CSE Citations

The former Council of Biology Editors (CBE) has been replaced by the Council of Science Editors (CSE). Their standard publication reference Scientific Style and Format: The CSE Manual for Authors, Editors, and Publishers, now in its seventh edition. Documentation standards for CSE are based in part on the National Library of Medicine Recommended Formats for Bibliographic Citation.

CBE/CSE format is relatively permissive: it leaves many matters such as the use of italics and bold fonts up to readers and editors of journals, and it includes two methods for citing and documenting sources: the citation-sequence system and the name-year system. This appendix concerns the more common of the two, the citation-sequence system.

While CSE is a valid standard, in practice many instructors require work to be formatted to the standards set by the NRC Research Press (formerly a division of the National Research Council of Canada) for their journals. These can be found online.

CSE CITATION-SEQUENCE SYSTEM

Under the citation-sequence system, citations are not incorporated into the text as they are in APA and MLA format; they are indicated by numbers corresponding to reference list entries. Moreover, the order of the items in the list is strictly sequential; there is not attempt to re-order the entries alphabetically.

CSE TEXT CITATIONS

Sources are identified by superscript numbers (or by numbers in parentheses or square brackets) referring to items listed at the end of the document. The citations are sequential: the first reference is 1, the second 2, and so on throughout the document. Note that [1] and [2] or (1) and (2) are also used.

Multiple References

References to multiple sources use commas (without spacing) to separate numbers. Numbers separated by hyphens are used to indicate continuous ranges:

This result was verified by subsequent studies 1,2,5,7,11-15.

Subsequent references to a particular source use the original number.

Secondary Citations

Many older studies cannot easily be obtained. If you know of a work only because another researcher has reported some of its findings, use a secondary citation. A secondary citation includes a number referring to the original work and a second one in parentheses referring to the work you actually consulted; the second number is preceded by the phrase “cited in.”

The first study of this phenomenon19(cited in 20) was incomplete.
Sample Paragraph

The paragraph has been adapted from the original source to demonstrate the citation-sequence system; one reference has been altered to illustrate the use of a citation range. Notice the absence of spacing before and after the citations:

In the current Internet, most connections use variants of the Transmission Control Protocol (TCP), which is a window-based congestion control mechanism. It is widely recognized, however, that TCP does not generally lead to a fair or efficient allocation of bandwidth among the connections. The fact that the Internet is now in the public domain, and thus in a potentially non-cooperative environment, has stimulated much work on pricing mechanisms to ensure that users do not misbehave and to provide quality of service in accordance with users' willingness to pay. Researchers in this area have proposed different schemes based on time and volume measurements or on per-packet charges. Furthermore, research has shown that flat rate charging leads to inefficiency, where a large number of low-usage users end up subsidizing a small number of high-usage users. This argues that usage-based pricing is desirable.

This passage has been adapted from the following article:


These are the references indicated by the numbers in the text:


20 Varian HR, Mackie-Mason JK. Pricing the Internet. In: Kahin B, Keller J, editors. Public access to the Internet; Proceedings of a conference on public access to the Internet; 1993 May 12-14; Cambridge,
THE REFERENCE LIST

The reference list is placed at the end of the document; the usual title is “References” (centred on the line but not enclosed in quotation marks or underlined), although “Cited References” is sometimes used. The entries are arranged in the order in which they appear in the text. Material not cited in the text may appear under the heading “Additional References” or “Bibliography.” Such material is arranged alphabetically.

CSE format does not specify that the numbers in the reference list must be superscripts (as they are in the sample listing above); regular numbers followed by a period and a space can be used. References for articles have no spaces after the semicolons and colons separating date, volume, and page; and there are no abbreviations for “page.”

REFERENCE ENTRIES: EXAMPLES

Books

(a) Book with single author

1 Last Name Initial(s)[up to 2] of Author, [followed by last names and initials of other authors, if any]. Article title [plain font]. City of publication: Publisher, year.


Note: references for books have spaces after colon and semicolon separating city, publisher, and date. Total pages (1223 p) are given for the whole book.

(b) Separately titled volume in multi-volume work


Journal Articles

(a) Single author


Note: References for articles have no spaces after semicolons and colons separating dates, volumes, and page numbers; and there is no “p” for page.

(b) Three or more authors

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Internet Materials

(a) Monograph

Note: The subtitle does not begin with a capital letter (unlike APA and MLA subtitles).

(b) Article