Quick Guide to Vancouver Referencing

This is an introductory guide to citing and referencing using the Vancouver system of referencing. For more detailed examples go to the i-cite guide— intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/icite or Cite Them Right Online.

CITING IN TEXT

Vancouver uses numeric references in the text, either numbers in brackets (1) or superscript. These in-text numbers are matched to full, numbered references for each publication in a reference list. The reference list is arranged in numerical order i.e. the publications are listed in the order they appeared in the text, and not alphabetically by author(s) or editor(s) name.

Some general guidance on how to use numbers in text

- When citing two or more sources at once, write a number for each separated by a comma e.g. (1, 2) or (6, 12)
- When citing more than two sources which are numbered consecutively, use a hyphen instead of a comma e.g. (3-5)
- If you need to cite a particular work more than once, you can use the same reference number for each citation.
- Numbers should be in brackets and placed after punctuation marks such as full stops or commas and before colons and semi-colons.

REFERENCES

The reference list should only include sources you have cited in your text. List any sources you read, but did not cite in your work, in a separate bibliography.

A reference gives the full details of the brief citation you have referred to in text.
and is shown at the end of your essay. A reference will include authors, titles, editions, publisher details and journal details.

**Key things to note about references**

**Journal title:** The key thing to remember about journal references is that the name of the journal must be abbreviated. For a list of journal abbreviations go to [http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nlmcatalog/journals](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nlmcatalog/journals)

**Authors/Editors:** Many science publications are the result of collaborative work, resulting in multiple authors who require citation. If you have six authors or fewer, list all of them. If there are more than six authors, list the first six authors followed by et al.

**Example List of References**


**BOOKS**

Author/editor. Title (capitalise only the first letter of the first word and any proper nouns), Edition (only include the edition number if it is not the first edition). Place of publication: publisher; Year of publication, Series and volume number (where relevant).

**One to Six Authors (if you have six or fewer, list all of them)**


**More than six authors (list the first six authors followed by et al.)**


**Edited Book**


**Chapter in a Book**


**E-Book**


**JOURNALS**

**Journal (Print)**

Author(s), Title of article, Title of journal (capitalise all initial letters and use journal abbreviation), Date of publication as year month day, [cited year month day]; Volume (issue): Page numbers (not preceded by p.).


**Journal (Electronic)**

Remember to add [internet], date cited and URL or DOI.