Authors of scientific publications must properly cite previously published materials relating to their research. These materials are referred to as references or citations, and are composed of bibliographic elements which present the facts of publication. Elements included in a citation can vary depending upon the type of publication being cited and the citation style being used. Careful attention to the details necessary in providing accurate and complete references is a hallmark of a well-trained researcher and expedites research for future scientists.

There are many different citation styles in use today. Styles that you may be familiar with include APA, MLA, and the Chicago/Turabian. In the natural sciences, however, citation styles are generally journal dependent. For this assignment, the preferred citation style format is that used by the journal, Ecology, a publication of the Ecological Society of America (ESA) that publishes essays and articles reporting the results of original scientific research in basic and applied ecology.

The following sections provide examples of citing journal articles. The bulleted section below lists the required bibliographic elements for preparing a citation for that publication. Examples are provided in the subsequent section.

I. JOURNAL ARTICLES:

- **Author(s).** Invert the order of the first author's name (last name first, with a comma between last name and first initial), but subsequent authors' names are in normal order. Instead of first & middle names, use initials. Use commas between authors' names and a period after the list of authors.

- **Year of publication.** Use a period after the year.

- **Article title.** Capitalize only the first word, proper names, and the first word of a genus-species name. Genus-species names are printed in *italics* or *underlined*. Use a period after the title.

- **Periodical title.** Capitalize all significant words in the title. No abbreviations are allowed. Omit "The" when it is the first word of the title.

- **Periodical volume number.** Use a colon after the number.

- **Page numbers.** Use a dash between beginning and ending number, use full numbers (e.g., 430-435 not 430-35.) Use a period after the page numbers.
II. EXAMPLES:

A. Single Author:

The following citation is based on this journal article (EXAMPLE):

LITERATURE CITED


Parenthetical (in-text) – There are two options for citing parenthetically:

Saltonstall (2002) reported that the genetic structure of North American Phragmites populations is similar to those in Europe and elsewhere.

OR

Evidence supports that the North American Phragmites is genetically similar to Phragmites populations in Europe and elsewhere (Saltonstall 2002).

B. Two Authors:

The following citation is based on this journal article (EXAMPLE):

LITERATURE CITED


Parenthetical (in-text) – There are two options for citing parenthetically:

Baldwin and Johnsen (2009) reported that male blue crabs prefer females with red claw dactyls.

OR

Evidence suggests that male blue crabs prefer females with red claw dactyls (Baldwin and Johnsen 2009).
C. Three or More Authors:

The following citation is based on this journal article (EXAMPLE):

**LITERATURE CITED**


**Parenthetical (in-text) – There are two options for citing parenthetically:**

Miller et al. (2006) demonstrate that oxygen isotopes from tree-ring cellulose can serve as a proxy for studying past tropical cyclone activity.

Or

Oxygen isotopes from tree-ring cellulose can serve as a proxy for studying past tropical cyclone activity (Miller et al. 2006).

It’s understandable if any of this is confusing to you. If you need assistance please feel free to contact me: Peter Fritzler, Sciences Librarian (fritzlerp@uncw.edu).