

The Quick and Dirty Guide to Writing an Article for Blacksmith Institute's *Journal of Health and Pollution*

Katherine Bruce, MS¹; Sandy Page-Cook, MPH¹

¹ Blacksmith Institute, New York, NY

Corresponding Author:
Katherine Bruce
Blacksmith Institute
475 Riverside Drive, Suite 860
New York, NY 10115
T. (+1) 212-647-8330

info@journalhealthpollution.org
http://www.journalhealthpollution.org

Introduction

The introduction should introduce the problem being addressed in the paper and describe its importance and relevance to the field of study. It should convince the expert that the authors know the subject and should fill in gaps for the novice. It should generally not exceed 2 or 3 paragraphs. In addition, at the end of this section authors often describe the structure of the paper, as is described in the following paragraph.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows: each section provides a brief description of what that section should contain and gives examples. Specifically, the *Methods* section discusses how authors should describe the design and methodology of their study. This is followed by the *Results* section wherein authors succinctly present the results of the study. *Discussion* gives the authors opportunity to expound on the results and critically examine the

Abstract. The *Abstract* is a concise (approximately 350 words) description of the problem you are writing about and (if applicable) the proposed solution. The purpose of the abstract is to provide a brief summary that will enable the reader to quickly determine whether he wishes to read the rest of the paper. Therefore, your abstract should provide a good overview of the paper in a way that entices the reader to keep reading. Narrative expressions such as “X is described,” “Y is discussed,” “Z is also reviewed” do not add meaning and should be avoided. Results should be presented in a quantitative fashion, but authors should be careful in ensuring consistency with the results published in the full article. The *Abstract* should be broken into the following sections (each only 1-2 sentences long):

Background. Place the problem or project in a context, such as location or larger issue.

Objectives. Why did you study this particular problem? What were you trying to accomplish with this project?

Methods. What was the design of your study? What instruments/materials/techniques did you use in this project?

Results. At the end of this project, what happened? What data was observed/collected? No interpretations, just the fact.

Discussion. How do you interpret your results? What were the weaknesses, if any?

Conclusions. What does it all mean? What are the next necessary steps, if any?

Competing Interests. Authors must declare whether they have any competing financial interests. If there are competing interests (such as patents held, compensation received from a company and/or individuals standing to financial gain from this subject), this must be divulged here. *Examples:* The authors declare no competing financial interests. **Or** The corresponding author owns Concept Biotech. [In this example, the company was referenced by the author.] **Or** The corresponding author holds a financial stake in a company that produces laser technology. [In this example, the company was not referenced, but the technology was.]

Keywords. The *Keywords* section helps searchers find your paper via electronic searches. *Keywords* should list (as individual words or short phrases) the particular areas of study that your paper covers. Be as comprehensive as possible to increase the chance of your article coming up in a search. Typically, someone finding a set of papers based on keywords will then read the abstracts to further narrow the list. *Examples:* writing guide, scientific paper, research paper, document structure, writing style, Journal of Health & Pollution, Blacksmith Institute.

J Health Pollution (Year)

study, with all of its strengths and weaknesses. *Conclusions* allows the authors to sum up what the results of the study means and what the next steps, if any, should be. Finally, the *References* section explains how citations should be written, with several commonly seen examples given as models.

Methods

Here the author carefully describes how the study was conducted and what assumptions were made. The rule to writing this section is to include enough details that anyone who would like to repeat the study can do so based on the description

you provide. The *Methods* section should include, as appropriate, a detailed description of :

- (1) the design of the study, dates and period of study;
- (2) condition or situation studied;
- (3) details of the sample (e.g. study participants and the setting from which they were drawn, criteria by which they were included or excluded);
- (4) interventions, if any;
- (5) how results were measured, included tools used; and
- (6) statistical analysis.

Results

The results reported in the manuscript should be specific and relevant to the research hypothesis. The *Results* section should not include implications or weaknesses of the study, but should include validation measures if conducted as part of the study. Results should not discuss the rationale for the statistical procedures used. Data in tables and figures should not be duplicated in the text. All measurements of density must be expressed as a mass per unit of volume, for example, mg/kg, ug/L.

Discussion

The *Discussion* section should be a critical examination of the study. The research question or hypothesis should be addressed in this section, and the results should be compared to and contrasted with the findings of other studies. A lengthy reiteration of the results should be avoided. The study's limitations and the generalizability of the results should be discussed, as well as mention of unexpected findings with suggested explanations.

Abbreviations

List all abbreviations used in the article here. Include standard ones. *Examples:*

mg/L	Milligrams per liter	AMA	American Medical Association
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Conclusions

The type of future studies needed, if appropriate, should be mentioned here. This section should end with a clear, concise conclusion that does not go beyond the findings of the study.

Acknowledgements.

This guide to writing an article for Blacksmith Institute's Journal of Health and Pollution was liberally adapted with permission from Dr. Vasil Hnatyshin and Dr. Andrea Lobo's article *How to Write a Health Scientific Paper* and the American Medical Association's style guide^{1,2}

its.txstate.edu/slac/Subject/Writing/Documentation-and-the-Writing-Process/AMA-Style-Guide/AMA%20Style%20Guide.pdf.

Each reference should be cited in the text, tables, or figures in consecutive numerical order by means of superscript numerals. Use superscript numerals *outside* periods. When more than 2 references are cited at a given place in the manuscript, use hyphens to join the first and last numbers of a closed series; use commas without space to separate other parts of a multiple citation.

Example:

As reported previously, the moon revolves around the Earth.^{1,3-8,19}

References

1. Hnatyshin V. Vasil Hnatyshin's Home Page [Internet]. Glassboro, NJ: Vasil Hnatyshin. C2009 [cited 2012 May 30]. Available from <http://users.rowan.edu/~hnatyshin>.
2. American Medical Association style guide [Internet]. [place unknown: publisher unknown]; [cited 2012 May 30]. Available from <http://gato-docs>.

In the *References* section, list all the works cited in the text of the article. Here are some commonly seen examples as models:

A book:

Capitalize only the first word of the title, proper nouns, proper adjectives, acronyms, and initials (*Figure 1*).

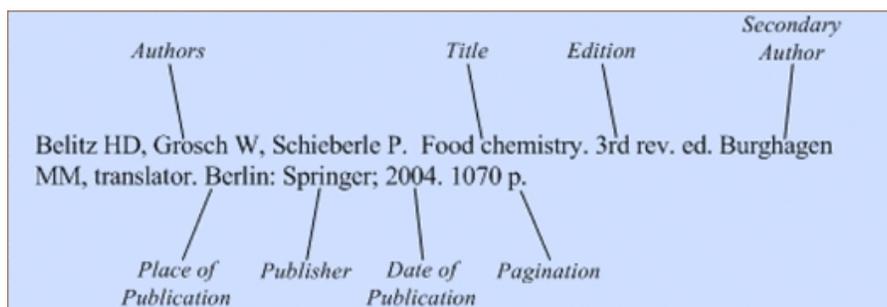


Figure 1 — Book Reference Example

For a book that is not in English:

- Provide the title in the original language;
- Ignore accents and special characters in titles;
- Provide an English translation after the original language title whenever possible; place translations in square brackets;
- End the citation with the language of the publication.

Example:

Abriendo un camino genetico: familias y cientificos se unen en la busqueda de genes defectuosos que causan enfermedades [Blazing a genetic trail: families and scientists join in seeking the flawed genes that cause disease] [Internet]. Chevy Chase (MD): Howard Hughes Medical Institute; c1991 [updated 2002; cited 2006 Nov 3]. Available from: <http://www.hhmi.org/genetictrail-esp/>. Spanish.

Internet publications

An Internet publication is cited the same way that a print publication is cited, with these exceptions:

- Use the word "Internet" in square brackets as the Type of Medium after the title;
- Include any date of update/revision and a date of citation in square brackets following the date of publication. Use the dates for the individual book being cited, not the dates of the Internet site as a whole unless no dates can be found for the individual item;
- When the extent (pagination) of the book is not provided, as often occurs, calculate it using the best means possible, e.g., in terms of print pages, screens, paragraphs, or bytes. If a book is not linear, and has many hyperlinks, it will be impossible to determine the length;
- Provide the URL or other electronic address of the item.

It is important to cite the version you saw. If you viewed a book on the Internet, do not cite it as if it were a print one. However, it may be useful to begin a citation to a book found on the Internet by first locating all of the information needed to cite it as if it were a print document, then add the Internet-specific items. For example (bold for emphasis only):

Lefebvre P. Molecular and genetic maps of the nuclear genome [Internet]. Durham (NC): Duke University, Department of Biology; 2002 [**modified 2002 Dec 11; cited 2003 Sep 5**]. Available from: http://www.biology.duke.edu/chlamy_genome/nuclear_maps.html.

For a journal

Journal titles should be abbreviated. Standard abbreviations can be found here: http://images.webofknowledge.com/WOK46/help/WOS/A_abrvjt.html

See Figures 2 and 3 for reference.

Website/Internet

a. *Conference proceedings on the Internet* Include 2005 [Internet]. Proceedings of the International Conference on Inclusive Design; 2005 Apr 5-8; London. London: Royal College of Art, Helen Hamlyn Research Centre; [cited 2006 Nov 3]. [about 130 p.]. Available from: <http://www.hhrc.rca.ac.uk/programmes/include/2005/proceedings/index.html>

Bashook PG, Miller SH, Parboosingh J, Horowitz SD, editors. Credentialing physician specialists: a world perspective [Internet]. Proceedings; 2000 Jun 8-10; Chicago. Evanston (IL): American Board of Medical Specialties, Research and Education

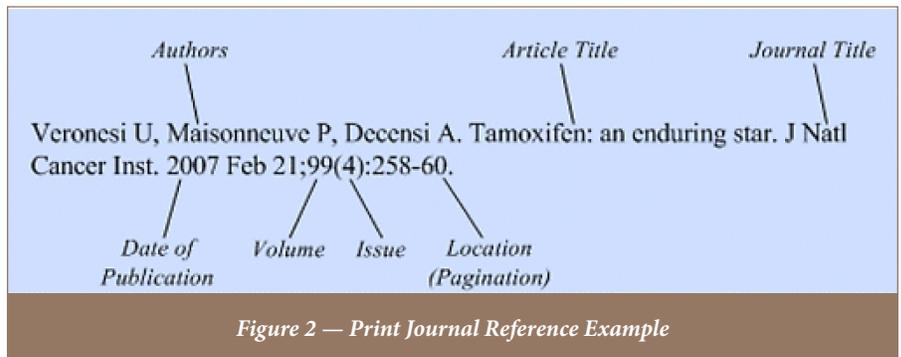


Figure 2 — Print Journal Reference Example

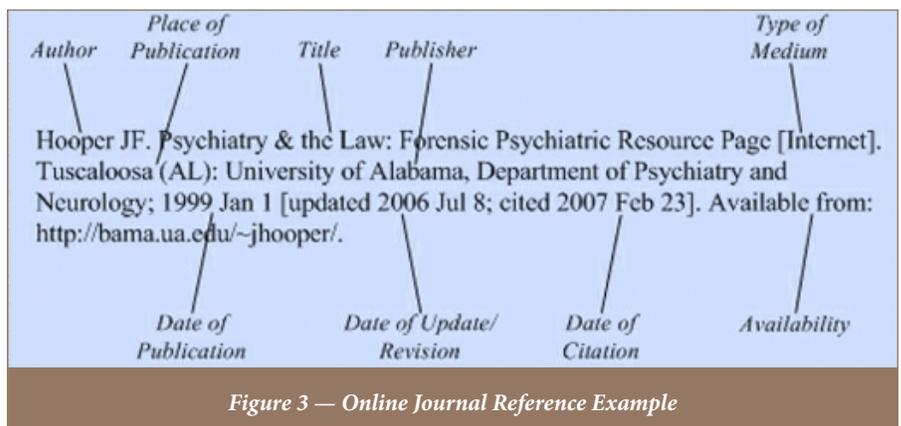


Figure 3 — Online Journal Reference Example

Foundation; [cited 2006 Nov 3]. 221 p. Available from: <http://www.abms.org/publications.asp>

b. Technical report on the Internet

Arkes J, Pacula RL, Paddock S, Caulkins JP, Reuter P (RAND Drug Policy Research Center, Santa Monica, CA).

Technical report for the price and purity of illicit drugs: 1981 through the second quarter of 2003 [Internet]. Washington: Executive Office of the President (US), Office of National Drug Control Policy; 2004 Nov [cited 2006 Nov 3]. 83 p. Contract No.: DHHS 282-00-0016. Report No.:

NCJ 207769. Available from: http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/price_purity_tech_rpt/price_purity_tech_rpt.pdf

Baydar N, McCann M, Williams R, Vesper E (Battelle Centers for Public Health Research and Evaluation, Seattle, WA). Final report. WIC infant feeding practices study [Internet]. Wieringa D, Sitchin K, editors. Alexandria (VA): Department of Agriculture (US), Food and Consumer Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation; 1997 Nov [cited 2006 Nov 3]. 254 p. Contract No.: 53-3198-3-003. Available from: <http://purl.access.gpo.gov/GPO/LPS9308>

c. Dissertation on the Internet

Zieger K. Die Bedeutung der deutschen Arztvereine für das wissenschaftliche Leben, die medizinische Versorgung und soziale Belange der Stadt St. Petersburg von 1819-1914 [dissertation on the Internet]. Leipzig (Germany): Universität Leipzig, Karl-Sudhoff-Institut für Geschichte der Medizin und der Naturwissenschaften; 2000 [cited 2006 Nov 3]. 123 p. Available from: <http://www.vifaost.de/w/pdf/zieger-aerzte.pdf> German.

An interview/conversation

See Figure 4 for reference.

A conference paper or poster

See Figure 5 for reference.

An article in a conference publication

See Figure 6 for reference.

