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Referencing and avoiding plagiarism

In your academic writing it is essential that you acknowledge the source of any research, information, ideas, opinions, theories or other material which is not your own. **Effective referencing shows evidence of the reading you have done and also ensures that you avoid accusations of plagiarism.**

At York St John University the referencing method used is the **Harvard System**, sometimes called the **Author-Date method**. The Harvard System is widely used by academic institutions, although there may be variations between institutions. The version presented here is the one adopted by York St John University, so this is the form you should use. Above all, be consistent.

Providing accurate references also helps other researchers by making it easy to trace the sources you have used.

Exceptions to the rule

Students studying **psychology** and **history** should be aware that the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences and the Faculty of Arts require referencing in those subjects to adhere to the following rules:

History students

- History referencing guidelines - endnote/footnote system

Psychology students

- British Psychological Society style guide - Please see in particular Section 9: Citation of sources

Everything out on loan?

Place a hold to make sure you get a copy.

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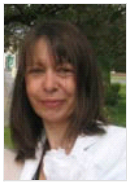
How do I reference...?

...if I am a history student?

...if I am a psychology student?

Lottie Alexander



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