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How to cite?

Content

- Authors/Researchers should cite original sources that are relevant to the content of their scientific papers.
- Summarising, paraphrasing or quoting is also necessary to avoid plagiarism and other ethical issues.
- Authors/Researchers are responsible for checking the accuracy of any original sources that they cite.
- Authors/Researchers should properly and correctly include each component of the bibliographic information of references according to the requested reference style. Publishers require specific citation conventions both in the text and in the reference list.
- Guidance is available from libraries and associations

Introduction

Citation involves accurately and properly inserting original sources in the main text, and in the reference section with their bibliographic information [1]. In scientific papers, grant applications etc., citation is required to establish the background of what was already done, determine how to conduct and analyse the research, and to set the work in context by highlighting the contribution of the findings of the research and in comparison, with the literature [2]. The main reasons to cite are to acknowledge the intellectual and practical impact of other researchers' work, persuade the reader with evidence and to support the argument that is being made [3]. Besides these, the correct and appropriate citation increases the quality and visibility of a scientific paper, as well as stimulating readers to come forward with new research studies by engaging with the research network [2]. However, attitudes and knowledge of citation practices can be poor; according to the findings of one study, it was estimated that almost one third of students and supervisors would cite a paper without reading the original source [4].

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's ideas and work as your own without any citation or acknowledgement. For example, using the original wording from a source without presenting it as a quotation is plagiarism even if the source is cited. Some programs are available to detect potential plagiarism such as iThenticate® and Turnitin®.

Researchers should take responsibility for accurate citation because poor practice can damage a person's reputation, and mislead other researchers, peers and editors [2]. Larsson et al [5] examined irrelevant and misleading citation in scientific papers and raised concerns especially about its influence on individuals who are not scientists. Recommendations about publishing in general and referencing in particular from Medical Editors can be found at: <http://www.icmje.org/>.

There are a number of unacceptable citation practices, such as citation stacking and trojan citation, that authors and even editors may be tempted to use to try to increase the citation rate of their own publications [6-8]. Researchers should be familiar with these in order to avoid them.

Citation styles

Two of the most common systems are author and date (e.g. Harvard) and numeric (e.g. Vancouver) and libraries provide detailed guidance.

The publisher will state their requirements in the author/submission guidelines (e.g. <https://www.springer.com/journal/11096/submission-guidelines>).

Today, electronic tags are being increasingly used and one example is; DOI: Digital Object Identifier: DOIs are a standard for digital information objects that are managed by a Foundation made up of registration agencies. They are applied to journal articles datasets books and book chapters to give them a permanent digital identifier that will enable the information to be retrieved even when the URL changes or when objects move around online [10].

Some Examples of Citation Formats

Preprint

Author(s) name. Article name. Journal name (if available) Preprint doi(if available) [Preprint]. Year [cited date]: Available from: URL

In Press

Author(s) name. Article name. Journal name. Published date [In press]

Online Document

Author(s)/organisation's name. Title of the page or Website name [Internet]. Place of publication: Publisher's name; Date or year of publication. Available from: URL
Accessed date

Top tips for authors [2, 9]

- Search carefully systematically to find all potential references related to your scientific paper and include the relevant citations
- Find the original research sources and directly cite the original source
- Check the original research source carefully to avoid citing *predatory* or *pseudo* journals e.g. Directory of Open Access Journals; <https://doaj.org/>
- Read the entire publication carefully before you decide to cite.
- Insert citations in the text properly – check the journal's requirements.
- Assess and discuss the context and reason for each citation. Citation is not just putting the reference in the right place. You need to use the right language to discuss the context and rationale of the citation without distorting the content of the reference [2,11].
- Prioritise the citations you include when limitations exist on the number of reference and/or words for manuscripts.
- Include a citation even if you summarize or paraphrase or quote;
 - When paraphrasing, do not just change the words, try to make the

- meaning clearer by using simpler language
- Identify a quote using quotation marks and include a citation.
- If you are still in doubt, ask a colleague or a librarian for help

| Example: Original Quote | Example: Paraphrased Quote |
|--|---|
| “The statements with the highest levels of agreement were for the statements, ‘Being involved in research is/would be of benefit to my profession’ (agree/strongly agree 98.8%, n = 82) and ‘I get/would get professional satisfaction from being involved in research’ (agree/strongly agree 95.1%, n = 79).” (Stewart, 2020) | Stewart et al (2020) identified that over 95% stated that being involved in research would be both, professionally satisfying and benefit their profession. |

Stewart D, Paudyal V, Cadogan C, Hazen A, Okuyan B, Lutters M, Henman M, Fialová D. A Survey of the European Society of Clinical Pharmacy Members' Research Involvement, and Associated Enablers and Barriers. *Int J Clin Pharm*. 2020 May 19. [Online ahead of print] doi: 10.1007/s11096-020-01054-9.

- Even if you have adapted a method or procedure, include a citation.
- Re-assess statements that may be considered “common knowledge” to decide whether a citation is necessary.
- For graphics and figures, proper citation is not enough, copyright permission should be obtained where applicable.
- Remember, you should also get permission from developers of questionnaire and/or tools as well as properly citing them. Some may also require copyright permission.
- For data citation, cite both original scientific paper and actual dataset used [12]. Check submission guidelines.
- Cite correctly including all required information (author name, title, journal [standard abbreviations], year, volume and page numbers) according to journal's style.
 - You can use reference management software programs to help (such as, Mendeley, EndNote, MS Word Editor, Zotero)
 - Even if you use reference management software programs, you must re-check each citation to ensure it is correct and that it corresponds to the publisher's guidelines.

Guidelines

- COPE. Guidelines [Internet] Available from: <https://publicationethics.org/guidance/Guidelines> Accessed Date:2020 June 29.
- International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE). Preparing a Manuscript for Submission to a Medical Journal [Internet]. Available from: <http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/manuscript-preparation/preparing-for-submission.html> Accessed Date:2020 June 29.
- Patrias K. Citing medicine: the NLM style guide for authors, editors, and publishers [Internet]. 2nd ed. Wendling DL, technical editor. Bethesda (MD): National Library of Medicine (US); 2007 - [updated 2015 Oct 2; cited Year Month Day]. Available from: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/citingmedicine> Accessed Date: 2020 June 29.

Further reading

- Patrias K. *Citing medicine: the NLM style guide for authors, editors, and publishers* [Internet]. 2nd ed. Wendling DL, technical editor. Bethesda (MD): National Library of Medicine (US); 2007 - [updated 2015 Oct 2; cited Year Month Day]. Available from: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/citingmedicine>
- Roig M. *Avoiding plagiarism, self-plagiarism, and other questionable writing practices: a guide to ethical writing (2015 version)*. Available at: <https://ori.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/plagiarism.pdf>. Accessed 17 June 2020.
- Moskovitz C. *Text recycling in health sciences research literature: a rhetorical perspective. Research integrity and peer review*. 2017;2(1):1.
- Young S. *Harness the power of the DOI: Digital object identifiers and what they can do for you. Campbell Systematic Reviews*, 2019;15: e1063. doi:10.1002/cl2.1063

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3. Bornmann L, Daniel HD. What do citation counts measure? A review of studies on citing behavior. *Journal of Documentation*. 2008; 64(1):45-80.
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8. Shaw D. The Trojan citation and the "accidental" plagiarist. *J Bioeth Inq*. 2016;13(1):7-9.
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11. *Neutral Citation Is Poor Scholarship. Nat Genet* 2017;49(11):1559.
12. Cousijn H, Kenall A, Ganley E, Harrison M, Kernohan D, Lemberger T, et al. A data citation roadmap for scientific publishers. *Sci Data* 2018;5: 180259.