

Guide to OIT Citation Choices for Disciplines

By Valerie M. Ball for students and professors of WRI 227, WRI 327, SPE 111

Individual students must use the in-text citation and reference formats that are appropriate to the discipline of the individual communication, whether written or oral. The OIT Library website (<http://www.oit.edu/libraries/help/citing>) provides guidance and additional links to assist students in their pursuit of appropriate formats.

A physical source within the OIT Library is the reference section: a variety of style manuals details every method to cite sources within individual disciplines. In addition, writing professors and faculty members of specific disciplines can usually guide students to the appropriate formats, as can OIT reference librarians and peer-reviewed, scholarly sources. The OIT Library website has links to online resources for many citation choices; the Library website also contains information about formats often used at OIT. Websites of professional associations and scholarly journals for the different disciplines often provide additional details.

The “Guide to US Citation Formats” indicates disciplines and appropriate citation formats.

Guide to US Citation Formats

Discipline(s)	Format
Civil engineering, sometimes mechanical engineering, some technical communication	<i>Chicago Manual of Style</i> , 16th ed. (released August 2010) (Chicago)
Social sciences (psychology, anthropology, sociology, political science, education, economics), health sciences, communication, business	American Psychological Association (APA)
Biology, environmental science, renewable energy	Council of Science Editors (CSE): choose 1 of 3 formats
Electrical/electronics engineering	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)
English literature, humanities, foreign languages	Modern Language Association (MLA)
Dental Hygiene	National Library of Medicine (NLM)

Most of the data in the “Guide to US Citation Formats” are from Appendix A, “Citation Guidelines,” in Dan O’Hair’s third edition of *A Pocket Guide to Public Speaking* (2010), pages 268–282.

With the exception of numerically sequenced formats in CSE and IEEE, references are in alphabetical order by author’s last name or by title if no author is acknowledged.

Microsoft Word and a variety of other software and services sometimes provide formats and other assistance for in-text citations and reference or bibliographic entries, but such guidance is only as accurate as the most recent updates. Format styles can change frequently.

Format Samples for Reference List

The following entries use the same example of a book by a single author to show different, identified formats that apply to most citation requirements for OIT students.

Chicago Format

Bishop, Ellen Morris. 2003. *In Search of Ancient Oregon: A Geological and Natural History*. Portland, Oregon: Timber Press, Inc.

APA Format

Bishop, E. M. (2003). *In search of ancient Oregon: A geological and natural history*. Portland, Oregon: Timber Press, Inc.

CSE Format

(Sample shows name-year format in alpha order; other CSE formats use superscript numbers in sequential order.)

Bishop, E. M. 2003. In search of ancient Oregon: A geological and natural history. Portland, Oregon: Timber Press, Inc. 288 p.

IEEE Format

[B1] Bishop, E. M. *In Search of Ancient Oregon: A Geological and Natural History*. Portland, Oregon: Timber Press, Inc., 2003.

MLA Format

Bishop, Ellen Morris. *In Search of Ancient Oregon: A Geological and Natural History*. Portland, Oregon: Timber Press, Inc., 2003. Print.

Reference

O’Hair, Dan, Hannah Rubenstein, Rob Stewart. 2010. *A Pocket Guide to Public Speaking*, 3rd ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s.