Vancouver Referencing Guidance

The purpose of this guidance document is to provide a brief introduction to referencing in using 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 of your work and acts as a flag indicating that you are using someone else's ideas.

The **reference** list comes at the end of your work and gives the full details of where the information came from.

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 the sources you have used.

Allocating Citation Markers

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 source[3] being numbered in turn as you go.[4]

If you cite the same source again in your work[2] it retains that number[2] 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 'you should also include the page number after the citation marker, separated by a colon.'[1:51]

See the UniSkills Vancouver Referencing Toolkit for further examples.

Making the numbers superscript:
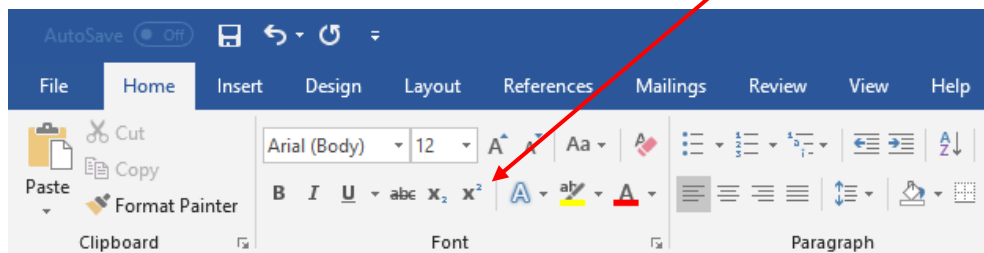
To make your numbers superscript, highlight the number(s) and select the X^2 option on the Home menu within Microsoft Word. On a PC you can also use the keyboard shortcut '**Ctrl Shift +**'

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 style referencing.

For example: While Smith[3] agrees on principle, as do the majority of psychology-influenced studies,[4-9] Smith[10] 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 work and must include the full details of every item you have cited. In Vancouver style the reference list is given in numerical order (not alphabetical order).

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

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

Formatted Reference Samples

Printed Book

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

Palmas WR. *Pocket Evidence Based Medicine: A Survival Guide for Clinicians and Students*. Cham: Springer; 2023.

Al-Shaikh B, Stacey S. *Essentials of Equipment in Anaesthesia, Critical Care and Perioperative Medicine*. 6th ed. Amsterdam: Elsevier; 2024.

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 of publication: Publisher; Year. p. 00-00.

O'Connell O, Frain A. Women in Healthcare. In: Imitiaz-Umer S and Frain J, editors. *ABC of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in Healthcare*. Chichester: Wiley Blackwell; 2023. p. 45-52.

eBook

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

Currow D, Clark K, Kleinig P. *Emergencies in Supportive and Palliative Care* [eBook]. 2nd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press; 2024 [cited 2024 Jun 28]. Available from: https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/edgehill/reader.action?docID=7389520.

Journals

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

Barnes RK, Woods, CJ. Communication in Primary Healthcare: A State-of-the-Art Literature Review of Conversation-Analytic Research. *Research on Language and Social Interaction*. 2024 Apr 3;37(1):7-37.

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

Websites

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

Royal College of Physicians. *Medical care* [Internet]. London: Royal Colleges of Physicians; c.2024 [cited 2024 Jul 2]. Available from: https://www.rcpmedicalcare.org.uk/.

The author can be a named author or an organisational author. If the date is a copyright date add c. before the year, as in the example above.

Green/White Papers and Government Publications

Organisation name. *Title*, Paper number (if applicable) [Medium]. Place of publication: Publisher; Year [cited year month date]. Available from: URL

Department of Health and Social Care. *The government's response to the Science, Innovation and Technology Committee's report: The antimicrobial potential of bacteriophages*, CP995 [Internet]. London: Stationery Office; 2024 [cited 2024 Jul 3]. Available from: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-antimicrobial-potential-of-bacteriophages-report-government-response.

Acts of Parliament

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

Pensions (Extension of Automatic Enrolment) Act 2023, c.44. [cited 2024 Jul 2]. Available from: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/44/contents.

When citing an Act of Parliament, give the name of the Act instead of the author and include the year. This is a part of the name of the Act.

Further reference samples can be viewed on the U.S. National Library of Medicine webpages.