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ACS Quick Citation Guide

About ACS Style

The American Chemical Society (ACS) Style may be used when citing references within the field of chemistry. The following guide is based on the *ACS Style Guide* (3rd ed.), published in 2006. For more extensive rules and examples of the ACS Style, refer to the [ACS Style Quick Guide](#). You can also ask a librarian for assistance.

Guidelines for Formatting Reference List

- Start the reference list on a new page, continuing the page numbers from the body of the paper.
- Center the title of the page (References) an inch from the top of the paper.
- Align the start of each entry with the left margin. Indent any subsequent lines one-half inch (or five spaces).
- Double-space the list within and between entries.
- Arrange entries in alphabetical order by author's last names.
- If there is no author, begin the citation with the title of the source.

Access Dates

- Include an access date with your citation if the website's born-digital content is regularly updated and not archived.

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Books

Book with One Author or Editor

General Format

Parenthetical Citation

(Author Surname, Year) or (Italicized Number) or superscript number

References

Author Surname, First Initial. Second Initial (if applicable). *Book Title*, Edition Number; Series Information (if applicable); Publisher, Year. URL for eBooks.

Example

Parenthetical Citation

(Peller, 109)

References

Peller, J. *Exploring Chemistry: Laboratory Experiments in General, Organic and Biological Chemistry*, 2nd ed.; Pearson Education, 2004.

Book with Two Authors or Editors

General Format

Parenthetical Citation

(Author Surname and Author Surname, Year) or (Italicized Number) or superscript number

References

Author Surname, First Initial. Second Initial (if applicable).; Author Surname, First Initial. Second Initial. *Book Title*, Edition Number (if applicable); Series Information (if applicable); Publisher, Year. URL for eBooks.

Example

Parenthetical Citation

(Stewart and Lomont, 76)

References

Stewart, I.; Lomont, J. *The Handy Chemistry Answer Book*; Visible Ink Press, 2014.

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Book with Three or More Authors
Parenthetical Citation
(Author Surname et al., Year) or (Italicized Number) or superscript number
References
Author Surname, First Initial. Second Initial (if applicable).; Author Surname, First Initial. Second Initial (if applicable).; Author Surname, First Initial. Second Initial (if applicable).; etc. <i>Book Title</i> , Edition Number; Series Information (if applicable); Publisher, Year. URL for eBooks.
Example
Parenthetical Citation
(Bettelheim et al., 375)
References
Bettelheim, F.; Brown, W.; Campbell, M.; etc. <i>Introduction to General, Organic, and Biochemistry</i> , 8th ed.; Thomson, Brooks/Cole, 2007.

Chapters in an Edited Volume/Anthology
Parenthetical Citation
(Author Surname, Year) or (Italicized Number) or superscript number
References
Author Surname, First Initial. Second Initial (if applicable). Chapter Name. In <i>Book Title</i> , Edition Number; Series Information (if applicable); Publisher, Year; inclusive page numbers. URL for eBooks.
Example
Parenthetical Citation
Renneboog ¹ described ammonia as a simple compound that is comprised of a single nitrogen atom chemically bonded to a trio of hydrogen atoms.
References

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Renneboog, R. Ammonium Ion. In *Principles of Chemistry*; Grey House Publishing, 2016; pp 66-67.

Entry in a Reference Work (e.g., Encyclopedia or Dictionary)

Parenthetical Citation

(Author Surname, Year) or (Italicized Number) or superscript number

References

Entry Title. In *Book Title*, Edition Number; Publisher, Year; Vol. Number, inclusive page numbers. URL for eBooks.

Example

Parenthetical Citation

Hawley's Condensed Chemical Dictionary (2) defines an impeller as "A type of agitator use in mixing or blending fluids of low viscosity, usually in a cylindrical chamber, either open or closed."

References

Impeller. In *Hawley's Condensed Chemical Dictionary*, 16th ed.; Wiley, 2016; pp 753.

Periodicals

Journal Article with One Author

Parenthetical Citation

(Author Surname, Year) or (Italicized Number) or superscript number

References

Author Surname, First Initial. Second Initial (if applicable). Title of Article. *Journal Title*, **Year**, Volume Number (Issue Number), inclusive page numbers. DOI if applicable.

Example

Parenthetical Citation

(Nelson, 2019)

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References
Nelson, P. G. What is Chemistry That I May Teach It? <i>Foundations of Chemistry</i> , 2019 , 21 (2), pp 179-191. DOI: 10.1007/s10698-018-9315-x.

Journal Article with Two Authors
Parenthetical Citation
(Author Surname and Author Surname, Year) or (Italicized Number) or superscript number
References
Author Surname, First Initial. Second Initial (if applicable); Author Surname, First Initial. Second Initial (if applicable). Title of Article. <i>Journal Title</i> , Year , Volume Number (Issue Number), inclusive page numbers. DOI if applicable.
Example
Parenthetical Citation
Blumenthal and Ladyman, 2018)
References
Blumenthal, G.; Ladyman, J. Theory Comparison and Choice in Chemistry, 1766-1791. <i>Foundations of Chemistry</i> , 2018 , 20 (3), pp 169-189.

Journal Article with Three or More Authors
Parenthetical Citation
(Author Surname et al., Year) or (Italicized Number) or superscript number
References
Author Surname, First Initial. Second Initial (if applicable); et al. Title of Article. <i>Journal Title</i> , Year , Volume Number (Issue Number), inclusive page numbers. DOI if applicable.
Example
Parenthetical Citation
(Sadjadi et al., 2019)
References

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Sadjadi, S; et al. Combination of Polymer and Halloysite Chemistry for Development of a Novel Catalytic Hybrid System. *Research on Chemical Intermediaries*, **2019**, 45 (9), pp 4349-4366.

Article in a Newspaper

Parenthetical Citation

(Author Surname, Year) or (Italicized Number) or superscript number

References

Author Surname, First Initial. Second Initial (if applicable). Title of Article. *Newspaper Title*, Month Day, Year, date last updated (if applicable). DOI if applicable.

Example

Parenthetical Citation

(Leiker, 2013)

References

Leiker, A. R. Professor Leaves \$2.2 Million to WSU Chemistry Department. *Wichita Eagle*, November 2, 2013.

Websites

Basic Website

Parenthetical Citation

(Author Surname, Year) or (Italicized Number) or superscript number

References

Creator Name or Author Surname, First Initial. Second Initial (if applicable). Title of Article. *Website Name*. Publisher, Year. URL (access date).

Example

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The guidelines(*I*) were designed to promote education of the highest quality for students at every two-year college program in the nation.

References

Society Committee on Education. *ACS Guidelines for Chemistry in Two-Year College Programs*. American Chemical Society, 2021. <https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/policies/two-year-college.html> (accessed 2021-11-09)

Government Publication from a Website

Parenthetical Citation

(Creator Name, Year) or (Italicized Number) or superscript number

References

Name of Government Agency. Publication Number. *Publication Title*, Edition Number, last revision date. URL (access date).

Example

Parenthetical Citation

According to the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research², the manufacturer's quality system is vital to guaranteeing continued quality control of products.

References

Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. *Applying ICH Q8(R2), Q9, and Q10 Principles to Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Controls Review*, rev. 05. 2016. <https://www.fda.gov/media/79615/download> (accessed 2021-11-09).

Entry in Online Reference Work

Parenthetical Citation

(Author Surname, Year) or (Italicized Number) or superscript number

References

Author Surname, First Initial. Second Initial (if applicable). Title of Entry. *Reference Work Title*, Edition Number; Year. URL.

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Example
Parenthetical Citation
(Hanson, 2017)
References
Hanson, C. Chemical Engineering. <i>Encyclopedia Britannica</i> ; 2017. https://www.britannica.com/technology/chemical-engineering (accessed Nov. 9, 2021).