

Vancouver Referencing Guidance

The purpose of this guidance document is to provide a brief introduction to referencing in the Vancouver style. Unless your department or tutor has advised you otherwise, you should follow the guidance provided in this document.

What is referencing?

Referencing is the way that you acknowledge your use of other people's work or ideas. Whenever you summarise, refer to, or quote from an author's work, you must acknowledge (cite) your information source.

What is a reference?

There are two parts:

A **citation** goes in the main body text of your work and acts as a flag indicating that you are using someone else's ideas.

The **reference** gives the full details of where the information came from. You put it in a reference list at the end of your work.

Citations

Vancouver uses numbers for its in text citations in the main body of your work.

These numbers refer the reader to the corresponding number in your final reference list. The reference list then supplies your reader with the full details of your sources and evidence.

Allocating Numbers

In Vancouver, the first source you cite in your text will be numbered one.¹

This continues as you progress through your work,² with each source³ being numbered in turn as you go.⁴

If you cite the same source again in your work² it retains that number² and will appear as number two on your reference list.²

Each individual source number will only appear once in your reference list but can appear multiple times in your work as necessary.

Citing Multiple Sources

There are several ways in which you can cite multiple sources in your work.

Use a comma to separate sources if they are:

A consecutive pair,^{1,2} that is,^{3,4} just two sources in a row.^{5,6}

Or several sources that do not appear consecutively.^{19, 26, 42}

Use a hyphen to cite a range of multiple sources if they are consecutive:

For example: Several major clinical trials have replicated these outcomes.²²⁻²⁷

You will sometimes use both methods to indicate the multiple sources you are referring to:

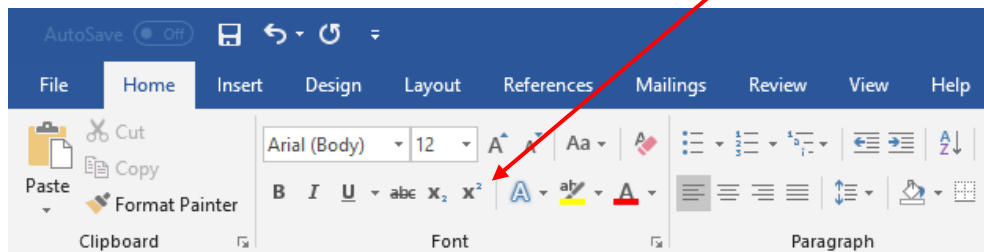
For example: While there have been objections in the past,^{4,16,22} there is now overwhelming evidence that these cannot be sustained.^{26-29, 32, 36}

Direct Quotation

For direct quotation of words or statistics 'please also include the page number in your citation'.^{1:51}

See the [UniSkills Vancouver Referencing Toolkit](#) for further examples.

Making the numbers superscript:



To make your numbers superscript, highlight the number(s) and select the X² option on the Home menu within Microsoft Work. On a PC you can also use the keyboard shortcut '**Ctrl Shift +**'

Punctuation and Citation:

Your citation numbers will usually be placed after punctuation marks,³ or outside the punctuation.⁴

In most cases citation numbers will naturally fall after a full stop.¹ But sometimes after a comma,² as in the examples presented throughout this guidance document.

You do not need to leave a space in between the punctuation mark and the citation number.⁵

Occasionally, you may need to add citation numbers mid-sentence^{4, 6-8} (inside the punctuation) to make your sources clear.

You will need to use your own judgement to ensure the clarity of your reference to others' work, and thus the clarity of your own work in turn. This is an important part of academic writing and there are no hard rules on where numbers are placed in Vancouver.

For example: While Smith³ agrees on principle, as do the majority of psychology-influenced studies,⁴⁻⁹ Smith¹⁰ disputes that the sample size is large enough to ensure generalisability, along with several others who have made unsuccessful attempts at replicating the data.^{11-13, 19, 24}

Overall, aim to be **consistent** in your style choices, **accurate** in citing your evidence and **acknowledge** all your sources.

Reference List

Your reference list comes at the end of your piece of work and must include the full details of every item cited in your work. In Vancouver style the reference list is given in numerical order (not alphabetical order).

Each reference must be correctly formatted in the Vancouver style according to what type of information source it is (e.g. book, eBook, journal etc.). Some examples are given below.

Formatted Reference Samples

Printed Book

Author. *Title of book*. Edition (if not the 1st). Place of publication: Publisher; Year.

Barker P. *Michel Foucault: subversions of the subject*. 2nd ed. Hemel Hempstead: Harvester Wheatsheaf; 2002.

Al-Shaikh B, Stacey S. *Essentials of Anaesthetic Equipment*. 2nd ed. London: Churchill Livingstone; 2002.

Note that for multiple authors there is no need to write 'and', or place a full stop, after each initial. Please use *italics* for book titles.

Edited Book

Author. Title of chapter. In: Names of Editors, editors. *Book title*. Place: Publisher; Year. p. 00-00.

Willats J. The draughtsman's contract: how an artist creates an image. In: Collins J and Nisbet A, editors. *Theatre and performance design: a reader in scenography*. Abingdon: Routledge; 2010. p. 21-32.

eBook

Author. *Title of book* [eBook]. Edition (if not the 1st). Place of publication: Publisher; Year [cited on Year Month Date]. Available from: URL

McMillan K, Weyers J. *The study skills book* [eBook]. 3rd ed. Harlow: Pearson; 2012 [cited on 2014 Jul 18]. Available from: <https://www.dawsonera.com/readonline/9780273773344>.

Journals

Author. Article title. *Journal Title*. Year Month Date;Volume(Issue number):page range.

Bolt D. Disability and the rhetoric of inclusive higher education. *Journal of Further and Higher Education*. 2004 Nov 1;28(4):353-8.

Please use *italics* for journal titles. There is no requirement to abbreviate journal titles in your assignments at Edge Hill.

Website

Author. *Website title* [Medium]. Place: Publisher; date (if unknown omit) [cited year month date]. Available from: URL.

Royal College of Physicians. *Medical care* [Internet]. London: Royal Colleges of Physicians; c.2019 [cited 2019 Jun 26]. Available from: <https://www.rcpmedicalcare.org.uk/>.

The author can be personal or impersonal (e.g. an organisation).

Green/White Paper and Government Publications

Organisation name. *Title*, Paper number (if applicable). Place of publication: Publisher; Year.

Department of Health. *Choosing life: making healthy choices*, CM6374. London: Stationery Office; 2011.

If the publication is online, indicate its medium is [Internet] following the *title* (and paper number, if applicable). Include 'Available from:' and the relevant URL at the end of the entry as with other online sources.

Acts of Parliament

Please note the date format and the three-letter abbreviation of the month in Vancouver style

Title of Act Year, Statute details. [cited year month day]. Available from: URL.

Child Poverty Act 2010. [cited 2019 Apr 4]. Available from: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/9/contents>.

Equality Act 2010, c.15. [cited 2019 Apr 25]. Available from: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/pdfs/ukpga_20100015_en.pdf.

Further reference samples can be viewed on the [U.S. National Library of Medicine](#) webpages.