number.
- Citing a preprint as though it were published.