



ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE

OPEN ACCESS

VANCOUVER REFERENCING STYLE: THE IMPORTANCE IN SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

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ABSTRACT

Referencing is a standardized way of acknowledging the sources of information & ideas used in assignments/research work which allows the sources to be identified. Accurate and adequate referencing will help in avoiding accusations of plagiarism. Referencing also enables the reader to find the sources of research work and helps them in understanding the cited author's work. This paper covers the essentials of referencing and elaborates the Vancouver system, also known as the author-number system, which is a citation style that uses numbers within the text that refer to numbered entries in the reference list.

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INTRODUCTION

Referencing is a standardized way of acknowledging the sources of information & ideas used in assignments/research work which allows the sources to be identified (<https://web.library.uq.edu.au/files/26541/VancouverStyleGuid eFinal2014.pdf>).

Importance of referencing

Accurate and adequate referencing will help in avoiding accusations of plagiarism. Referencing also enables the reader to find the sources of research work and helps them in understanding the cited author's work. It helps the researcher to use the sources for future research works (<https://www.kent.ac.uk/ai/students/whatisreferencing.html>). Readers are assured that it is an evidence based work.

Material to be acknowledged (<https://www.kent.ac.uk/ai/students/whatisreferencing.html>)

The material which are commonly used in the research work and need to be acknowledged includes

- Exact words (written or spoken)
- Summarised or paraphrased text
- Data
- Images (graphs, tables, videos, multimedia etc)
- Pictures or illustrations
- Ideas or concepts
- Theories
- Opinion or analysis etc.,

Different styles of referencing

There are different types of referencing styles that can be used in research work: a footnote style, a numbered style or an author-date style.

Footnote Style

Reference information is kept in footnotes and not placed in the body of the text. Depending on the style, a bibliography or reference list is included. This style includes Modern Humanities Research Association (MHRA) style of referencing (<https://www.kent.ac.uk/ai/students/whatisreferencing.html>).

Numbered Style: Creates a numerical list of references in the list of works cited, based on the order in which the works

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appear in the text. This style includes Vancouver system (<https://www.kent.ac.uk/ai/students/whatisreferencing.html>).

Author-date Style

References are placed in the text not in footnotes and there is an alphabetical list of references (by author name) in the list of works cited at the end of the work. This style includes American Psychological Association (APA) and Harvard styles (<https://www.kent.ac.uk/ai/students/whatisreferencing.html>). The commonly used styles are Harvard style and Vancouver style.

Vancouver style

The Vancouver system, also known as Vancouver reference style or the author–number system, is a citation style that uses numbers within the text that refer to numbered entries in the reference list. Vancouver style is used by MEDLINE and PubMed (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vancouver_system). In 1978, a committee of Editors from various medical Journals -The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) met in Vancouver, BC, Canada to agree to a unified set of requirements for the articles of such journals. This led to establishment of Uniform requirement for manuscripts submitted to Biomedical Journals (URMs). A part of the URMs was reference style and the ICMJE selected long established author no. style (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vancouver_system).

Steps in referencing (<https://web.library.uq.edu.au/files/26541/VancouverStyleGuideFinal2014.pdf>)

- Record the full details and relevant page numbers of the source from which information is taken.
- Punctuation marks and spaces in the reference list and citations are very important. Follow the punctuation and spacing exactly.
- Insert the citation at the appropriate place in the text of your document.
- Include a reference list that includes all in-text citations at the end of your document.

In text citation

The process of recognising the contribution of a specific individual or organisation as the acknowledged source of a particular view, argument or decision within the text of the assignment is often referred to as the 'in-text citation' (<https://web.library.uq.edu.au/files/26541/VancouverStyleGuideFinal2014.pdf>). In the Vancouver Style, citations within the text of the paper are identified by Arabic numbers in round brackets (1) or Arabic numbers in superscript (<https://www.kent.ac.uk/ai/students/whatisreferencing.html>).

This applies to references in text, tables and figures. The identification of references within the text of the paper may vary according to the preferred style of the journal or the preferred style of the department or teacher. For example superscript may be preferred when referencing. e.g. Gupta et al le (<https://www.kent.ac.uk/ai/students/whatisreferencing.html>). The Vancouver System assigns a number to each reference as it is cited. A number must be used even if the author(s) is named in the sentence/text. e.g. Gupta¹⁰ has argued that...

The original number assigned to the reference is reused each time the reference is cited in the text, regardless of its previous position in the text. When multiple references are cited at a given place in the text, use a hyphen to join the first and last numbers that are inclusive. Use commas (without spaces) to separate non-inclusive numbers in a multiple citation e.g. 2,3,4,5,7,10 is abbreviated to 2-5,7,10. Do not use a hyphen if there are no citation numbers in between that support your statement e.g. 1-2. Use instead 1,2. The placement of citation numbers within text should be carefully considered e.g. a particular reference may be relevant to only part of a sentence. As a general rule, reference numbers should be placed outside full stops and commas and inside colons and semicolons, however, this may vary according to the requirements of a particular journal.

Examples

There have been efforts to replace mouse inoculation testing with in-vitro tests, such as enzyme linked immunosorbent assays^{57,60} or polymerase chain reaction²⁰⁻²² but these remain experimental.

Citing a specific page

Example: Patients showed no signs of hypertension.^{1(p23),9}

More than one page cited: e.g., Wallace^{2(pp3,6)} reported no sign of...

Park^(10 pp23-7) states that....

Reference list and Bibliography

Reference List	Bibliography
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contains details only of those works cited in the text of the document. (eg. book, journal article, pamphlet, internet site, cassette tape or film). • The details must be sufficient for others to locate and consult the references. • It should appear at the end of the work & be listed numerically in the order they have been cited in the text 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A bibliography lists sources not cited in the text but are relevant to the subject and used for background reading. • It is a separate list from the reference list and should be arranged alphabetically by author or title (where no author is given) in the Vancouver style.

Sources of Information

In writing a scientific article, thesis or book, the information is gathered from various sources. The commonest sources are:

- Books (Printed & e-book, Dictionary)
- Journals (Printed & Online)
- Newspapers (Printed & Online)
- Government Documents (Reports and Acts of Parliament)
- Conference Proceedings and Papers
- Scientific Reports
- Thesis
- Online resources – webpages and images.

Referencing different type of materials

I. Books⁴

Book by a single author

Elements of citation: Author's Surname Initial. Title of the book. Edition if later than 1st. Place of publication: Publisher Name; Year of publication.

Example:

- Author's Surname Initial – Park. K
- Title of the book – Park's Textbook of PREVENTIVE AND SOCIAL MEDICINE.
- Edition – 23rd edition.
- Place of publication – Jabalpur:
- Publisher name – M/s Banarsidas Bhanot Publishers;
- Year of publication – 2015.

Park K. Park's textbook of PREVENTIVE AND SOCIAL MEDICINE. 23rd ed. Jabalpur:M/s Banarsidas Bhanot Publishers;2015.

Book by two authors

Elements of citation: Author's Surname Initial, Author's Surname Initial. Title of the book. Edition if later than 1st. Place of publication: Publisher Name; Year of publication.

Example:

- Author's Surname Initial, Author's Surname Initial – Thirunavalli BR, Chadalawada UR
- Title of the book – TEXTBOOK OF COMMUNITY MEDICINE.
- Edition – 3rd edition.
- Place of publication – New Delhi:
- Publisher name – Paras Medical Publisher;
- Year of publication – 2015.

Thirunavalli BR, Chadalawada UR. Textbook of Community Medicine. 3rd ed. New Delhi:Paras Medical Publisher;2015.

Book by Corporate author (e.g. a government department or organisation)

Elements of citation: Name of corporate author. Title of book. Place of publication: Publisher Name; Year of publication.

Example:

- Name of corporate author – World Health Organization.
- Title of the book – Public health impacts of pesticides used in agriculture.
- Place of publication – Geneva:
- Publisher name – World Health Organization;
- Year of publication - 1990.

World Health Organization. Public health impacts of pesticides used in agriculture. Geneva: World Health Organization;1990

Edited book

Elements of citation: Editors Surname Initial(s), editor. Title of book/dictionary/encyclopaedia etc. Edition if later than 1st. Place of publication: Publisher Name; Year of publication.

Example:

- Editors Surname Initial - Wallace RB, Kohatsu N, Brownson R, Schechter AJ, Scutchfield D, Zaza S, editors.
- Title of the book – Maxcy-Rosenau-Last Public health and Preventive Medicine.
- Edition – 15th ed.
- Place of publication – New York:
- Publisher – The McGraw Hill Medical;
- Year – 2008.

Wallace RB, Kohatsu N, Brownson R, Schechter AJ, Scutchfield D, Zaza S, editors. Maxcy-Rosenau-Last Public health and Preventive Medicine.15th ed. New York:The McGraw Hill Medical;2008.

Chapter in an edited book

Elements of citation

Author's Surname Initial. Title of chapter. In: Editors Surname Initial, editor. Title of the book. Edition if later than 1st. Place of publication: Publisher Name; Year of publication. p. numbers.

Example

- Author's Surname Initial – Ross DA, Hinman AR.
- Title of chapter – Public Health Informatics.
- In:
- Editors Surname Initial - Wallace RB, Kohatsu N, Brownson R, Schechter AJ, Scutchfield D, Zaza S.
- Title of book - Maxcy-Rosenau-Last Public health and Preventive Medicine.
- Edition – 15th ed.
- Place of publication – New York:
- Publisher – The McGraw Hill Medical;
- Year – 2008.

Ross DA, Hinman AR. Public Health Informatics. In: Wallace RB, Kohatsu N, Brownson R, Schechter AJ, Scutchfield D, Zaza S, editors. Maxcy-Rosenau-Last Public health and Preventive Medicine.15th ed. New York:The McGraw Hill Medical;2008.

E-book from a website

Elements of citation: Author's Surname Initial. Title of book [Internet]. Edition if later than 1st. Place of publication: Publisher Name; Year of publication [cited year month day]. Available from: URL.

Example

- Editors Surname Initial – Tse H, Lip GY, Coats AJ, editors.
- Title of the book – Oxford desk reference: cardiology.
- Source – [Internet]
- Place of publication – Oxford:
- Publisher Name – Oxford University Press;
- Year of publication – 2011
- Cited year month day - [cited 2017 Sep 14].
- Available from: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/med/9780199568093.001.0001>.

Tse H, Lip GY, Coats AJ, editors. Oxford desk reference: cardiology [Internet]. Oxford:Oxford University Press;2011 [cited 2015 Jun 15]. Available from: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/med/9780199568093.001.0001>.

E-book on CD / DVD / mobile device

Elements of citation

Author's Surname Initial: Title of book [CD-ROM/DVD or other relevant software or device information]. Edition if later than 1st. Place of publication: Publisher Name; Year of publication.

Example

- Author's Surname Initial – Dalley AF, Moore KL.
- Title of the book – Clinically Oriented Anatomy: AND Dynamic Human Anatomy Student Version 1.0
- [CD-ROM].
- Place of publication - Philadelphia:
- Publisher Name - Lippincott Williams & Wilkins;
- Year of publication - 2004.

Dalley AF, Moore KL. Clinically Oriented Anatomy: AND Dynamic Human Anatomy Student Version 1.0 [CD-ROM]. Philadelphia:Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2004.

Dictionary (Printed)

Elements of citation: Title of the dictionary. Edition if later than 1st. Place of publication:Publisher name; Year of publication. Defined word; page numbers.

Example:

Title of the dictionary - Stedman's medical dictionary.

Edition - 26th ed.
Place of publication - Baltimore:
Publisher name - Williams & Wilkins;
Year of publication - 1995.
Defined word - Apraxia;
Page numbers - 119-20.

Stedman's medical dictionary. 26th ed. Baltimore:Williams & Wilkins;1995. Apraxia;p.119-20.

Dictionary (Online)¹

Elements of citation: Title of the dictionary. [Internet]. Edition if later than 1st. Place of publication:Publisher Name;Year of publication. Defined word; page numbers. [cited year month day]. Available from: URL.

Example:

Title of the dictionary - Stedman's medical dictionary. [Internet].
Edition - 26th ed.
Place of publication - Baltimore:
Publiaher name - Williams & Wilkins;
Year of publication - 1995.
Defined word - Apraxia;
Page numbers - 119 -20.

[cited year month day] - [cited 2017 Sep 11].
Available from: <http://www.stedmans.com>

Stedman's medical dictionary. [Internet]. 26th ed. Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins; 1995. Apraxia; p.119 -20. [cited 2017 Sep 11]. Available from: <http://www.stedmans.com>

Journals

Titles of journals should be abbreviated according to the standard format. These can be found at the National Library of Medicine's PubMed website, using the Journals database feature: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/journals>

Article in a printed journal

Elements of citation: Author's Surname Initial. Title of journal article. Abbreviated journal title. Year; volume number (issue number if there is one): page numbers.

Example

- Author's Surname Initial – Vora RV, Patel BB, Chaudhary AH, Mehta MJ, Pilani AP.
- Title of journal article – A Clinical Study of Vitiligo in a Rural Set Up of Gujarat.
- Abbreviated journal title – Indian J Community Med.
- Year – 2014;
- volume number (issue number if there is one) – 39(3):
- Page numbers – 143-146.

Vora RV, Patel BB, Chaudhary AH, Mehta MJ, Pilani AP. A Clinical Study of Vitiligo in a Rural Set Up of Gujarat. Indian J Community Med. 2014; 39(3):143-6.

Article in an e-journal

Elements of citation: Author's Surname Initial. Title of article. Abbreviated journal title [Internet]. Year [cited year month day]; volume number (issue number if there is one): page numbers. Available from: URL, or other electronic address for the article (for example, a DOI).

Example:

- Author's Surname Initial – Sahu KS, Bharati B.
- Title of the article – Out-of-Pocket health expenditure and sources of financing for delivery, postpartum, and neonatal health in urban slums of Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India.
- Abbreviated journal title [Internet] – Indian J Public Health [Internet].
- Year [cited year month day] – 2017 [cited 2017 Sep 13];
- volume number (issue number if there is one) – 61(2):
- page numbers – 67-73.
- Available from: http://www.ijph.in/temp/IndianJPublicHealth61267-5141713_141657.pdf

Sahu KS, Bharati B. Out-of-Pocket health expenditure and sources of financing for delivery, postpartum, and neonatal health in urban slums of Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India. Indian J Public Health [Internet]. 2017 [cited 2017 Sep 13];61(2):67-73. Available from: <http://www.ijph.in/temp/>

IndianJPublicHealth61267-5141713_141657.pdf Many providers also give an article a unique identifier called a DOI (digital object identifier) which is a permanent, persistent link to the article and preferable to use since this link will never 'break'. If you can see a DOI for the article you are referencing, provide it instead of the URL at the end of the reference - the DOI should be preceded by <http://dx.doi.org/> in order for the link to work.

Newspapers⁴

Article in a printed newspaper

Elements of citation:

Author's Surname Initial. Title of article. Title of Newspaper. Year Month Day; Location in newspaper.

Example:

- Author's Surname Initial – Singh S.
- Title of article – Raising a stink: The waste bomb is ticking across cities.
- Title of Newspaper – Hindustan Times.
- Year Month Day – 2017 Sep 12;
- Location in newspaper – p.11.

Singh S. Raising a stink: The waste bomb is ticking across cities. Hindustan Times. 2017 Sep 12;p.11.

Note: If no author name is given then begin the reference with the title of the article. Do not use Anonymous or Anon.

Article in an online newspaper

Elements of citation: Author's Surname Initial. Title of article. Title of Newspaper [Internet]. Year Month Day [cited Year Month Day]. Available from: URL.

Example

- Author's Surname Initial – Boseley S.
- Title of the article – NHS cancer guide for GPs and patients could save 5,000 lives a year, says Nice.
- Title of Newspaper [Internet] – The Guardian [Internet].
- Year Month Day [cited Year Month Day] – 2015 Jun 23 [cited 2017 Sep 14].
- Available from: <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/jun/23/nhs-cancer-guide-gps-patients-could-save-5000-lives-a-year-nice>

Boseley S. NHS cancer guide for GPs and patients could save 5,000 lives a year, says Nice. The Guardian [Internet]. 2015 Jun 23 [cited 2017 Sep 14]. Available from: <http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/jun/23/nhs-cancer-guide-gps-patients-could-save-5000-lives-a-year-nice>.

Government Documents⁴

Government report (printed)

Elements of citation: Name of Government Department. Title of paper/report, Cm number – also called the Series number. Place of publication: Name of Publisher; Year of publication.

Example

- Name of Government Department – Chandigarh State AIDS Control Society.
- Title of report – HIV Sentinel Surveillance Report 2010-11.
- Place of publication - Chandigarh:
- Name of Publisher – Chandigarh State AIDS Control Society;
- Year of publication – 2011.
- Chandigarh State AIDS Control Society. HIV Sentinel Surveillance Report 2010-11. Chandigarh:Chandigarh State AIDS Control Society;2011.

Government report (online)

Elements of citation: Name of Government Department. Title of paper/report, Cm number [Internet]. Place of publication: Name of Publisher; Year of publication [cited Year Month Day]. Available from: URL.

Example

- Name of the Government Department – Department of Health and Family Welfare.
- Title of the report – Annual Report of Department of Health and Family Welfare 2016-17.
- Place of Publication – New Delhi:
- Publisher Name- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India ;
- Year Month of publication – 2017.

Department of Health and Family Welfare. Annual Report of Department of Health and Family Welfare 2016-17 [Internet]. New Delhi:Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India;2017 [cited 2017 Sep 15]. Available from: <http://mohfw.nic.in/annual-report-department-health-and-family-welfare--2016-17>

Acts of Parliament (printed)

Elements of citation: Name of Country. Title of Act, Chapter. Place of Publication:Publisher Name;Year of Act.

Example

- Name of Country - India.
- Title of Act, Chapter – The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971.
- Place of Publication – New Delhi:
- Publisher Name – Government of India;
- Year of Act - 1971.

India. The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971. New Delhi:Government of India;1971.

Acts of Parliament (online)

Elements of citation: Name of Country. Title of Act, Chapter [Internet]. Place of Publication:Publisher Name;Year of Act [cited Year Month Day]. Available from: URL.

Example

- Name of Country – India.
- Title of Act, Chapter [Internet] - THE PRE-NATAL DIAGNOSTIC TECHNIQUES (REGULATION AND PREVENTION OF MISUSE) ACT, 1994 [Internet].
- Place of Publication – New Delhi:

- Publisher Name – Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India;
- Year of Act [cited Year Month Day] – 1994 [cited 2017 Sep 15].
- Available from: <http://pndt.gov.in/writereaddata/mainlinkFile/File50.pdf>

India. THE PRE-NATAL DIAGNOSTIC TECHNIQUES (REGULATION AND PREVENTION OF MISUSE) ACT, 1994 [Internet]. New Delhi: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India; 1994 [cited 2017 Sep 15]. Available from: <http://pndt.gov.in/writereaddata/mainlinkFile/File50.pdf>

Conference Papers⁴

Treat the proceedings of a conference like an edited book, adding relevant information about the conference. Treat a presentation/paper from the conference proceedings like a chapter in an edited book.

Whole Conference (printed as a publication)

Elements of citation: Editor's Surname Initial, editor. Title of publication if there is one. Conference; date; location. Place of publication: Publisher Name; Year of publication.

Example:

- Editor's Surname Initial, editor – Sridhar MS, editor.
- Title of conference – 58th Annual National Conference of Indian Public Health Association.
- Conference date – 2014 Jan 22-24; location – Tirupati, AP.
- Place of publication – Tirupati:
- Publisher Name – Department of Community Medicine, Sri Venkateshwara Medical College;
- Year of publication – 2014.

Sridhar MS, editor. 58th Annual National Conference of Indian Public Health Association. 2014 Jan 22-24; Tirupati: Department of Community Medicine, Sri Venkateshwara Medical College; 2014.

Conference paper/presentation (printed in conference publication)

Elements of citation: Author's Surname Initial. Title of presentation/paper. In: Editor's Surname Initial, editor. Title of conference. Relevant information such as Conference; date; location. Place of publication: Publisher Name; Year of publication. p. page numbers.

Example

- Author's Surname Initial – Joshi A, Acharya S, Shinde R.
- Title of presentation/paper - Epidemiological Study of Oral Tobacco Use Amongst Urban slum Inhabitants in Mumbai.
- In:
- Editor's Surname Initial, editor – Sridhar MS, editor.
- Title of conference – 58th Annual National Conference of Indian Public Health Association.
- Conference date – 2014 Jan 22-24; location – Tirupati, AP.
- Place of publication - Tirupati:

- Publisher Name – Department of Community Medicine, Sri Venkateshwara Medical College;
- Year of publication - 2014.

Joshi A, Acharya S, Shinde R. Epidemiological Study of Oral Tobacco Use Amongst Urban slum Inhabitants in Mumbai. In: Sridhar MS, editor. 58th Annual National Conference of Indian Public Health Association. 2014 Jan 22-24; Tirupati: Department of Community Medicine, Sri Venkateshwara Medical College; 2014. p.25.

Scientific report (printed)

Elements of citation: Author's Surname Initial. Title of report. Place of Publication: Publisher Name; Year Month of publication. Report Number (if relevant).

Example

- Author's Surname Initial – World Health Organization
- Title of report – World Report on Disability.
- Place of Publication - Geneva:
- Publisher Name – World Health Organization;
- Year Month of publication. Report Number (if relevant) - 2011.

World Health Organization. World Report on Disability. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2011 [month unknown].

Thesis⁴

Elements of citation: Author's Surname Initial. Title of dissertation/thesis etc [dissertation/thesis etc]. Place of publication: Publisher Name (generally the University that the student attended); Year of Publication.

Example

- Author's Surname Initial – Jyoti.
- Title of thesis – ANTHROPOMETRIC ASSESSMENT OF SCHOOL GOING ADOLESCENTS [thesis].
- Place of publication – Rohtak:
- Publisher Name – Maharishi Dayanand University;
- Year of Publication – 2010.
- Jyoti. ANTHROPOMETRIC ASSESSMENT OF SCHOOL GOING ADOLESCENTS [Thesis]. Rohtak: Maharishi Dayanand University; 2010.

Online sources – Webpages⁴

Elements of citation: Author's Surname Initial. Title of web page/web document [Internet]. Place of publication: Publisher Name; Year of Publication [cited Year Month Day]. Available from: URL.

Example

- Author's Surname Initial - Cancer Research UK.
- Title of web page/web document - Lung cancer statistics .
- Place of publication - London:
- Publisher Name - Cancer Research UK;
- Year of Publication [cited Year Month Day] - 2015.

- Available from: <http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/health-professional/cancer-statistics/statistics-by-cancer-type/lung-cancer>.

Cancer Research UK. Lung cancer statistics [Internet]. London: Cancer Research UK; 2015 [cited 2017 Sep 15]. Available from: <http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/health-professional/cancer-statistics/statistics-by-cancer-type/lung-cancer>.

Images⁴

For images or multimedia sources found online you will need to give some format information such as: image/ photograph/ video/podcast, followed by the phrase 'on the Internet' in square brackets after the title of the source that you are using.

Elements of citation: Creator's Surname Initial. Title [image/illustration/photograph/video/podcast on the Internet]. Place of Publication: Publisher; Year [cited Year Month Day]. Available from: URL

Example: a CT scan image

- Creator's surname initial - Moscote-Salazar LR.
- Title [Image on the Internet] - A traumatic frontal epidural haematoma [CT scan image on the Internet].
- Place - London, UK;
- Publisher - Trauma.org ;
- Year [cited year month day]- 2012 [cited 2015 Jun 25].
- Available from: <http://www.trauma.org/index.php/main/image/1396/>.

Moscote-Salazar LR. A traumatic frontal epidural haematoma [CT scan image on the Internet]. London, UK: Trauma.org ; 2012 [cited 2015 Jun 25]. Available from: <http://www.trauma.org/index.php/main/image/1396/>.

Missing Details

Sometimes either the date or place of publication may not be printed/displayed anywhere on the resource.

- If the date is missing, use [date unknown].
- If the place of publication is missing, use [place unknown].
- Always put these in square brackets.
- If the name of the author is not known, then start the reference with the title of the resource instead, do not use Anon or Anonymous.

Referencing at the end of the assignment/work¹

References should be listed at the end of the assignment in a numbered list, in numerical order, where the numbers correspond to those assigned to your in-text citations.

If the text is something like this: As a result, the number of children who did not receive routine vaccinations has dropped to an estimated 19.4 million, down from 33.8 million in 2000.¹ However, this progress falls short of global immunization targets of the Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP) for the Decade of Vaccines of achieving 90% or more DTP3 vaccination coverage at the national level and 80% or more in all districts in all countries by 2015.²

The reference list will look like this:

- United Nations. The World Population Prospects: 2015 revision [Internet]. New York: UN Population Division; 2015 [cited 2017 Sep 14]. Available from: https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/publications/files/key_findings_wpp_2015.pdf
- World Health Organization. WHO Global immunization coverage sustained in the past five years [Internet]. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2016 [cited 2017 Sep 14]. Available from: http://www.who.int/immunization/newsroom/press/immunization_coverage_july_2016/en/

Conclusion

Every scientific work/assignment has a list of references which form the basis of the new work. These references should be quoted in the text as and when there is relevance and also listed separately at the end of the assignment in a separate section. This practice not only avoids plagiarism but also lends credibility to the work done.

REFERENCES

- University of Queensland. References / Bibliography Vancouver style [Internet]. Queensland: University of Queensland; 2014 [cited 2017 Sep 25]. Available from: <https://web.library.uq.edu.au/files/26541/VancouverStyleGuideFinal2014.pdf>
- University of Kent. Academic Integrity [Internet]. Canterbury, Kent: University of Kent; 2012 [cited 2017 Sep 25]. Available from: <https://www.kent.ac.uk/ai/students/whatisreferencing.html>
- Vancouver system [Internet]. Wikipedia; 2017 [cited 2017 Sep 25]. Available from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vancouver_system
- St. George's university of London. Guide to referencing using the Vancouver style [Internet]. London: St. George's university of London; 2015 [cited 2017 Sep 25]. Available from: http://library.sgul.ac.uk/images/helpsheets/User%20Helpsheets/Vancouver_ref_v10.pdf
