

ACM Style Guide – Citing Articles

APSU Writing Center Handout

What is an in-text citation?

An in-text citation is a short reference within your writing that shows where your information came from. ACM uses numbered citations in square brackets.

- Do NOT include years in in-text citations.
- Do NOT use author-date style (like APA or ASA)

Examples:

Single source → [1] Multiple sources → [1, 2]

Example Sentences:

This approach has been widely adopted in recent systems [2].

Several studies have shown improvements in performance [3, 4].

What is a Reference Page?

A reference page is a list at the end of your paper that gives full details about all the sources you cited. List references in the order they appear in your paper.

Do NOT alphabetize. Do NOT use hanging indents in ACM format unless stated by your professor. ACM papers are typically formatted using an official template, so students should follow the template instead of formatting citations on their own.

Example (Book Chapter):

BLESS, H. 2000. The Interplay of Affect and Cognition. In *Feeling and Thinking: The Role of Affect in Social Cognition*. Cambridge, MA: Cambridge University Press, 201–222.

ACM (Computing Machinery) Style - Citing a Paginated Article in a Journal

In-text Citation Format: [number]

Use the number corresponding to the reference in your reference list.

Sentence with In-Text Citation Example 1:

This approach has been widely adopted in recent systems [1].

Sentence with In-Text Citation Example 2:

Several studies have shown improvements in patent-related strategies [2].

Reference Format:

[#] Author(s). Year. Title. *Journal Name* Volume, Issue (Month Year), Pages. DOI

Reference Examples:

[1] Patricia S. Abril and Robert Plant. 2007. The patent holder's dilemma: Buy, sell, or troll? *Commun. ACM* 50, 1 (Jan. 2007), 36-44. <https://doi.org/10.1145/1188913.1188915>

[2] John R. Allison, Mark A. Lemley, and Joshua Walker. 2004. Patent quality and settlement among repeat litigants. *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies* 1, 1 (Mar. 2004), 1–35. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1740-1461.2004.tb00001.x>

ACM (Computing Machinery) Style - Citing an Enumerated Article in a Journal

In ACM style, enumerated journal articles are cited using an article number rather than specific page numbers.

In-text Citation Format: [number]

Use the number corresponding to the reference in your reference list.

Sentence with In-Text Citation Example 1:

This method efficiently decides equivalences among aggregate queries [1].

Sentence with In-Text Citation Example 2:

Subsequent studies demonstrated improvements in query optimization techniques [2].

Reference Format:

[number] Author(s). Year. Title. *Journal Name* Volume, Issue, Article number (Month Year), Total pages. DOI

Reference Examples:

[1] Sarah Cohen, Werner Nutt, and Yehoshua Sagie. 2007. Deciding equivalences among conjunctive aggregate queries. *J. ACM* 54, 2, Article 5 (April 2007), 50 pages.

<https://doi.org/10.1145/1219092.1219093>

[2] Christoph Koch and Dan Suciu. 2006. Programming languages for complex data. *J. ACM* 53, 3, Article 12 (May 2006), 45 pages. <https://doi.org/10.1145/1147954.1147956>

ACM (Computing Machinery) Style - Citing an Article That Is Under Review

In ACM style, when a preprint is unavailable, the manuscript may be cited as a submitted article.

In-text Citation Format: [number]

Use the number corresponding to the reference in your reference list.

Sentence with In-Text Citation Example 1:

Preliminary findings suggest that mobile telepresence robots enhance engagement [1].

Sentence with In-Text Citation Example 2:

Early analysis indicates that adaptive learning systems improve student outcomes [2].

Reference Format:

[number] Author(s) (Year manuscript written). *Title*. Manuscript submitted for review.

Reference Examples:

[1] R. Baggett, M. Simecek, C. Chambellan, K. Tsui, and M. Fraune (the year the manuscript was written). *Fluidity in the Phased Framework of Technology Acceptance: Case Study to Gain a Holistic Understanding of (Older Adult) Participant Advancement Through Acceptance Phases with Mobile Telepresence Robots*. Manuscript submitted for review.

[2] A. Chen, L. Martinez, and S. Patel (2023). *Evaluating Adaptive Learning Systems for Enhancing Student Outcomes in STEM Education*. Manuscript submitted for review.

References

Association for Computing Machinery. (2023, July 11). *Reference formatting*. ACM.

<https://www.acm.org/publications/authors/reference-formatting>

Association for Computing Machinery. (2021). *CHI 2021 example papers*. CHI 2021.

<https://chi2021.acm.org/for-authors/presenting/papers/example-papers>