

## ACM Style Guide – Citing Websites, arXivs, and Patents

### 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 Websites

### **In-text Citation Format:** [number]

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

### **Sentence with In-Text Citation Example 1:**

Bayesian statistical methods provide a foundational approach to probabilistic modeling [1].

### **Sentence with In-Text Citation Example 2:**

The ACM website provides resources and updates for the computing community [2].

### **Reference Format:**

[number] Author or Organization. Year (if available). Title. Retrieved Month Day, Year, from URL. Archived at [permanent link if available].

### **Reference Examples:**

[1] Harry Thornburg. 2001. Introduction to Bayesian Statistics. (March 2001). Retrieved March 2, 2005 from <http://ccrma.stanford.edu/~jos/bayes/bayes.html>, archived at [\[https://web.archive.org/web/20240505055615/https://ccrma.stanford.edu/~jos/bayes/bayes.html\]](https://web.archive.org/web/20240505055615/https://ccrma.stanford.edu/~jos/bayes/bayes.html)

[2] ACM. Association for Computing Machinery: Advancing Computing as a Science & Profession. Retrieved from <http://www.acm.org/>.

## ACM (Computing Machinery) Style - Citing arXiv

An **arXiv** preprint is a version of a research paper uploaded to the arXiv repository before formal publication.

**In-text Citation Format:** [number]

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

### **Sentence with In-Text Citation Example 1:**

Recent lattice QCD results provide new insights into nucleon matrix elements [1].

### **Sentence with In-Text Citation Example 2:**

Preprints on arXiv allow researchers to share findings prior to peer-reviewed publication [2].

### **Reference Format:**

[number] Author(s). Year. Title. arXiv:identifier. Retrieved from URL.

### **Reference Examples:**

[1] Martha Constantinou. 2016. New physics searches from nucleon matrix elements in lattice QCD. arXiv:1701.00133. Retrieved from <https://arxiv.org/abs/1701.00133>

[2] John Doe and Jane Smith. 2020. Advances in Quantum Computing Algorithms. arXiv:2005.01234. Retrieved from <https://arxiv.org/abs/2005.01234>

## **ACM (Computing Machinery) Style - Citing a Patent**

A **patent** is an official document granting the inventor exclusive rights to an invention.

### **In-text Citation Format: [number]**

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

### **Sentence with In-Text Citation Example 1:**

The patented device introduces a novel method for energy-efficient water purification [1].

### **Sentence with In-Text Citation Example 2:**

Recent patents demonstrate advances in automated robotics technologies [2].

### **Reference Format:**

[number] Inventor(s). Year. Title. Patent number, Filed date, Issued date.

### **Reference Examples:**

[1] Joseph Scientist. 2009. The fountain of youth. (Aug. 2009). Patent No. 12345, Filed July 1st., 2008, Issued Aug. 9th., 2009.

[2] Emily Johnson and Robert Chen. 2015. Autonomous Drone Navigation System. Patent No. 98765, Filed Feb. 12, 2014, Issued May 18, 2015.

## 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>