

## Citing Internet Sources in MLA Style

(Taken in part from *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, Fifth Edition*, Joseph Gibaldi, ed. New York: Modern Language Association of America, 1999).

### In-text Citations (Citing Web Sources in the Paper Itself)

An in-text citation for an Internet source is similar to an in-text citation for any other source. It must clearly point to a specific source in the list of works cited, and usually consists of an author's last name and a page number placed in a parenthetical citation at the end of the sentence. However, since Internet sources oftentimes are not paginated, and since the author of a website's material may not be identified, Internet sources can be cited in the text of the sentence, usually in their entirety and often by title, if the website has one. Some examples:

- On Gillian James' website, Ernest Hemingway Online, she offers new and unique views on the writer she calls "one of America's greatest."
- The Super Sports Drinks, Inc. home page provides valuable information for anyone interested in the current state of the soft drink industry.

In some cases, however, Internet sources may be divided into numbered sections, for example, paragraphs or screens, and sometimes pages. For sources with paragraph or screen numbers or any other type of numbered sections other than pages, you may write out the word for the section in your parenthetical citation or use an appropriate abbreviation (par. for paragraph; consult the MLA guide for others). If your source uses page numbers, do not include an abbreviation. Some examples:

- Beethoven has been called the "first politically motivated composer," for he was "caught up in the whole ferment of ideas that came out of the French Revolution" (Gardiner, screens 2-3).
- "The debut of Julius Caesar," according to Sohmer, "proclaimed Shakespeare's Globe a theater of courage and ideas, a place where an audience must observe with the inner eye, listen with the inner ear" (par. 44).
- One website called Arthur Miller "the finest playwright of our time" (Miller Online screen 4).
- "The study of comparative literature," Bill Readings wrote, "takes off from the idea of humanity" (6).

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### The List of Works Cited (Bibliographic Entries)

A works cited entry for an Internet source is similar to a works cited entry for any other source. As much information as is available about the source should be given, in the following order:

1. Author's name, if given. If only an editor, a compiler, or a translator is identified, cite that person's name, followed by the appropriate abbreviation (*ed.*, *comp.*, *trans.*)
2. Title of the material (website, article, online book)
3. Name of any additional editor, compiler, or translator, if any
4. Electronic publication information, including any version numbers given (such as from an online encyclopedia), date of electronic publication or of latest update, and name of any sponsoring institutions or organizations
5. Date you accessed the source/site
6. Web address

### Examples:

**A web site: personal or professional**—Begin the entry with the name of the person who created the site, if given, followed by the title of the site, underlined. If there is no title, give a description such as “home page”, not underlined. If the web address must be divided between two lines, break it only after a slash and do not add a hyphen.

James, Gillian. Ernest Hemingway Online. 1995. English Dept., Weatherby U. 24 Oct. 1999 <<http://www.weatherby.edu/~james/hemingway.html>>.

Super Sports Drinks, Inc. Home page. 1 May 1998 <<http://www.sportsdrinks.com>>.

### An online book

Austen, Jane. Pride and Prejudice. Ed. Henry Churchyard. 1996. 10 Sept. 1998 <<http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/pridprej.html>>.

**An online article**—Begin the way you would cite an article from a regular, printed periodical. Then add the information required by an online citation.

Calabrese, Michael. “Between Despair and Ecstasy: Marco Polo’s Life of the Buddha.” Exemplaria 9.1 (1997). 22 June 1998 <<http://web.english.ufl.edu/english/exemplaria/calax.htm>>.

“Fresco.” Britannica Online. Vers. 98.2. April 1998. Encyclopaedia Britannica. 8 May 1998 <<http://www.eb.com>: 180>.