Tuesday’s Tidbits

Writing APA Style In-Text Citations

When writing a paper, APA style and formatting can be tricky, but you have to be sure to cite your sources correctly to avoid plagiarism. One thing that causes quite a bit of confusion is when you have an indirect source to cite, information found in the document you’re reading that the author took from another source. Here is some information that should help you do this properly.

Basic In-Text Citation Style

APA style in-text citations include the author and date (year only), either both inside parentheses or with the author names in running text and the date in parentheses. No initials or first names are included. Here are two examples as to how they may be added to your sentence:

* After the intervention, the patient’s blood pressure increased significantly (Brooks & Melena, 2013).

* Brooks and Melena (2013) reported that after the intervention the patient’s blood pressure increased significantly.

Note: The "and" in “Smith and Wesson” is written as an ampersand (&) inside parentheses and as the word and outside of parentheses, as shown in the examples above (Lee, 2011).

In-text Citations for Secondary (or Indirect) Sources

If you are including information found in a document you are reading that the author took from another source and referenced with an in-text citation in his or her paper, you are citing an indirect source. Unless you actually read the original source too (in addition to the document you found it in), you should cite the original author in the sentence, and cite the source you have read in parenthesis in the in-text citation. You should include only the reference for the article you read on the reference page.

In the example below, if you use information (which you didn’t read) from Johnson that was cited in the document you have read by Smith, use the original source (Johnson) in your signal phrase, (a phrase, clause, or sentence that introduces a quotation, paraphrase, or summary) and list the source you read by Smith in your reference list and include it in the parentheses as an in-text citation.

* Johnson argued that this was “the most successful way to increase the patient’s blood pressure” (as cited in Smith, 2012, p. 102).

The article by Smith will be listed on the reference page.

Note: Do not include on your reference page a reference for the Johnson document from the list of the references at the end of the article you read unless you have actually read the document. If you did, you would use a regular in-text citation for the information you have gotten from the document by Johnson.

And, remember that when you cite a direct quotation, you should include a page number or a paragraph number like this:

(Smith, 2012, p. 102) OR (Smith, 2015, para. 6)

Need Help?

Contact Beth Smith, Librarian

Phone:
Direct: 513-644-6020 OR 1-855-906-8773, ext. 6020
E-mail: bsmith@hondros.edu OR library@hondros.edu
Dealing With Missing Information

Sometimes the author and/or date are not immediately obvious, so what should you do?

**AUTHORSHIP**

* To determine authorship, ask yourself, “who is responsible for this content?” Most often, the “who” will be one person, or several people, who have served as authors or editors. But keep in mind that entities or organizations (governments, associations, agencies, companies, etc.) can also function as authors or editors.

An example of this: (National Institute of Mental Health, 2015)

* In some cases, there truly is no way to determine who the author is. In the in-text citation, the title (in double quotation marks) takes the place of the author’s name followed by the year. (And, in reference citations, you should move the content’s title into the author position (with no quotation marks around it)). This most commonly occurs for dictionary entries and website content.

An example of this: (“Bipolar disorder,” 2014)

**DATE OF PUBLICATION**

* For most references, the date element is the year of publication, found on the copyright page (for books) or the first page of the article (for journals).

* Online material can be tricky to date properly. If the date is not apparent at the beginning of the document you’re citing, look at the end.

* A note that says, “This page was last modified on [date].” is not the date to use! It could be the date that the document was published, but it’s more likely to be the date it was put online.

* Some sites place a copyright date for the website at the bottom of every page. This is usually a site-wide footer, so don’t use a copyright date from a website as the date.

* If there’s no date on the material, indicate this by entering “n.d.” (for “no date”) in parentheses where the date would otherwise go.

You Need to Know This Too!

The first time you’ve provided an in-text citation, you must include all of the authors’ last names if there are 5 or fewer and the date. After this, you include the first author’s last name followed by “et al.” (which means “and others”), followed by the year.

If you have 6 or more authors, all in-text citations will include the first author’s last name followed by “et al.” and the year, including the first one.

The table here comes from the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6th edition (p. 177). It shows examples of in-text citations based on the number of authors of the source.

The information provided here should help you create a proper in-text citation for any source!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of citation</th>
<th>First citation in text</th>
<th>Subsequent citation in text</th>
<th>Parenthetical format, first citation in text</th>
<th>Parenthetical format, subsequent citations in text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One work by three authors</td>
<td>Bradley, Ramirez, and Soo (1999)</td>
<td>Bradley et al. (1999)</td>
<td>(Bradley, Ramirez, &amp; Soo, 1999)</td>
<td>(Bradley et al., 1999)</td>
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<tr>
<td>One work by four authors</td>
<td>Bradley, Ramirez, Soo, and Walsh (2006)</td>
<td>Bradley et al. (2006)</td>
<td>(Bradley, Ramirez, Soo, &amp; Walsh, 2006)</td>
<td>(Bradley et al., 2006)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One work by six or more authors</td>
<td>Wasserstein et al. (2005)</td>
<td>Wasserstein et al. (2005)</td>
<td>(Wasserstein et al., 2005)</td>
<td>(Wasserstein et al., 2005)</td>
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References
