

Understanding Citations

A citation is a reference to a source of information. A citation typically includes enough identifying information, such as the author, title, and source, for a reader to be able to locate a copy of the item.

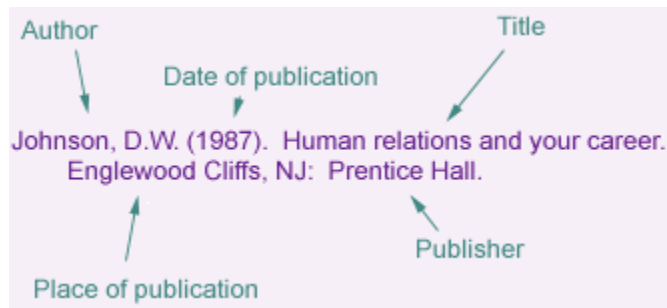
Example:

Munro, Alice. *Lives of Girls and Women: a Novel*. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1971.

The ability to interpret citations or references to various sources of information is a fundamental research skill. In order to be able to locate an item from a bibliography at the end of an article or book or from a database printout, you need to be able to determine what type of source the item is. A partial list of types of sources would include: essay or article in a book; journal or magazine article; newspaper article; Internet site.

Following are examples of the most common types of sources students find in bibliographies and in databases:

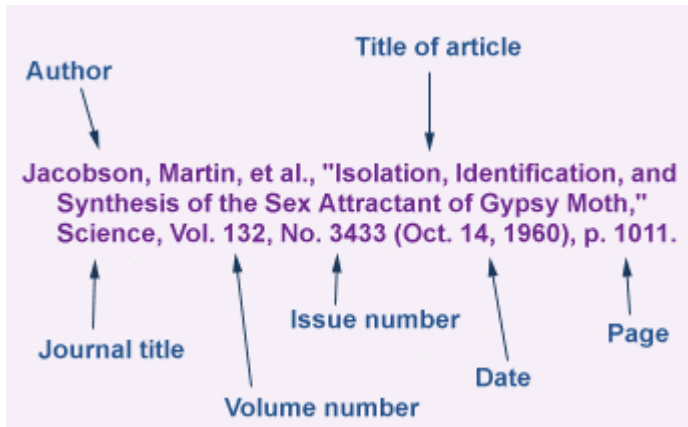
Book Citation



Article in a Book



Journal Article Citation



Internet Source Citation



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