CITATIONS: How to Tell the Difference Between Them!

When you find a citation, how do you know if it is for a book, a scholarly, journal article, a magazine, etc.? This handout will give you some tips.

Book citations
Book citations will always have a publisher, place of publication, and year of publication.


TIP: To find this in the library use the Library Catalog, and type in the title of the book or the name of the author, last name first.

Book chapters
This citation is for a chapter in a scholarly book. It has a publisher, place of publication and a year of publication, but it also includes two clues which indicate it is a chapter: “In:” and then the name of the book, “ed.” for editor (rather than an author). In this case it also includes the pages of the chapter (87-94) and the total number of pages in the book.

**Return from the Implants: Cyberpunk's Schizophrenic Future. In: Kraus, Elisabeth (ed. and introd.); 259 pp.; Simulacrum America: The USA and the Popular Media; Camden House, Rochester, NY: 87-94**

TIP: To find this in the library use the Library Catalog, and type in the title of the book or the name of the editor, last name first.

Articles
Periodical articles (like newspapers, magazines, and scholarly journals) will have volume and/or issue numbers and usually a day, month, or season of publication along with the year. Also, they will indicate the page numbers of the article.


Newspapers will often include the number of words in the article rather than the number of pages (since many news articles are fairly short). Page numbers will also often include the section (A, B, C, D, etc.) of the paper too (3E in this case).

**Star Tribune (Minneapolis, MN), October 8, 2003, Wednesday, Metro Edition, VARIETY; BOOKS MIDWEEK; Pg. 3E, 680 words. ILLUSTRATED BOOKS; Neil Gaiman brings Morpheus back, Eric Hanson; Staff Writer**
TIP: To find this in the library use Journal Finder, and type in the name of the periodical (Journal of American & Comparative Cultures or Star Tribune) as a journal title search.

**Dissertations**

This is a citation to an abstract (short summary) of a dissertation in Dissertation Abstracts.


This is the citation for a complete dissertation/theses. Note the name of the university and the lack of a place of publication or publisher.

| Terrorism vs democracy: a study in the effect terrorism has on the political systems it attempts to influence by Michel Marc Desloover. University of Louisville, 1986. |

TIP: Generally, UofL only has dissertations and theses completed here. Many can be found in UofL Theses and Dissertations database. For others, see ProQuest Digital Dissertations Database.

**Government Publications**

Government documents will have the name of a federal government agency as the publisher or they will indicate that they have been published by the Government Printing Office (GPO).


TIP: To find this in the Library Catalog, type in the title of the document. If not found, see a librarian at a service desk.


TIP: This document has a URL; it can be found online. Many government documents are no longer published in a print format.

**Conference Proceedings**

Scholarly conference papers are sometimes published in the conference’s proceedings.

| The Symbolic Boundary of Tattoo. AU: Marchetti, Silvia SO: International Sociological Association, Brisbane, Australia (ISA), 2002 |

TIP: Search the Library Catalog by the title of the proceedings. Often these papers can only be obtained from the scholarly society which hosted the conference. You can also try an Internet search engine such as Google.