

ACS Style 3rd Edition Guide
APSU Writing Center Handout

ACS Style In-text Citations - 3rd Edition

There are three approaches to citing sources in ACS Style. Make sure to choose one approach and use it consistently throughout your writing.

Note: for two authors use "and": Rakita and Smith.

Note: For three or more authors use "et al.": Rakita et al.

Superscript Numbers

At the end of the sentence:

Example: Fluoridated water and fluoride products such as toothpaste provide fluoride ions necessary for remineralization.¹

Within the sentence:

Example: Rakita¹ states that fluoridated water and fluoride products such as toothpaste provide fluoride ions necessary for demineralization.

One Author:

Example: The experiment yielded significant results.¹

Example: Smith¹ conducted a thorough analysis.

Two Authors:

Example: Johnson and Lee² proposed a new methodology.

Example: A new methodology was proposed.²

Three or More Authors:

Example: Martinez et al.³ conducted a comprehensive study.

Example: A comprehensive study was conducted.³

Italic Numbers

At the end of the sentence:

Example: Fluoridated water and fluoride products such as toothpaste provide fluoride ions necessary for remineralization (1).

Within the sentence:

Example: Chen and Brandizzi (7) summarize the effects of the IRE1 on cell vitality.

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Italic Numbers

One Author:

Example: According to Smith (1), the experiment yielded significant results.

Example: The experiment yielded significant results (1).

Two Authors:

Example: Johnson and Lee (2) proposed a new methodology.

Example: A new methodology was proposed (2).

Three or More Authors:

Example: Martinez et al. (3) conducted a comprehensive study.

Example: A comprehensive study was conducted (3).

Author Name and Year of Publication

At the end of the sentence:

Example: The discovery of hydroboration was necessary to further the field of synthetic chemistry (Brown, 2022).

Within the sentence:

Example: Brown (2022) discovered the synthetic power of hydroboration.

One Author:

Example: According to Jones (2020), the reaction rate is influenced by temperature.

Example: The reaction rate is influenced by temperature (Jones, 2020).

Two Authors:

Example: Smith and Brown (2022) proposed a new mechanism.

Example: A new mechanism was proposed (Smith and Brown, 2022).

Three or More Authors:

Example: Patel et al. (2024) conducted a series of experiments.

Example: A series of experiments was conducted (Patel et al., 2024).

ACS Style (Reference Quick-Guide)

Here are some quick reference guides when creating your references or works cited page. If a work is accessed in print vs. online, do not include the URL. If your source has missing information, simply omit it.

Periodicals:

Author 1.; Author 2.; Author 3.; etc. Title of Article. *CASSI Abbreviation of Journal Title*
[Online] Year, *Volume* (Issue), page numbers. URL (accessed Month Day, Year).

- **Book without Editors**

Author 1.; Author 2.; Author 3.; etc. Chapter Title. In *Book Title* [Online]; Edition Number; series information; Publisher: place of publication, year; Volume Number, pages. URL (accessed Month Day, Year). *

“In” is only placed in front of the *Book Title* if you are referencing a specific chapter

Book with Editors

Author 1.; Author 2.; Author 3.; etc. Chapter Title. In *Book Title*, edition Number; Editor 1., Editor 2., etc., Eds.; series information; Publisher: place of publication, year; Volume number, pages. *

“In” is only placed in front of the *Book Title* if you are referencing a specific chapter.

Government publications

Author 1.; Author 2.; etc. Chapter Title. Document Title; Government Publication Number; Publishing Agency: place of publication, year; pages

Technical Reports and Bulletins

Author 1.; Author 2., etc. *Title of Report or Bulletin*; Technical Report or Bulletin; Publisher: Place of Publication, Date; Pages.

Data Sets

Title; Publisher: Place of Publication, Date; Data Entry Number/Figure Title/other identifying information.

Material Safety Data Sheets

Title; MSDS Number [Online]; Manufacturing Company: Location of Company, Date. URL
(accessed Month Day, Year).

Websites

Author. Title of Site. URL (accessed Month Day, Year).

Same Author, Multiple Sources

List the single-author works first, then two-author works, then multiple-author works in chronological order. If the works cited were published the same year, add a lowercase letter for identification.

Examples:

Hamilton, F. J. *Biochemistry* **2003**, *42*, 78-86.

Hamilton F. J. *J. Agric. Food Chem.* **2004a**, *52*, 1622-1633.

Hamilton F. J. *J. Org Chem.* **2004b**, *69*, 298-306.

Hamilton, F. J.; Salvo, P. A. *J. Agric. Food Chem.* **2005**, *53*, 918-924.

CASSI Abbreviations

The Chemical Abstract Service Source Index (CASSI) is a systematic way to abbreviate journal titles. CASSI abbreviations can be found here: <https://cassi.cas.org/search.jsp>

Example: Journal of the American Chemical Society:

CASSI Abbreviation: *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*

Example: Accounts of Chemical Research:

CASSI Abbreviation: *Acc. Chem. Res.*

Works Cite or References

ACS Style does not have a preference on what to title the references page. Choose to write in bold and center either “References” or “Works Cited.”.

Author-Date

Organize references in alphabetical order by author and use hanging indents.

References

Bright, M. D.; Itzhak, D. N.; Wardell, C. P.; Morgan, G. J.; Davies, F. E. Cleavage of BLOC1S1 mRNA by IRE1 Is Sequence Specific, Temporally Separate from XBP1 Splicing, and Dispensable for Cell Viability under Acute Endoplasmic Reticulum Stress. *Mol. Cell. Biol.* **2015**, *35* (12), 2186-2202.

Cross, B. C.; Bond, P. J.; Sadowski, P. G.; Jha, B. K.; Zak, J.; Goodman, J. M.; Silverman, R. H.; Neubert, T. A.; Baxendale, I. R.; Ron, D.; Harding, H. P. The Molecular Basis for Selective Inhibition of Unconventional mRNA Splicing by an IRE1-Binding Small Molecule. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.* **2012**, *109* (15), E869-878.

References

Dehler, N. *ACS Style Guide Online*. University of California, Berkeley. Last Updated: March 3, 2025. <https://guides.lib.berkeley.edu/acs-style>

Vogel, T.; Cardinal, S.; Wrublewski, D.; Butkovich, N.; Baysinger, G. *ACS Style Quick Guide*. American Chemical Society. Last Updated: April 8, 2025.
<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/full/10.1021/acsguide.40303>