
The new 7th edition of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* was released earlier this year. It contains some significant rule changes, particularly in the area of electronic resources. For consistency campus-wide, please be aware of these changes and be sure to highlight them for continuing students who may have learned the previous MLA rules.

1. *Italics* will now be used anywhere that *underlining* was previously: book titles, names of Web sites, titles of periodicals, films, etc.

2. Medium consulted (e.g., Print, Web, Film, DVD, CD, Performance, Television, etc.) will now be included if applicable in all entries, generally after the date of publication. In the case of articles, it should follow the inclusive pagination.

3. For academic journals, issue information should include volume, *issue*, and publication year in the form 24.2 (2007). Previously, only volume numbers and year were required as 24 (2007).

For example:


should now be:


and:


should now be:

The rule changes for electronic resources are more significant and, I think, welcome in that they dramatically simplify the entries and do away with some of the less useful information that was previously required. The new rules include:

1. Web URLs are no longer required, unless necessary to significantly help the reader locate the source or the instructor requires it. This change reflects the fact that, in many cases, the URL is impermanent, session-specific, unwieldy to type, or simply of limited value given that many readers often just use a search engine to find the material. If included, they should be placed in angle brackets at the end of the entry.

2. For articles from online databases, such as LEXIS-NEXIS, Academic Search Premier, etc., the name/location of the library used to access the database is no longer required.

3. If an online database does not preserve the pagination of the original print article, the abbreviation n. pag. should be used where the inclusive pagination would be.

4. Similarly for Web sites, the abbreviations N.p. and n.d. should be used to indicate situations in which the site has no publisher/sponsor and/or date of publication, respectively.

See the following attached pages from the library’s MLA handout for more information and examples of citing electronic resources.
Electronic Resources

Given their various types and the fluidity of their content, online and electronic resources present particular challenges to citation. You should still try to convey the same information - name of author, title of work/website, version or edition, publisher or sponsor, date of publication, medium – though these may not be as clear as in the case of print materials. In some instances some of this information may not even be present. Keep in mind that your ultimate goal is to provide in a clear, consistent way, the necessary information that will allow your reader to find and access your sources. **You do not need to include a web URL unless doing so would significantly help your reader find the source, or your instructor requires it.**

It is highly recommended that you read section 5.6 (pp. 181-193) of the *MLA Handbook* for the basic principles to apply in citing digital sources. If you have questions about a particular source, feel free to consult a reference librarian.

Web Sites or Articles from Web Sites

A works-cited entry for a Web site or an article from a Web site should include:

1. Name of author, compiler, director, editor, narrator, performer, or translator of the work
2. Title of the work (*italicized if the work is independent*, in roman type and quotation marks if the work is an article or part of a larger work)
3. Title of the overall Web site (*italicized*), if distinct from item 2
4. Publisher or sponsor of the site; if not available, use N.p.
5. Date of publication (day, month, and year, as available); if nothing is available use n.d.
6. Medium of publication (Web)
7. Date of access (day, month, and year)
8. **URL, only if needed or required**, <place in angle brackets>

For example:


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<th>Works Cited List for Electronic Resources</th>
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