



AMA Manual of Style: A Guide for Authors and Editors (11th edn)

AMA Manual of Style Committee

Previous Edition (10 ed.)

Publisher: Oxford University Press

Print ISBN-13: 9780190246556

DOI: 10.1093/jama/9780190246556.001.0001

Print Publication Date: Feb 2020

Published online: Feb 2020

© American Medical Association

Online Journal Articles, Preprints, and Manuscripts.

Chapter: References

Author(s): Lauren Fischer and Paul Frank

Online Journal Articles, Preprints, and Manuscripts.

UPDATE: In chapter 3.11.4.1, Preprints and Publication of Unedited Manuscripts, the first reference was updated to reflect clearer citation of a preprint manuscript, including removal of duplicative ID numbers and order of elements similar to other references. This change was made **May 28, 2020**.

UPDATE: In chapter 3.11.4.2.2, Data Repository, the first reference in this section was updated to indicate that the original data source should be cited, not a subsequent journal reference. This change was made **May 28, 2020**.

A complete reference to a journal article online includes the following:

- Authors' surnames and initials (the names of all authors should be given unless there are more than 6, in which case the names of the first 3 authors are used, followed by "et al")

Online Journal Articles, Preprints, and Manuscripts.

- Title of article and subtitle, if any
- Abbreviated name of journal (see 13.10, Abbreviations, Names of Journals)
- Year (or online publication date [month, day, year] if article is published online first and has yet to appear in a paginated issue or is published in an online-only journal)
- Location (pagination)
- DOI (if a DOI is not available for an online journal article, a URL and accessed date may be used; do not include a URL and accessed date for articles for which a DOI is available)
- Accessed [date]
- URL (verify that the link still works as close as possible to publication)

If including a URL in a reference citation, use the URL that will take the reader directly to the article; do not include a long search string, and also avoid a short, more general URL (eg, one to the publisher's homepage). Always include "http://" or "https://" before the URL to help ensure proper linking; most sites with "http://" have changed to the more secure "https://" and note that URLs do not always require "www." The URL is not followed by a period. Verify that the link still works as close as possible to publication.

<i>Avoid:</i>	using a URL from a search result: http://www.nature.com/search?journal=mp&q=A%20mega-analysis%20of%20genome-wide%20association%20&q_match=all&sp-a=sp1001702d&sp-m=0&sp-p-1=phrase&sp-sfv1-field=subject%7Cujournal&sp-x-1=ujournal&submit=go
<i>Better:</i>	http://www.nature.com/mp/journal/v18/n4/full/mp201221a.html
<i>Avoid:</i>	URLs with unnecessary characters after a delimiter (ie, hashtag, question mark, virgule): http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=2556124#tab12
<i>Better:</i>	http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=2556124 https://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02116010?term=phagoburn&rank=1 https://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02116010

NISO published The OpenURL Framework for Context-Sensitive Services standard in 2010. OpenURL uses a standardized format to encode descriptions of a website into core components (eg, character encoding, serialization, constraint language, ContextObject format, metadata format, namespace, transport, and community profile). For example, the JAMA Network journals' URLs are organized using an OpenURL format that permits any article to be easily linked to using its DOI:

[https://jamanetwork.com/journals/\[journal name\]/fullarticle/\[DOI\]](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/[journal name]/fullarticle/[DOI])

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamaoncology/fullarticle/10.1001/jamaoncol.2016.3662>

In reference citations, a DOI is preferable to a URL if one is available; a DOI should be available for most journal articles. No accessed date is required for the DOI because it is a permanent identifier; it is presented as the last item in the reference.

Note: The DOI is provided immediately after “doi:” and is set closed up to it, per convention, and is not followed by a period. For example, in reference 2 below, the DOI would not be presented as <http://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2015-2488> because that is a web address and not a DOI. DOIs should not be a part of a web address in reference citations unless the DOI is being used specifically in a URL, as indicated above.

1. van der Kam S, Roll S, Swarthout T, et al. Effect of short-term supplementation with ready-to-use therapeutic food or micronutrients for children after illness for prevention of malnutrition: a randomised controlled trial in Uganda. *PLoS Med*. 2016;13(2):e1001951. doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.1001951
2. Allison MA, Hurley LP, Markowitz L, et al. Primary care physicians’ perspectives about HPV vaccine. *Pediatrics*. 2016;137(2):e20152488. doi:10.1542/peds.2015-2488
3. Saeb S, Zhang M, Karr CJ, et al. Mobile phone sensor correlates of depressive symptom severity in daily-life behavior: an exploratory study. *J Med Internet Res*. 2015;17(7):e175. doi:10.2196/jmir.4273
4. Frazer K, Callinan JE, McHugh J, et al. Legislative smoking bans for reducing harms from secondhand smoke exposure, smoking prevalence and tobacco consumption. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2016;(1):CD005992. doi:10.1002/14651858.CD005992.pub3
5. Metcalfe K, Gershman S, Ghadirian P, et al. Contralateral mastectomy and survival after breast cancer in carriers of BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations: retrospective analysis. *BMJ*. 2014;348:g226. doi:10.1136/bmj.g226

In the following example, the citation is to supplemental content (ie, not to the article itself) that appears with the online article.

6. Meeker D, Linder JA, Fox CR, et al. Effect of behavioral interventions on inappropriate antibiotic prescribing among primary care practices: a randomized clinical trial. Supplement 1. Study protocol and changes to analysis plan. *JAMA*. 2016;315(6):562-570. Accessed June 18, 2019. <https://www.jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2488307>

An article that appears online before print publication may be edited, tagged, composed, and posted as it will appear in print or in a PDF form but before the print publication (with or without print pagination), or an article may be edited, tagged, composed, and published as part of a specific online issue of the journal. Examples are given below:

7. Tamburini S, Shen N, Chih Wu H, Clemente JC. The microbiome in early life: implications for health outcomes. *Nat Med*. Published online July 7, 2016. doi: 10.1038/nm4142

In the preceding example, the article has not yet been paginated in an issue (which may be published in print, online, or both), and the DOI serves as the unique identifier for the article. If the article is subsequently published in an issue with page numbers, the following citation can be used:

8. Tamburini S, Shen N, Chih Wu H, Clemente JC. The microbiome in early life: implications for health outcomes. *Nat Med*. 2016;22(7):713-722. doi:10.1038/nm.4142

3.11.4.1 Preprints and Publication of Unedited Manuscripts.

Preprints are another online method for publication in which a manuscript is uploaded by authors to a public server, without editing or formatting, and typically without peer review.⁹ A preprint may be a predecessor to publication in a peer-reviewed journal; it is “archived” and citable. Preprint servers include arXiv.org, bioRxiv.org, MedRxiv, and many others. Preprints were initially used more often in the physical sciences than in medicine, but they are becoming more common in the biological sciences.¹⁰ Preprints may have DOIs and can follow this citation format:

1. Bloss CS, Wineinger NE, Peters M, et al. A prospective randomized trial examining health care utilization in individuals using multiple smartphone-enabled biosensors. bioRxiv. Preprint posted online October 28, 2015. doi:10.1101/029983

If a preprint is subsequently published in a peer-reviewed journal, the reference citation should include complete data as outlined in this chapter. Note: The version cited should be the version used.

2. Bloss CS, Wineinger NE, Peters M, et al. A prospective randomized trial examining health care utilization in individuals using multiple smartphone-enabled biosensors. *PeerJ*. 2016;4:e1554. doi:10.7717/peerj.1554

Some publishers post early unedited versions of manuscripts before publication of the final version of an article.

3. Collins-McMillen D, Stevenson EV, Heon Kim J, et al. HCMV utilizes a nontraditional STAT1 activation cascade via signaling through EGFR and integrins to efficiently promote the motility, differentiation, and polarization of infected

monocytes. *J Virol*. Accepted manuscript. Published online October 11, 2017. doi: 10.1128/JVI.00622-17

4. Atkins M, Coutinho AD, Nunna S, Gupte-Singh K, Eaddy M. Confirming the timing of phase-based costing in oncology studies: a case example in advanced melanoma. *J Med Econ*. Accepted manuscript. Published online October 12, 2017. doi: 10.1080/13696998.2017.1391818

In the examples below, the authors have published version 1 of their article a week after acceptance in a peer-reviewed journal. The full version of the same article was published in its entirety 4 weeks later. The version of the manuscript that is cited needs to be indicated.

5. Roberts-Galbraith RH, Brubacher JL, Newmark PA. A functional genomics screen in planarians reveals regulators of whole-brain regeneration. *eLife*. Accepted manuscript, version 1. Published online September 9, 2016. doi:10.7554/eLife.17002

6. Roberts-Galbraith RH, Brubacher JL, Newmark PA. A functional genomics screen in planarians reveals regulators of whole-brain regeneration. *eLife*. 2016;5:e17002. doi:10.7554/eLife.17002

3.11.4.2 Repositories.

Papers (manuscripts and articles) in online repositories (eg, escholarship.org [University of California]) may be cited as follows.

3.11.4.2.1 Manuscripts and Articles in an Institutional Repository.

1. Tseng V. Effect of noise reduction methods in the ICU on sleep quality. UC Irvine. June 8, 2016. Accessed August 17, 2016. <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/190551hq>
2. Vodyanoy V, Pustovyy O, Globa L, Sorokulova I. Evaluation of a new vasculature by high resolution light microscopy: primo vessel and node. Cornell University Library. August 15, 2016. Accessed August 17, 2016. <https://arxiv.org/abs/1608.04276v1>

3.11.4.2.2 Data Repository.

When citing data from a repository, cite the original source for the data.

3. Cutter AD, Gray JC. *Dryad Digital Repository*. Deposited August 17, 2016. doi: 10.5061/dryad.734v9

The data package or data set should be cited in the original publication to link the publication and the data. Examples of citations to a data package follow:

4. Francuzik W. Data from: Skin microbiome in atopic dermatitis: 16S gene sequence data. *figshare*. 2016. doi:10.6084/m9.figshare.4028943
5. Levy I, Maor Y, Mahroum N, et al. Data from: Missed opportunities for earlier diagnosis of HIV in patients that presented with advanced HIV disease: a retrospective cohort study. *Dryad Digital Repository*. 2016. doi:10.5061/dryad.73c003.11.5

