MLA Handbook 8th ed.

What’s New?
Z. Smith Reynolds Library – Wake Forest University
Move from Fixed Rules to a Set of Guidelines

• Guidelines can apply to any source
• Tools are used to “intuitively document sources”
• Rules for formatting a research paper are the same as those used in the 7th ed.
• There is no longer necessarily one “right” way to cite a source
• Students are encouraged to look in unexpected or nontraditional places for their source material
The MLA Style Center

• Three sample research papers in MLA Style

• Practice template and examples of core elements: Works Cited: A Quick Guide

• FAQ section: Ask the MLA
# MLA Practice Template

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title of source.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Container 1
| Title of container, |
| Other contributors, |
| Version, |
| Number, |
| Publisher, |
| Publication date, |
| Location. |

## Container 2
| Title of container, |
| Other contributors, |
| Version, |
| Number, |
| Publisher, |
| Publication date, |
| Location. |

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## BASIC CITATION

**Who**

**What**

**Where**

**When**
A Few Changes (there are more)

• If a source has three or more authors, only the first is listed, followed by et al.
• Pages are listed as p. or pp., but not in-text citations
• City of publication is no longer listed unless there is a special situation
• Periodicals are now identified with "vol. 35, no. 3" instead of "35.3."
• Include the full date information (month, day, or season) along with the year
• URLs are included without http:// or https:// and no angle brackets are used
• The use of DOIs are encouraged
• Placeholders such as n.d. (no date) are no longer used.
More Changes

• Include the name of multiple publishing companies if they are distinctive and not a division within a company. For example, U of North Carolina P / Yale UP.

• If division and parent publishing company names are listed, use the division name.

• Write out the some words that were previously abbreviated: translators, editors, directors, creators, performers, etc.
Some Things Don’t Change

• UP for University Press (Ex. U of Chicago P, Wake Forest UP) (1.6.3)
• Omit business words in publishers names like Company, Corporation, Incorporated, and Limited.
• ed. for editions, (2nd ed, revised ed., etc.)
• Capitalization of titles and subtitles are standardized (sec. 1.2.1 and sec. 1.2.2)
Optional Elements

- Total number of volumes in a multivolume source
- Name of series
- Unexpected type of work (transcript, address, etc.)
- Information about the prior publication if previously published
- Date of access
- If creating a hanging indent is difficult (such as when creating web pages), leave extra space between entries to serve the same purpose
What’s the difference?

8th ed.


7th ed.


8th ed. Electronic Book (Database)


8th ed. Electronic Book (Kindle)


7th ed. Electronic Book (Database)

8th ed. Corporate Author (When Publisher and Author Are the Same)


7th ed.


@abananasfoster (Amanda Foster). “Learning all about nested containers in the new MLA 8th edition. Loving the ‘Practice template’ in the back - #mla8th.” Twitter, 9 June 2016, 11:24 a.m., twitter.com/abananasfoster/status/740927611904397313.
Trump, Donald J. “Based on the incredibly inaccurate coverage and reporting of the record setting Trump campaign, we are hereby revoking the press credentials of the phony and dishonest Washington Post.” Facebook, 13 June 2016, 4:37 p.m., www.facebook.com/DonaldTrump/?rf=11248937876520.
8th ed. Email

Hatch, Nathan O. “A Message from President Hatch.” Received by Joy M. Gambill, 11 June 2016.

7th ed. Email

Hatch, Nathan O. “A Message from President Hatch.” Message to Joy M. Gambill. 11 June 2016. E-mail.
8th ed. Film (Begin with an individual’s’s contribution, or the title)


8th ed. Government Document from a Web site


7th ed.

8th ed. Web site when site name does not reflect the publisher’s name

Any questions?