

Help sheet 1b: Vancouver Referencing Guidelines

Introduction:

Why is it important to reference publications you cite in your essay or project?

Referencing your work correctly is essential. If you acknowledge the work of others you are taking steps to prevent plagiarising someone else's work. You are also allowing the reader to trace your line of research. You need to give sufficient detail of the item to which you are referring so that readers can easily trace the item whether it is a book chapter, article or webpage.

When gathering information for your assignment from books, journals and web pages it is important that you keep a record of where your information comes from. This can be done using [bibliographic referencing software](#) such as [Reference Manager](#). It is difficult and very time consuming to try and trace a book with just a chapter heading and an idea of how big the book might be by the size of you copied pages and a vague idea that you got it from the library... or a friend!

The Vancouver referencing system

Citing references in your text (in-text citation), in the Vancouver/BMJ style You should use superscript Arabic numerals e.g. ² for in-text citations; the superscript number links directly to the reference list at the end of the piece of work e.g. when quoting scientific research, authors should cite references and avoid reliance on abstracts.¹ Some authors who haven't published recent research like to write review articles which are not peer reviewed so they can cite many of their own previous publications²...

Doing superscript numbers in Word

Since Word is the word processor that most students are likely to use, it's worth mentioning how you can insert superscript numbers.

- 1.Type the number, as normal, in the correct position in your text.
- 2.Carefully select the number by itself.
- 3.From Word's menu bar select: Format > Font
- 4.In the list of options in the pop-up panel, mark "Superscript", then click on "OK".

Punctuation

Reference numbers should go:

- After commas and full stops.
- Before colons and semicolons.

Assigning a reference number

Reference numbers should be assigned in the order in which the references first appear in your text. If you cite the same reference twice, re-use its original reference number - there is no need to give it a new one. The following is from an editorial in the BMJ (A European alcohol strategy [editorial]. *BMJ* 2006;333:871-2) - it has been abridged for the purposes of this example:

"The industry has also used the single market to justify attacks on labels being introduced in France to warn pregnant women of the hazards of drinking.⁴ Consequently, national health ministries ... asked the commission to prepare a comprehensive strategy to reduce alcohol related harm.⁵

"...The resulting report catalogued the adverse effects on health in detail and showed how alcohol attributable disease, injury, and violence cost the health, welfare, employment, and criminal justice sectors £84bn (€125bn; \$157bn) each year, including £40bn in lost production, while the intangible costs of suffering and lost life added a further £182bn each year.⁶

"The draft strategy that emerged is now being considered by all the commissioners and a decision on whether to adopt it is expected at the end of October...

"The strategy foresees several actions at the European level... However, its main thrust will be to support collaboration among member states, encouraging them to implement policies that are evidence based and proportionate.

"Given the magnitude of the threat to health posed by hazardous drinking, some may argue that the strategy should go much further.^{5"}

Citing specific pages

To cite a specific page, indicate the page number in brackets after the reference number:

...there is strong evidence of benefit in elderly patients,^{12 (p11)} ...

To cite more than one page, indicate the page range:

...there is strong evidence of benefit in elderly patients,^{12 (pp11-12)} ...

Citing several references at the same time

To cite two references at one, include both reference numbers:

...there is strong evidence of benefit in elderly patients,^{12 13} ...

To simultaneously cite more than two, consecutive references at once, just indicate the range:

...there is strong evidence of benefit in elderly patients,¹²⁻¹⁴ ...

If you are citing a mixture of consecutive and non-consecutive references, then indicate specific references and ranges as appropriate:

...there is strong evidence of benefit in elderly patients,^{10 12-14} ...

Example references in the Vancouver/BMJ style:

Books

You need to give details of the author(s), year of publication, title, edition if it's not the first edition, principal place of publication and publisher:-

Hill C. *Practical guidelines for cystic fibrosis care*. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1998.

Krentz AJ, Bailey CJ. *Type 2 diabetes in practice*. London: Royal Society of Medicine, 2001.

Chapter in a book

Watkins AD, Neuropharmacology. In: Kay, AB editor. *Allergy and allergic diseases*. Oxford: Blackwell Science, 1997. p505-17.

Conference proceedings

Kimura J, Shibasaki H, editors. *Recent advances in clinical neurophysiology*. Proceedings of the 10th International Congress of EMG and Clinical Neurophysiology; 1995 Oct 15-19; Kyoto, Japan. Amsterdam: Elsevier, 1996.

Conference paper

Bengtsson S, Solheim BG. Enforcement of data protection, privacy and security in medical informatics. In: Lun KC, Degoulet P, Piemme TE, Rienhoff O, editors. *MEDINFO 92*. Proceedings of the 7th World Congress on Medical Informatics; 1992 Sep 6-10; Geneva, Switzerland. Amsterdam: North-Holland, 1992. p1561-5.

Government publications

Great Britain. *Health of the Nation*. London: HMSO, 1991. (Cmnd 1523.)

NHS Executive. *Clinical governance: quality in the new NHS*. London: Department of Health, 1999.

Royal Liverpool Children's Inquiry. *The Royal Liverpool Children's Inquiry: report*. (HC; 12-II). London: Stationery Office, 2001.

Act of parliament

Access to Justice Act 1999. London: The Stationery Office, 1999.

Reports

Faulkner A, et al. *Effectiveness of hip prostheses in primary total hip replacement: a critical review of evidence and an economic model*. Alton: Core Research on behalf of the NCCHTA, 1998. (Health technology assessment. review; v. 2, no. 6)

Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust. *CHI action plan/Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust*. Southampton: Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust, 2000.

Dissertations

Bunker VW. *Nutrition in the elderly with particular reference to essential trace elements* [dissertation]. Southampton: Univ. Southampton. 1987.

Dictionary and Similar References

Stedman's medical dictionary. 26th ed. Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins, 1995. Apraxia; p119-20.

Newspaper article

Charter D. Patients die after wrong transplant. *The Times* 2001 Sept 13.

Journal article

Vega KJ, Pina I, Krevsky B. Heart transplantation is associated with an increased risk for pancreatobiliary disease. *Ann Intern Med* 1996;124:980-3.

Warner JA, Warner JO. Early life events in allergic sensitisation. *Br Med Bull* 2000;56:883-93.

Popplewell EJ, Innes VA, Lloyd-Hughes S, Jenkins EL, Khdir K, Bryant TN, et al. The effect of high-efficiency and standard vacuum-cleaners on mite, cat and dog allergen levels and clinical progress. *Pediatr Allergy Immunol* 2000;11:142-8.

Journal article in a supplement

Gazzard B. British HIV Association (BHIVA) guidelines for the treatment of HIV-infected adults with antiretroviral therapy (2005). *HIV Med* 2005;6 (suppl 2):1-61.

Journal article in electronic format

Chappuis F, Rijal S, Soto A, Menten J, Boelaert M. A meta-analysis of the diagnostic performance of the direct agglutination test and rK39 dipstick for visceral leishmaniasis.

BMJ 2006 333:723-6. <http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/333/7571/723> (accessed 10 Oct 2006).

Journal article: electronic & print versions differ

Juul AB, Wetterslev J, Gluud C, Kofoed-Enevoldsen A, Jensen G, Callesen T, et al. Effect of perioperative β blockade in patients with diabetes undergoing major non-cardiac surgery: randomised placebo controlled, blinded multi-centre trial.

Abridged version: BMJ 2006; 332: 1482-5.

Full version: <http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/332/7556/1482> (accessed 4 Oct 2006).

Organisation as an author

Diabetes Prevention Program Research Group. Hypertension, insulin, and proinsulin in participants with impaired glucose tolerance. *Hypertension* 2002;40:679-86.

Pamphlets and booklets

Cite pamphlets and booklets in the same way you would a book. If it does not include all the necessary information, put down as much information as you can.

British Nutrition Foundation. *Nutrition in pregnancy*. London: British Nutrition Foundation, 1994.

Buck SF, Brown DA. *Mortality from lung cancer and bronchitis in relation to smoke and sulphur dioxide concentration, population density and social index*. London: Tobacco Research Council, 1964. (Tobacco Research Council research papers 7).

Personal communications

Personal communications should usually be cited in the body of your text:

...(J Bloggs, personal communication, 2006)...

Audiovisual material

Abrahams PH. *McMinn's interactive clinical anatomy* [CD-ROM]. Version 2.0. London: Mosby, 2001.

Acland RD. *Acland's DVD atlas of human anatomy*. DVD 3. *The trunk* [DVD]. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2004.

Television and radio programmes

Television and radio programmes should usually be cited in the body of your text:

...(Horizon, "The world's first face transplant", BBC2, 17 Oct 2006)...

Electronic publications/websites/web pages

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. *Disease fact sheet: avian influenza*. www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/notifiable/ai/index.htm (accessed 9 Oct 2006).

Department of Health Policies and Guidance

www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/fs/en (accessed 2 May 2006).

Cochrane Library

Lord JM, Flight IHK, Norman RJ. Insulin-sensitising drugs (metformin, troglitazone, rosiglitazone, pioglitazone, d-chiro-inositol) for polycystic ovary syndrome (Cochrane review). *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* 2003;(2):CD003053

Source

<http://www.soton.ac.uk/library/infoskills/references/vancouver.html> and
<http://www.soton.ac.uk/library/infoskills/references/vancouverexamples.html>