

## THE VANCOUVER SYSTEM

This guide is also available on the Internet at :-

<http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/LIBReferenceStyles?OpenDocument&Highlight=2,referencing>

### Introduction

The Vancouver system differs from the Harvard system in using a number series to indicate references. Bibliographies list these in numerical order as they appear in the text. The main advantage of the Vancouver style is that the main text reads more easily, which is considered to be less obtrusive. Additionally, references in the bibliography are directly correlated to numbers, saving the reader time in searching alphabetically for the first author of a reference.

This guide covers the basic principles only.

As this system can have minor variations you will need to consult your course tutor for their preferred format. For more detailed accounts consult the references cited in this fact sheet.

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### References

References are always cited in two places - in the text and in the bibliography.

### Text citations

Numbers in parentheses indicate where a reference is being cited, e.g.

The author has discussed the implications of these proposals on the National Health Service in another paper (1). Other writers have commented on related issues, notably Lane (2,3) and Lewis (4).

In many publications the numbers used to cite references are often in superscript, a small typeface set above the line like this<sup>2 3</sup>.

### The bibliography

The bibliography, or list of references, is given at the end of the text and are cited in numerical order. This is a more economical style than Harvard, and excessive punctuation, spacing and formatting is absent. Journal names are abbreviated.

The elements of a bibliographical reference should be taken from the title page of the publication.

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### Books

<b>Surname</b>	of the author or editor followed by initials
<b>Title</b>	of the work followed by a full stop. (Only the first word of the title begins with a capital letter)
<b>Edition</b>	(if not the first) followed by a full stop.
<b>Place of publication</b>	followed by a colon
<b>Publisher's name</b>	followed by a semi-colon
<b>Year of publication</b>	followed by a full stop.

### Journals

<b>Surname</b>	of the author or editor followed by initials
<b>Title of article</b>	followed by a full stop. (Only the first word of the title begins with a capital letter)
<b>Title of journal</b>	(abbreviated) followed by a full stop. Capitals are used for Main Words
<b>Year of publication</b>	followed by month/date, followed by semi-colon
<b>Volume</b>	number, and part number in brackets, followed by colon
<b>Pagination</b>	i.e. the numbers of the first and last pages on which the article appears

e.g.

- (1) Annas, G.J. New drugs for acute respiratory distress syndrome. *NEJM*. 1997; 337: 435-39.
- (2) Grinspoon, L. and Bakalar, J.B. *Marijuana*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press: 1993.
- (3) Feinberg, T.E. and Farah, M.J. (eds) *Behavioural neurology and neuropsychology*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: McGraw-Hill: 1997.

## Other useful resources

University of Leicester (2005) *Bibliographic Citations & References: The Harvard (Author/Date) Style*. Available at: <http://www.le.ac.uk/li/sources/subject8/vancouver.html>. [Accessed 3 November 2005]

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## Electronic Information

As electronic sources have become an integral part of academic work, it is important that they are included accurately and consistently. Suggested styles and examples of the most common types of electronic references are given below.

When creating a bibliography which includes electronic information, some important tips include:

- State the date the web document was last updated, or if this is not available, the date you accessed the site in square brackets. The date accessed should be included in any case
- Where there is no explicit author, use the title as the main piece of information in the reference
- Print out a copy of the source as online information is often temporary and may have been deleted or updated when next you look at it
- Indicate what type of publication or which web page you are referring to

e.g

### WWW Document

Food Standards Agency What is BSE? [monograph on the internet]. London: Food Standards Agency; 2003 [cited 2003 Jun 12]. Available from: <http://www.foodstandards.gov.uk/bse>

### WWW Article in Electronic Journal

Cramer, S.B. A united approach to healthy schools. *British Food Journal* [serial on the internet]. 1998 [cited 2001 Jan 11]; 100 (8): 380-384. Available from: <http://www.emerald-library.com>

### CD-ROMs

Times Newspapers *The Times and The Sunday Times* Jan 1 1992 - Dec 31 1992 [CD-ROM]. London: The Times Network Systems; 1992.

The electronic information section has been compiled with assistance from the documents listed below, from which further information may be obtained:

National Library of Medicine (NLM) [homepage on the internet]. Bethesda: National Library of Medicine; 2003-2005 [updated 2005 Sep 19; cited 2005 Nov 3]. Bibliographic Services Division; [1 screen]. Available from: [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform\\_requirements.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html)