MHRA Referencing quick guide

Student Success and Learning

Library & Learning Services

Please note, this is a quick guide to citing and referencing using the MHRA referencing style. For more detailed examples, please go to Cite Them Right Online.

In-text citations (footnotes) for secondary sources

In-text citations should be identified by a superscript number (1, 2, 3, etc.) that is linked to a footnote. All sources in the footnotes should be detailed in a bibliography at the end of the work. If you have used a direct quote or idea from a page, or a range of pages, include these in the footnote.

The first footnote will require full details. Subsequent footnotes may be abbreviated to: author; title, if necessary (in italics); and page.

Book (authored)

First footnote	John M. Thompson, Russia and the Soviet Union: an Historical Introduction from the Kievan State to the Present, 5 th edn (Westview, 2003), p. 257.
Later footnote(s)	Thompson, p. 263.
Journal article (print)	
First footnote	Joyce A. Youings, 'The Terms of the Disposal of the Devon Monastic Lands, 1536–58', <i>English Historical Review</i> , 69 (1954), 18–38 (p. 25).
Later footnote(s)	Youings, p. 34.
Web page	
First footnote	'An Introduction to Anne Lister (1791-1840)' Calderdale Museums, 2019
	https://museums.calderdale.gov.uk/famous-figures/anne-lister [accessed 29 May 2019].
Later footnote(s)	Calderdale Museums.

Key bibliography examples for secondary sources

Full information about each source is provided in the bibliography at the end of the document.

Book (authored)

Bibliography entry	Thompson, John M., Russia and the Soviet Union: an Historical Introduction from the Kievan State to the Present, 5 th edn (Westview, 2003)
Journal article (print)	
Bibliography entry	Youings, Joyce A., 'The Terms of the Disposal of the Devon Monastic Lands, 1536–58', <i>English Historical Review</i> , 69 (1954), 18–38
Web page	
Bibliography entry	'An Introduction to Anne Lister (1791-1840)' Calderdale Museums, 2019 https://museums.calderdale.gov.uk/famous-figures/anne-lister [accessed 29 May 2019]

Primary sources

Primary sources cover a range of materials. These include letters, diaries, speeches, interviews, government records and documents, census information, and historical texts. As such, it is not possible to provide guides to all individual types here. Please refer to Cite Them Right for particular resource types, and adapt as necessary.

Archival sources

As a general guide, cite archival sources in this order in the first footnote and bibliography. The footnote will require a full stop at the end, where the bibliography entry will not.

First footnote	The National Archives of the UK, FO Memorandum on the Foreign Policy of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, 19 May 1933, CID1112-B, CAB 4/24.
Later footnote(s)	The National Archives, CID1112-B, CAB 4/24.
Bibliography entry	The National Archives of the UK, FO Memorandum on the Foreign Policy of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, 19 May 1933, CID1112-B, CAB 4/24

Key rules for in-text citations

If the source has more than three authors/editors, in your text cite the first author in full, followed by the words 'and others', e.g. Simpson and others state that ...

Key rules for footnotes

Generally follow the formats for the first footnote, followed by later footnotes, as in the examples. However, if the same source is used in *consecutive* footnotes, substitute the abbreviation 'ibid.' for each successive footnote.

Author names in first footnotes are first name, followed by second name.

Key rules for bibliography

Sources should be in alphabetical order of author surname.

Author names are surname, followed by first name for the initial author only.