

# VANCOUVER Reference Style Guide

## Notes:

- Your reference list should appear at the end of your assignment/report with the entries listed numerically and in the same order that they were cited in the text.
- It is very important that you use the right punctuation and that the order of details in the reference is also correct.
- No use of & between author names
- Book and journal titles are not italicised or placed in quotation marks.
- Abbreviate page numbers to p., for example p. 12–25.
- Only first words of the article title and words that normally begin with a capital letter are capitalised.
- Journal titles are abbreviated. A list of abbreviations for the titles is available online at **either** [List of Journals in MEDLINE with abbreviations](#) (NB: Use the binoculars in the toolbar to search for a title) **or** [Medical Journal Abbreviations](#) (Internationally recognised abbreviations for journal titles). Other sources: [Caltech Library Services](#) and [Bioscience](#)
- In reference list: more than 6 authors, first 3 authors are listed; thereafter add et al. after the third author. In text: only the first authors name then et al.
- If the journal has continuous page numbering, you may omit month/issue number
- **Place superscript reference number after commas and full stops and before colons and semi-colons** – unless the superscript is attached to authors name or title of book/database – then always before punctuation.
- **If the reference number is connected to a year or number, place a space between the number and the reference number for clarity.**  
[example: back as 1915<sup>35</sup> ...]
- Italicise the title of artwork (painting, photograph, sculpture etc.) in the text. The title should be written in title case. For example, *The Alchemist*. Place single inverted commas around the title of an art exhibition, which should be written in sentence case. For example, 'Fossil icons of South Africa'.

Books	In-Text Example	Reference List Example
Single author	The theory was first propounded in 1993 by Comfort <sup>1</sup> that ... <b>OR</b> Comfort <sup>1</sup> claimed that '...'	1. Comfort A. A good age. London: Mitchell Beazley; 1997.
2 – 6 authors	'... new definition of disability' <sup>2</sup> <b>OR</b> Madden et al. have stated that '...' <sup>2</sup>	2. Madden R, Hogan T. The definition of disability in Australia: Moving towards national consistency. Canberra: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; 1997.
More than 6 authors	Numerous academic librarians <sup>3</sup>	3. Rodgers P, Smith K, Williams D, et al. The way forward for Australian libraries. Perth: Wombat Press; 2002.
No author	'...the most-accepted definition.' <sup>4</sup>	4. Advertising in the Western Cape. Cape Town: ABC Publishers; 1990.
Multiple works by same author	University research <sup>5,6</sup> has indicated that... <b>[if not previously cited]</b>	5. Brown P. Corals in the Capricorn group. Rockhampton: Central Queensland University; 1982. 6. Brown P. The effects of anchor on corals. Rockhampton: Central Queensland University; 1988.

Editor	The most comprehensive work on the Subject <sup>7</sup> ...	7. Kastenbaum R, editor. Encyclopedia of adult development. Phoenix: Oryx Press; 1993.
Different editions	The latest preferred style <sup>8</sup>	8. Renton N. Compendium of good writing. 3rd ed. Milton: John Wiley & Sons; 2004. <b>An edition number is placed after the title of the work - this is not necessary for a first edition.</b>
Encyclopedia or Dictionary	'is defined as ...' <sup>9</sup>	9. Oxford dictionary for scientific writers and editors. Oxford: Clarendon; 1991. Parabola; p. 89.  <b>[include the definition looked up – in this case 'Parabola'.</b>
Article or chapter in a book	As discussed by Blaxter <sup>10</sup> ...	10. Blaxter M. Social class and health inequalities. In: Carter C, Peel J, editors. Equalities and inequalities in health. London: Academic Press, 1976; p. 369–380.
Article or chapter in a book – no author	Achieving a life of its own <sup>11</sup> ...	11. Solving the Y2K problem. In: Bowd D, editor Technology today and tomorrow. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1997; p. 27–40.
Conference proceeding (the whole conference)	This was discussed at the conference <sup>15</sup> ....	15. Harnden P, Joffe JK, Jones WG, editors. Germ cell tumours V. Proceedings of the 5th Germ Cell Tumour Conference; 2001 Sep 13–15; Leeds, UK. New York:Springer; 2002.
Conference paper	This was discussed at the conference <sup>15</sup> ....	15. Anderson JC. Current status of chorion villus biopsy. Paper presented at: APSB 1986. Proceedings of the 4th Congress of the Australian Perinatal Society, Mothers and Babies; 1986 Sep 8–10; Queensland, Australian. Berlin: Springer; 1986. p. 182–191.
Conference poster/workshop	This was discussed at the conference <sup>15</sup> ....	15. Chasman J, Kaplan RF. The effects of occupation on preserved cognitive functioning in dementia. Poster session presented at: Excellence in clinical practice, 4th Annual Conference of the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology; 2006 Jun 15–17; Philadelphia, PA.
Image in a book	The poster 'Buy Australian Apples' <sup>16</sup>	16. Cowle C, Walker D. The art of apple branding. Hobart:Apples from Oz; 2005.
<b>Print Journals</b>	<b>In-Text Example</b>	<b>Reference List Example</b>
Article	As mentioned by Wharton <sup>17</sup> ,...	17. Wharton N. Health and safety in outdoor activity centres. J Adventure Ed Outdoor Lead. 1996;12(4):8–9.
Article – no author	It's a growing problem in the U.K. <sup>18</sup> ...	18. Anorexia nervosa. Br Med J. 1969;2(1):529–530.
Newspaper article – with or without author	'... not responsible'. <sup>19</sup>	19. Towers K. Doctor not at fault: coroner. The Australian 2000 Jan 18;3.
Newspaper article – no author	'...not responsible.' <sup>20</sup>	20. Doctor cleared by coroner. Sydney Morning Herald 2000 Jan 24;12.
Press release	As stated by the company <sup>21</sup>	21. Watersmith C. BHP enters new era [press release].Melbourne: BHP Limited; 2000 Mar 1.
<b>Electronic Journals</b>	<b>In-Text Example</b>	<b>Reference List Example</b>
Full text from an electronic database	The economic policy issues raised by the Internet are	22. Reid DB. Australasian association of doctors' health advisory services. Med J Australia [serial online]. 2005 [cited 2006 Mar 28];182(5):255. Available from:

	discussed in detail by Madden <sup>22</sup>	Health and Medical Complete.
Full text from an electronic database – no	The internet has had a huge impact on the Australian economy <sup>23</sup> ...	23. Cell tropism of Salmonella enterica. Int J Med Microbiol [serial online]. 2004 [cited 2006 Mar 28]; 294(4):225–33. Available from: Health and Medical Complete.
Full text newspaper, newswire or magazine from an electronic database – no author	Promoted as a ‘frontier state’ <sup>24</sup> , Western Australia is seen by overseas tourists as ...	24. WA packed with overseas appeal. The West Australian [serial online]. 2003 [cited 2004 Nov 13] Nov 12; 47. Available from: Factiva.
Full text from the internet	Recreational venues of a seasonal nature can still be profitable <sup>25</sup> ...	25. Sopensky E. Ice rink becomes hot business. Austin Business Journal [serial on the Internet]. 2002 [cited 2002 Oct 16]; 10(4). Available from: <a href="http://www.bizjournals.com/austin/stories/2002/10/14/smallb1.html">http://www.bizjournals.com/austin/stories/2002/10/14/smallb1.html</a> .
Article from Curtin E-Reserve	‘ ...tips on speaking to groups of health care professionals.’ <sup>26</sup>	26. Bodeker G, Kronenberg F. A public health agenda for traditional, complimentary, and alternative medicine. Am. J. Public Health [serial online]. 2002 [cited 2006 Mar 29] 92(10):1582–91. Available from: Curtin Library and Information Service E-Reserve.
Article from a CD-ROM (BPO)	Marketing is money well spent, even in hard times, according to La Rosa <sup>27</sup> .	27. La Rosa SM. Marketing slays the downsizing dragon. Information Today [serial on CD-ROM] 1992 [cited 2002 Oct 16]; 9(3):58–9. Available from: UMI Business Periodicals Ondisc.
Newspaper article from online database	Marketing is money well spent, even in hard times, according to Dearne <sup>60</sup> .	60. Dearne K. Dispensing with the chemist. The Australian [newspaper online]. 2005 Jun 14 [cited 2005 Jun 30];[about 8 screens]. Available from: Factiva. <a href="http://global.factiva.com">http://global.factiva.com</a> .
Cochrane Review	This is debated by Iyer, Farquhar and Jepson <sup>28</sup>	28. Iyer V, Farquhar C, Jepson R. The effectiveness of oral contraceptive pills versus placebo or any other medical treatment for menorrhagia. [Cochrane review] In: The Cochrane Library, Issue 4, 1998. Oxford: Update Software.
<b>World Wide Web</b>	<b>In-Text Example</b>	<b>Reference List Example</b>
Document on WWW	A good example of how students can learn online about referencing at their own pace can be found at Curtin University. <sup>29</sup>	29. Department of Health. Creutzfeldt Jakob disease: Guidance for healthcare workers [homepage on the Internet]. c2003 [updated 2003 Mar 23; cited 2003 Nov 9]. Available from <a href="http://www.doh.gov.uk/pdfs/cjdguidance.pdf">http://www.doh.gov.uk/pdfs/cjdguidance.pdf</a>
Document on WWW – no article title	... Curtin University Library launched an improved version of their homepage <sup>30</sup>	30. Curtin University of Technology [homepage on the Internet]. Perth: Curtin University; c2004 [updated 2004 May 21; cited 2004 Dec 10] Available from: <a href="http://www.curtin.edu.au/">http://www.curtin.edu.au/</a>
Document on WWW – No author	Both Leafy Seadragons and Weedy Seadragons are protected species. <sup>31</sup>	31. Leafy seadragons and weedy seadragons [homepage on the Internet]. c2001 [updated 2001 Aug 1; cited 2004 Dec 10]. Available from: <a href="http://www.windspeed.net.au/~jenny/seadragons/">http://www.windspeed.net.au/~jenny/seadragons/</a> .
Document on WWW – No date	A link between these conditions has been noted by McCook. <sup>32</sup>	32. McCook A. Pre-diabetic condition linked to memory loss [homepage on the Internet]. No date [cited 2003 Feb 7]. Available from: <a href="http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news_11531.html">http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news_11531.html</a>
Image on the web	The image of the bleached coral <sup>33</sup>	33. Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority [image on the Internet]. c2002 [updated 2006 Jan 28; cited 2006 Feb 15]. Available from: <a href="http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/science/bleaching/">http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/science/bleaching/</a>
<b>Government Publications</b>	<b>In-Text Example</b>	<b>Reference List Example</b>

Acts of parliament	The <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> <sup>34</sup> ...	34. Environmental Protection Act of 1986, WA [statute on the Internet]. c2002 [cited 2004 Dec 21]. Available from: State Law Publisher.
Cases	State-federal relations in this issue were tested in court as far back as 1915 <sup>35</sup> ...	35. The State of New South Wales v. The Commonwealth (1915) 20 CLR 5.
Australian Bureau of Statistics Bulletin	... change from the figures published in 1999 by the ABS. <sup>36</sup>	36. Australian Bureau of Statistics. Disability, ageing and carers: summary of findings. Canberra: ABS; 1999. ABS publication 4430.0.
Australian Bureau of Statistics from ABS website	... change from the figures published in 1999 by the ABS. <sup>37</sup>	37. Australian Bureau of Statistics. Disability, ageing and carers: Summary of findings [serial online]. c1999 [cited 2004 Oct 14]; ABS publication 4430.0. Available from: <a href="http://www.abs.gov.au">http://www.abs.gov.au</a> .
Census information	... information from the 2001 census now becoming dated. <sup>38</sup>	38. Australian Bureau of Statistics. Census of population and housing: 2001 Census Basic Community Profiles and Snapshots: Postal Areas: postal area 6050: B01 selected characteristics. First release processing [data table online]. c2001 [cited 2002 Nov 20]. Available from: <a href="http://www.abs.gov.au">http://www.abs.gov.au</a> .
Government reports	... a new approach to resource assessment on the macro level. <sup>39</sup>	39. Resource Assessment Commission. Forest and timber enquiry. Volume 1. Draft report. Canberra: Australian Government Publishing Service; 1991.  Also:  39. Childrens Institute, UCT. Child rights in focus. Annual report 2004/2005 [document on the Internet]. University of Cape Town; no date [cited 2009 Feb 21]. Available from: xxxx.
Patent	US Patent 20020103498 <sup>40</sup>	40. Pagedas AC, inventor; Ancel Surgical R&D Inc., assignee. Flexible endoscopic grasping and cutting device and positioning tool assembly. United States patent 20020103498. 2002 Aug 1.
Online Standard	from Standards Australia <sup>41</sup>	41. Standards Australia. Size clothing scheme for infants' and children's clothing – underwear and outerwear [standard online]. c1997 [cited 2006 Feb 22]; AS 1182–1997. Available from: Standards Australia Online.
<b>Secondary Sources</b>	<b>In-Text Example</b>	<b>Reference List Example</b>
Book	Higgins discusses Newman's research in his work... <sup>42</sup>	42. Higgins D. Horizons: The poetics and theory of the intermedia. Illinois: Southern Illinois University Press: 1984  <b>Record the book that you actually used.</b>
Journal article	Clements quoted Chandler in his article... <sup>43</sup>	43. Clements C. The facts about cocaine (drugs), Science and Children [serial online]. 2007 [cited 2007 Apr 13]; 44(7): 44. Available from: ProQuest.  <b>Record the journal that you actually used.</b>
<b>Other Sources</b>	<b>In-Text Example</b>	<b>Reference List Example</b>
Personal communication, email, discussion lists (no web archive)	This was later confirmed (Savieri S 1999, personal communication, April 24) that an	<b>Not included in reference list as they cannot be traced by the reader.</b>

	outbreak occurred in London at this time.	
<i>Citing unpublished work using numbered references:</i>  Give '(Unpublished)' at the end of a reference if the information is not readily available or obvious.		Matthews C, Van Rensburg A, Schierhout G, Coetzee N. The potential of syndromic management to improve the care of patients at an STD clinic in Cape Town. Medical Research Council and Department of Community Health, University of Cape Town; 1997 (Unpublished report).  Thapisa A. Co-operation with the University of Botswana. [Personal interview, 10 March] Cape Town; 1998 (Unpublished).
Films and video recordings	... as seen in the Lonergan film, <i>You Can Count on Me</i> <sup>44</sup> .	44. Scorsese M, producer; Lonergan K, director. You can count on me [motion picture]. United States: Paramount Pictures; 2000.
Television and radio programmes	...then AMA chief, in a television interview. <sup>45</sup>	45. The medical profession in the 1990s [television broadcast]. The MacNeil/Lehrer news hour. New York, Washington D.C.: Public Broadcasting Service; 1993 Oct 11.
Podcast	...in <i>The Wings of a Butterfly – Children, Teenagers and Anxiety</i> <sup>46</sup>	46. The wings of a butterfly – children, teenagers and anxiety [podcast on the Internet]. Sydney: ABC Radio National; c2005 [updated 2005 Sep 10; cited 2005 Sep 16]. Available from: <a href="http://www.abc.net.au/podcast/default.htm#mind">http://www.abc.net.au/podcast/default.htm#mind</a> .
CD-ROM	...in <i>Anderson's Electronic Atlas of Haematology</i> <sup>47</sup>	47. Anderson SC, Poulsen KB. Anderson's electronic atlas of haematology [CD-ROM]. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams and Wilkins; 2002.
Email discussion list – web archive	... as discussed by Little <sup>49</sup> .	49. Little L. Two new policy briefs. ECPOLICY [discussion list on the Internet]. 2002 Apr 16 [cited 2002 Nov 13]. Available from: <a href="http://www.askeric.org/Virtual_Listserv_Archives/ECPOLICY/2002/Apr_2002/Msg0003.html">http://www.askeric.org/Virtual_Listserv_Archives/ECPOLICY/2002/Apr_2002/Msg0003.html</a>
Government publication	<b>Examples</b>	Australia. Commonwealth Department of Veterans' Affairs and Defence. Australian Gulf War veterans' health study 2003. Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia; 2003. Australian Bureau of Statistics. Disability, ageing and carers: summary of findings. Canberra: ABS; 1999. ABS publication 4430.0.
Association/organisation as author	<b>Examples</b>	<b>Name of organisation. Title of book. Place of publication: Publisher; year. Page(s).</b>  Diabetes Prevention Program Research Group. Hypertension, insulin, and proinsulin in participants with impaired glucose tolerance. Hypertension. 2002;40(5):679–86.
Foreign/Translated works	<b>Examples</b>	Ellingsen AE, Wilhelmsen I. [Disease anxiety among medical students and law students]. Tidsskr Nor Laegeforen. 2002 Mar 20;122(8):785–7. Norwegian.
Scientific / Technical report	<b>Examples</b>	Lugg DJ. Physiological adaptation and health of an expedition in Antarctica: with comment on behavioural adaptation. Canberra: A.G.P.S.; 1977. Australian Government Department of Science, Antarctic Division. ANARE scientific reports. Series B(4), Medical science No. 0126.

Unpublished dissertation/thesis	<b>Example</b>	Borkowski MM. Infant sleep and feeding: a telephone survey of Hispanic Americans [unpublished dissertation]. Mount Pleasant (MI): Central Michigan University; 2002.
In Press	<b>Example</b>	Tian D, Araki H, Stahl E, Bergelson J, Kreitman M. Signature of balancing selection in Arabidopsis. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. In <b>press</b> 2002.
Referencing software packages in Vancouver	Format: Title (1 space) medium in square brackets [e.g. computer program, computer file](full-stop, 1 space) Version (full-stop, 1 space) Place of production (colon, 1 space) Producer (semi-colon, 1 space) Year (full-stop)	Epi Info [computer program]. Version 6. Atlanta (GA): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 1994.

#### Abbreviations:

These are commonly used abbreviations:

<b>c.</b>	= circa (about, approximately)
<b>ch.</b>	= Chapter
<b>ed.</b>	= edition
<b>et al.</b>	= and others
<b>fig; figs</b>	= figure(s)
<b>ill; ills</b>	= illustrator(s)
<b>p.</b>	= page(s)
<b>para; paras</b>	= paragraph(s)
<b>pt; pts</b>	= part(s)
<b>rev</b>	= revised
<b>suppl</b>	= Supplement

#### Other Sources of Information

**Note:** This list of examples is in no way exhaustive. Only the most often-used types of references are listed here. Refer to the following publications for more information on citing references:

International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE). Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals: Writing and editing for biomedical publication [document on the Internet]. ICMJE;2003 [updated 2004 Oct; cited 2005 Apr 14]. Available from: <http://www.icmje.org/>.

Iverson C, Flanagan A, Fontanarosa PB, Glass RM, Glitman P, Lantz JC, et al. American Medical Association manual of style: a guide for authors and editors. 9th ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 1998.

## **Acknowledgements**

University of Queensland and Library, 'How to' guide  
National Library of Medicine  
Monash University Library  
Curtin University of Technology

## **Other resources:**

[http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform\\_requirements.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html)

<http://www.lib.monash.edu.au/tutorials/citing/vancouver.html>

<http://www.lib.murdoch.edu.au/find/citation/vancouver.html#World%20Wide%20Web%20Documents>

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/bv.fcgi?call=bv.View..ShowTOC&rid=citmed.TOC&depth=2>

<http://library.curtin.edu.au>