ASSIGNMENT SKILLS
Vancouver referencing guide

Vancouver is a numbered referencing style, predominantly used in medical fields. It is based on the *AMA Manual of Style, 11th edition*.

This style guide is primarily for students completing assignments at Curtin University. If you are publishing (e.g. journal article, PhD), please consult the above publication as the reference examples provided here may differ from the requirements outlined in the official style guide.

Guide contents:

In-text citations

Numbered citations

In the Vancouver style, a consecutive number is allocated to each reference as it is cited for the first time in the text of the assignment (i.e. the first citation that appears in-text is number one, the next unique citation that appears in-text is number 2 and so on). This number becomes the unique identifier of that source and if the source is cited again in-text, the same number is repeated. Vancouver uses superscript numbers in-text, e.g. [1-4,10,12]

Placement of in-text citations

Include citations:

- After the author's name, e.g. Johnson[1] explains…
- To the right of commas and full stops, e.g. This is a widely accepted theory.[2]
- To the left of colons and semi colons, e.g. The study lists the following[3]: motivation,…

Multiple citations can be inserted at a single point in-text, separated by a comma with no spaces in between, e.g. This issue has been faced by many in the industry.[1,2,4,7]

When there are three or more **consecutive** citations, join the first and last in the series with a hyphen, e.g. The condition has been reported in a number of studies.[4-7]

Page numbers

If citing different pages from a single source at different places in the text, page numbers can be included in the citation and the source listed once in the reference list. Place the page number(s) in brackets directly following the numbered citation. Use p for a single page or pp for multiple pages, e.g. …pain response should be considered.[8(p83),9,12(pp3,5)]

Please check with your tutor if they require you to provide page numbers for direct quotes.

Author names in-text

If mentioning authors in text, only surnames (family names) are used. For a reference with two authors include both surnames, e.g. Avery and Williams[1] highlight the importance of this method. For references with three or more authors, list the first author then et al (meaning *and others*), e.g. Azar et al[2] reported on this association.

Reference list

Author variations

The following variations apply to all reference types (books, journal articles, reports, webpages etc.). Author surnames (family names) are followed by their two letter initials with no space or full stop between the initials, e.g. Smith JA.

Commas are used to separate authors' names, e.g. Khan FM, Gibbons JP.

No author

➢ If there is no personal author, check to see if an organisation has acted as author. If not, omit the author from the reference and list the title of the item first

Joint replacements should not cost an arm and a leg. *The Australian*. September 22, 2016;Commentary:13.

One to six authors

➢ List all authors in the reference

Khan FM, Gibbons JP. *Khan's The Physics of Radiation Therapy*. 5th ed. Wolters Kluwer Health; 2014.

More than six authors

➢ List the first three authors in the reference followed by et al (meaning *and others*)

Smith BM, Kirby M, Hoffman EA, et al. Association of dysanapsis with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease among older adults. *JAMA*. 2020;323(22):2268-2280. doi:10.1001/jama.2020.6918

Organisation as author

➢ List the organisation name in full

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. *Australian Bushfires 2019-2020: Exploring the Short-Term Health Impacts*. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; 2020. PHE 276. Accessed November 26, 2020. https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/environment-and-health/short-term-health-impacts-2019-20-bushfires/contents/summary

Title capitalisation

Titles should appear in lower case except for the first letter of the first word, abbreviations, proper names, and names of clinical trials or study groups, e.g.

> Krieger J, Song L, Philby M. Community health worker home visits for adults with uncontrolled asthma: the HomeBASE Trial randomized clinical trial. *JAMA Intern Med*. 2015;175(1):109-117. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2014.6353

Titles of whole works such as journals and books, should appear in headline style capitalisation, where all significant words start with a capital letter.

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Journal title abbreviations

Journal titles are abbreviated in the Vancouver style, e.g. New England Journal of Medicine appears as N Engl J Med in the reference list entry.

A list of abbreviations is available through PubMed at: https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/. Click on *Journals* (under *Explore*) and enter the full journal title to view its abbreviation. Alternative sources of journal title abbreviations are listed in Appendix B of Citing Medicine.

Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs)

DOIs are used to uniquely identify objects in the digital environment, for example a journal article, ebook, or data set. The DOI provides a persistent link to the object. In the Vancouver style, DOIs are presented as metadata, not as hyperlinks, e.g. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2014.6353

Sample paragraph and reference list

In Australia falls are one of the main causes of injury-related hospitalisations, with the elderly representing the majority of cases.[1] Accidental falls in older persons can have a detrimental effect on their mental wellbeing.[2,3] "The psychological aspects, especially fear of falling, loss of confidence and increased anxiety, can be more disabling than the physical ones".[3] It is therefore important that effective programs are implemented to reduce the incidence of falls.[4-6]

References

1. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. *Trends in Hospitalised Injury, Australia: 2007-08 to 2016-17*. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; 2019. INJCAT 204. Accessed November 26, 2020. https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/injury/trends-in-hospitalised-injury-2007-08-to-2016-17

2. Lee F, Mackenzie L, James C. Perceptions of older people living in the community about their fear of falling. *Disabil Rehabil*. 2008;30(23):1803-1811. doi:10.1080/09638280701669508

3. Barker W. Assessment and prevention of falls in older people. *Nurs Older People*. 2014;26(6):18-24. doi:10.7748/nop.26.6.18.e586

4. Sinclair AJ, Morley JE, Vellas B, eds. *Pathy's Principles and Practice of Geriatric Medicine*. 5th ed. John Wiley & Sons; 2012. Accessed October 10, 2018. doi:10.1002/9781119952930

5. Reznik D. Fall prevention. *Am J Nurs*. 2013;113(7):12. doi:10.1097/01.NAJ.0000431897.51118.69

6. Jones D, Whitaker T. Preventing falls in older people: assessment and interventions. *Nurs Stand*. 2011;25(52):50-55. https://search-proquest-com.dbgw.lis.curtin.edu.au/docview/893881691?accountid=10382

Journal and news articles	Reference components and examples
Journal article	**Reference components:** Author Surname Author Initials. Title of article: subtitle. *Abbreviated Journal Title in Italics*. Year;Volume(Issue):Page range. doi:DOI or URL **Reference examples:** Boatwright KD, Sperry ML. Accuracy of medical marijuana claims made by popular websites. *J Pharm Pract*. 2020;33(4):457-464. doi:10.1177/0897190018818907 Naghavi M, Abajobir AA, Abbafati C, et al. Global, regional, and national age-sex specific mortality for 264 causes of death, 1980-2016: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2016. *Lancet*. 2017;390(10100):1151-1210. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(17)32152-9 Barton E, Twining L, Walters L. Understanding the decision to commence a dose administration aid. *Aust Fam Physician*. 2017;46(12):943-947. https://search-informit-com-au.dbgw.lis.curtin.edu.au/documentSummary;dn=299927696378708;res=IELHEA **Style notes:** • See note on abbreviated journal titles (pg. 4) • A DOI is preferable to a URL if one is available • If referencing a print journal article, omit the DOI/URL
Journal article – Advanced online publication	**Reference example:** Kumar D, Warsha FN, Helmstetter N, Gupta V. Efficacy and safety of direct oral anticoagulants for treatment of left ventricular thrombus; a systematic review. *Acta Cardiol*. Published online May 10, 2021. doi:10.1080/00015385.2021.1901024 **Style note:** • If the article is published online ahead of print, replace the volume, issue and page numbers with Published online and the date of publication in the format: Month Day, Year • See note on abbreviated journal titles (pg. 4)

Journal and news articles	Reference components and examples
Journal article published in a supplement	**Reference example:** Bochenek SH, Fugit AM, Cook AM, Smith KM. Pharmacy residents' perceptions of preceptors as role models. *Am J Health Syst Pharm*. 2016;73(11)(suppl 3):S94-S99. doi:10.2146/ajhp150661 **Style note:** • Include suppl and the supplement number or letter in brackets directly following the volume or issue • Write the page numbers as they appear on the article, e.g. S94-S99 • See note on abbreviated journal titles (pg. 4)
Journal article with an article number (eLocator)	**Reference example:** Eades SJ, Banks E. 50 years since citizenship: successes and challenges in Indigenous health. *Public Health Res Pract*. 2017;27(4):e2741730. doi:10.17061/phrp2741730 **Style note:** • Some online-only journals use article numbers (also known as eLocators) instead of a page range • See note on abbreviated journal titles (pg. 4)
Newspaper article	**Reference components:** Reporter Surname Reporter Initials. Title of article. *Full Title of Newspaper in Italics*. Month Day, Year of article;Section:page. Accessed Month Day, Year. URL **Reference examples:** Titelius R. War not wasted on health. *The West Australian*. March 31, 2019;Confidential:33. Vaccine is ready to roll. *Koori Mail*. March 24, 2021:9. Accessed July 12, 2021. https://aiatsis.gov.au/collection/featured-collections/koori-mail **Style notes:** • If referencing a print newspaper omit the access date and URL • If there is no author, omit from the reference and list the title of the article first

Health resources	Reference components and examples
Cochrane Review	*Reference components:* Author Surname Author Initials. Title of review. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev in Italics*. Year;(Issue):Article No. doi:DOI *Reference example:* Dushianthan A, Cusack R, Burgess VA, Grocott MPW, Calder PC. Immunonutrition for acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) in adults. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2019;(1):CD012041. doi:10.1002/14651858
Online reference works (AMH, Martindale, MIMS, UpToDate)	*Reference components:* Author Surname Author Initials or Organisation Name. Title of entry. Name of Source. Month Day, Year published. Updated Month Day, Year. Accessed Month Day, Year. URL *Australian Medicines handbook (AMH) example:* Amoxicillin. Australian Medicines Handbook. Updated July, 2020. Accessed November 12, 2020. https://amhonline-amh-net-au.dbgw.lis.curtin.edu.au/chapters/anti-infectives/antibacterials/penicillins/amoxicillin *Martindale example:* Royal Pharmaceutical Society. Malaria (anitmalarials). Martindale: The Complete Drug Reference. Updated April 19, 2017. Accessed November 12, 2020. https://www-medicinescomplete-com.dbgw.lis.curtin.edu.au/#/content/martindale/1370-a5-1-b *MIMS example:* MIMS Australia. Alphamox. MIMS Online. Updated November, 2020. Accessed November 12, 2020. https://www-mimsonline-com-au.dbgw.lis.curtin.edu.au/ *UpToDate example:* Feldweg AM, Kelso JM, TePas E. Exercise-induced anaphylaxis: management and prognosis. UpToDate. Updated January 15, 2020. Accessed November 12, 2020. https://www-uptodate-com.dbgw.lis.curtin.edu.au/contents/exercise-induced-anaphylaxis-management-and-prognosis

Books	Reference components and examples
Entire book	**Reference components:** Author Surname Author Initials. *Title of Book in Italics*. # ed. Publisher; Publication Year. Accessed Month Day, Year. doi:DOI or URL **Reference examples:** Khan MG. *Cardiac Drug Therapy*. 8th ed. Humana Press; 2015. Accessed October 10, 2018. doi:10.1007/978-1-61779-962-4 Hansen V, Horsfall J. *Noongar Bush Tucker: Bush Food Plants and Fungi of the South-West of Western Australia*. UWA Publishing; 2019. Berman A, Snyder SJ, Levett-Jones T, et al. *Kozier and Erb's Fundamentals of Nursing: Concepts, Process and Practice*. 4th Aust. ed. Pearson Australia; 2018. Accessed December 6, 2019. https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/curtin/detail.action?docID=5220629 **Style notes:** • A DOI is preferable to a URL if one is available • If referencing a print book, omit access date and URL/DOI • For editions other than the first, enter the edition after the title e.g. 8th ed.
Chapter in an edited book	**Reference components:** Chapter Author Surname Author Initials. Title of chapter. In: Editor Surname Editor Initials, ed. *Title of Book in Italics*. # ed. Publisher; Publication Year:Chapter page range. Accessed Month Day, Year. doi:DOI or URL **Reference examples:** Riddle M, Taylor WD. Structural changes in the aging brain. In: Etkin A, Hantke N, O'Hara R, eds. *Handbook of Mental Health and Aging*. 3rd ed. Elsevier; 2020:59-70. Accessed November 6, 2020. http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/curtin/detail.action?docID=6183701

	Cain JJ, Clauson KA, Fox BI. Digital communication in healthcare. In: Beardsley R, Skrabal MZ, Kimberlin CL, eds. *Communication Skills in Pharmacy Practice: A Practical Guide for Students and Practitioners*. 7th ed. Wolters Kluwer; 2020:189-209. ***Style notes:*** • A DOI is preferable to a URL if one is available • If referencing a print book, omit access date and URL/DOI • For editions other than the first, enter the edition after the title e.g. 8th ed.
Thesis	***Reference components:*** Author Surname Author Initials. *Title of Thesis in Italics*. Dissertation *or* Master's thesis. University; Publication Year. Accessed Month Day, Year. URL ***Reference examples:*** Czarniak P. *Issues With the Use of Medicines in Paediatrics: Off-label and Unlicensed Use, and Formulation Uncertainty*. Dissertation. Curtin University; 2014. Accessed December 6, 2019. http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11937/554 Smith C. *The Development and Validation of the Breast Lymphoedema Severity Symptom (BLYSS) Questionnaire*. Master's thesis. Curtin University; 2013. Accessed January 16, 2020. http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11937/1022 ***Style note:*** • If referencing a print thesis, omit the access date and URL/DOI
Conference paper or poster	***Reference components:*** Author Surname Author Initials. Title of paper. Paper presented at: Name of Conference; Month Day(s), Year of conference; Place of conference. Accessed Month Day, Year. doi:DOI or URL ***Reference example:*** Jackson P, Sixsmith J, Mihailidis A, Sixsmith A. Perspectives on collaboration in technology innovation for ageing. Paper presented at: 13th International Conference on Smart Homes and Health Telematics; June 10-12, 2015; Geneva, Switzerland. Accessed September 24, 2020. doi:10.1007/978-3-319-19312-0_3 ***Style note:*** • If citing a poster, substitute Poster presented at:

Websites & social media	Reference components and examples
Webpage on a website	***Reference components:*** Author Surname Author Initials or Organisation Name. Title of the webpage. Name of the website. Month Day, Year published. Updated Month Day, Year. Accessed Month Day, Year. URL ***Reference examples:*** Environmental health. Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNET. Accessed January 21, 2021. https://healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au/learn/determinants-of-health/environmental-health/ Maddison M, Cassidy T. Type 1 diabetes causes widely misunderstood, sufferers say, with sugar shaming a 'trigger'. ABC News. July 17, 2020. Updated October 28, 2020. Accessed January 21, 2021. https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-07-17/fighting-misconceptions-about-type-1-diabetes/12460244 ***Style notes:*** - Omit author if not provided on the webpage - If there is no date of publication or last update/revision date, omit these from the reference - If referring to a book, journal article or report on a website, cite using these formats not as a web page
YouTube or streaming video	***Reference components:*** Author Surname Author Initials. *Title of Video in Italics*. Source. Month Day, Year published. Accessed Month Day, Year. URL ***Reference examples:*** Raskopoulos J. *Living with High Functioning Anxiety*. TEDxSydney. June 16, 2017. Accessed July 12, 2021. https://tedxsydney.com/talk/living-with-high-functioning-anxiety-jordan-raskopoulos/ McCormack J. *Viva La Evidence*. YouTube. August 22, 2013. Accessed September 24, 2020. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUW0Q8tXVUc

Blog post	**Reference components:**
	Author Surname Author Initials. Title of post. *Name of Blog in Italics* blog. Month Day, Year of post. Accessed Month Day, Year. URL
	Reference example:
	Strakosch C. Regional connectivity: more than an affordable internet connection. *Good Things Foundation Australia* blog. February 25, 2020. Accessed September 24, 2020. https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org.au/news-and-blogs/blog/regional-connectivity-more-affordable-internet-connection
Facebook	**Reference components:**
	Title of Facebook page. Text of the post. Month Day, Year of post. Accessed Month Day, Year. URL
	Reference example:
	World Health Organization Facebook page. Today is World Alzheimer's Day. Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia. There are nearly 10 million new cases of dementia every year - that's one case every 3 seconds. September 20, 2020. Accessed September 24, 2020. https://www.facebook.com/WHO
Twitter	**Reference components:**
	Twitter username. Text of the post. Month Day, Year of post. Accessed Month Day, Year. URL
	Reference example:
	@WHO. #Rabies immunization should also be considered for children living in, or visiting, remote, high-risk areas. As they play with animals, they may receive more severe bites, or may not report bites. September 23, 2020. Accessed September 24, 2020. https://twitter.com/WHO/status/1308465339467005952
Podcast	**Reference components:**
	Host. *Name of Podcast in Italics*. Title of episode. Month Day, Year of episode. Accessed Month Day, Year. URL
	Reference example:
	Malcolm L. *All in the Mind*. Tripping for depression. September 16, 2018. Accessed November 11, 2020. http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/allinthemind/tripping-for-depression/10223006

Reports and legislation	Reference components and examples
Government or organisation report	**Reference components:** Author Surname Author Initials or Organisation Name. *Title of Report in Italics*. Publisher Name; Year. Report Number. Accessed Month Day, Year. URL **Reference examples:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. *Non-Medical Use of Pharmaceuticals: Trends, Harms and Treatment, 2006-07 to 2015-16*. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; 2017. HSE 195. Accessed September 25, 2020. https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/illicit-use-of-drugs/non-medical-use-pharmaceuticals/contents/table-of-contents World Health Organization. *The World Health Report 2013: Research for Universal Health Coverage*. World Health Organization; 2013. Accessed September 25, 2020. https://www.who.int/whr/2013/report/en/ Australian Bureau of Statistics. *Apparent Consumption of Alcohol, Australia, 2017-18*. Australian Bureau of Statistics; 2019. Accessed December 11, 2020. https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/health/health-conditions-and-risks/apparent-consumption-alcohol-australia/latest-release **Style notes:** • If there is no report number, omit this from the reference • If referencing a print report, omit the accessed date and the URL/DOI • If the publisher name includes the word Department abbreviate to Dept
Act of Parliament	**Reference components:** Title of Act Year (Jurisdiction). Accessed Month Day, Year. URL **Reference example:** Mental Health Act 2014 (WA). Accessed June 23, 2020. https://www.legislation.wa.gov.au/legislation/statutes
Case	**Reference components:** Case Name (Year) volume number Law Report Series starting page. **Reference example:** *The State of New South Wales v. The Commonwealth* (1915) 20 CLR 5.