



Common Problems in MLA Electronic Documentation

NOTE: The section numbers in this handout are found in the 6th edition of the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers.

Citing Electronic Publications: Document from an Internet Site

This model summarizes the information in section 5.9.1. A more complete list of possible elements is found on pp. 214-16.

Most citations of Internet sites have the same basic set of elements. If an element is not available or not applicable, then go on to the next element, providing what you can locate:

1. **Author's name.** The author of the document may be an organization.
2. **Title of the document** in quotation marks. If the Internet site consists of only one document, skip this item.
3. **Print publication information.** If there is **no print publication information**, then skip to #4. If there is **print publication information**, provide that information according to MLA guidelines.
4. **Electronic publication information.** Title of the site underlined, the date of electronic publication or latest update, and the name of the site's sponsoring organization, if not given elsewhere. See pp. 210-11 for extra help.
5. **Electronic access information.** Date the student accessed the material. The URL of the document used in angle brackets unless unusually long or complicated. See pp. 211-13 for help.

World Health Organization. "Guidance on Anthrax: Frequently Asked Questions."

Communicable Disease Surveillance and Response (CSR). 2004.

19 Mar. 2004 <<http://www.who.int/csr/disease/Anthrax/anthraxfaq/en/>>.

Myers-Wall, Judy. "Talking to Children about Terrorism: By the Numbers." Purdue Extension. Sept. 2001. Cooperative Extension Service, Purdue U. 8 Dec. 2001
<<http://www.ces.purdue.edu/terrorism/children/numbers.html>>.

Work from a Library Subscription Service

See section 5.9.7.a in the MLA Handbook.

Provide the publication information for the **original print source** according to MLA guidelines. Find additional references to MLA Handbook sections with the examples below.

After you provide as much of the original publication information for the article as you can find, then give the following **electronic publication information**:

1. Name of the **database**, underlined (Business Source Elite, InfoTrac OneFile, MasterFILE Premier, SIRS Government Reporter, and SIRS Researcher are examples).

If the printout of the article lists as the database "Multiple databases," you do not have a database name to put in this position. Instead, type "Multiple databases." However, do not underline the phrase "Multiple databases" because it is not the name of a particular database.

2. Name of the **service** (EBSCOhost, SIRS Knowledge Source, Gale, and ProQuest Company are examples).

3. Name of the **subscriber**, whether it be a physical **library** with the city name and the abbreviation of the state name or the **North Carolina Libraries for Virtual Education (NC LIVE)**, an online library.

4. Student **date of access**.

5. **URL** of NC LIVE, <<http://www.nclive.org>>, or the service's homepage, for SIRS Researcher, <<http://www.sirs.com>>.

This is an example from a **scholarly journal**. See sections 5.7.1-4 for print publication information. (But note 5.9.7.a for the page number of the article.)

Kim, Chang-Jin, Charles R. Nelson, and Jeremy Piger. "The Less-Volatile U. S. Economy: A Bayesian Investigation of Timing, Breadth, and Potential Explanations." Journal of Business and Economic Statistics 22.1 (2004): 80- .
InfoTrac OneFile. Gale. NC LIVE. 17 Mar. 2004 <<http://www.nclive.org>>.

This is an example from a **newspaper**. See section 5.7.5 for print publication information.

Kekes, Eva. "Hungary Has Abundance of Unwanted Children." Austin American-Statesman 22 Sept. 1996: A23. SIRS Researcher. SIRS Knowledge Source.
Wake Technical Community Coll. Lib., Raleigh, NC. 5 Sept. 2001
<<http://www.sirs.com>>.

This is an example from a **magazine**. See section 5.7.6 for print publication information.

"Bush's M.B.A. Approach Takes Root in the Army." U. S. News and World Report 22
Mar. 2004: 8. MasterFILE Premier. EBSCOhost. NC LIVE. 17 Mar. 2004
<<http://www.nclive.org>>.

Work from an Online Government Source

See sections 5.9.3c and 5.6.21 in the MLA Handbook. (This is particularly useful for Eng. 114.)

United States. Dept. of Labor. Bureau of Labor Statistics. "Water Transportation Occupations." The Occupational Outlook Handbook 2002-3. 12 Jan. 2002
<<http://stats.bls.gov/oco/>>.