

# CHANGES IN THE 8<sup>th</sup> EDITION OF THE MLA HANDBOOK

The eighth edition of the MLA Handbook, published in 2016, rethinks documentation for an era of digital publication. The MLA now recommends a universal set of guidelines that writers can apply to any source and gives writers in all fields—from the sciences to the humanities—the tools to intuitively document sources. Learn more below about the changes to MLA guidelines.

In the new model, the work's publication format is not considered. Instead of asking, "How do I cite a book [or DVD or Web page]?" the writer creates an entry by consulting the MLA's list of core elements—facts common to most works—which are assembled in a specific order. The MLA core elements are **Author, Title of source, title of container, other contributors, version, number, publisher, publication date, location**. In the new model, then, the writer asks, "Who is the author? What is the title?" and so forth—regardless of the nature of the source.

**Please note that changes in the 8<sup>th</sup> edition primarily affect the Works Cited listings only. In-text citations are largely unchanged from the previous edition.**

For more information on MLA changes, see: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/22/>

## COMPARATIVE EXAMPLES:

**8<sup>th</sup> edition:** Jacobs, Alan. *The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction*. Oxford UP, 2011.

7<sup>th</sup> ed: Jacobs, Alan. *The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2011. Print.

**8<sup>th</sup> edition:** Kincaid, Jamaica. "In History." *Callaloo*, vol. 24, no. 2, Spring 2001, pp. 620-26.

7<sup>th</sup> ed.: Kincaid, Jamaica. "In History." *Callaloo* 24.2 (Spring 2001): 620-26. Web.

## ABBREVIATIONS

Common terms in the works-cited list like *editor*, *edited by*, *translator*, and *review of* are no longer abbreviated. The eighth edition provides a shorter list of recommended abbreviations.

## AUTHORS

When a source has three or more authors, only the first one shown in the source is normally given. It is followed by *et al.* (Previously, the omission of coauthors was limited to sources with four or more authors and was presented as an option.)

## BOOKS AND OTHER PRINTED WORKS

Page numbers in the works-cited list (but not in in-text citations) are now preceded by *p.* or *pp.*

For books, the city of publication is no longer given, except in special situations .

## JOURNALS

Issues of scholarly journals are now identified with, for instance, "vol. 64, no. 1" rather than "64.1".

If an issue of a scholarly journal is dated with a month or season, the month or season is now always cited along with the year (45).

## ONLINE WORKS

The URL (without <http://> or <https://>) is now normally given for a Web source. Angle brackets are not used around it.

The citing of DOIs (digital object identifiers) is encouraged.

Citing the date when an online work was consulted is now optional.

Placeholders for unknown information like *n.d.* ("no date") are no longer used. If facts missing from a work are available in a reliable external resource, they are cited in square brackets (2.6.1). Otherwise, they are simply omitted.

## PUBLISHERS

Publishers' names are now given in full, except that business words like *Company* (*Co.*) are dropped and, for academic presses, the abbreviations *U*, *P*, and *UP* are still used.

A forward slash (/) now separates the names of copublishers.

The kinds of publications that don't require a publisher's name are defined.

When an organization is both author and publisher of a work, the organization's name is now given only once, usually as the publisher. No author is stated.

## MISCELLANEOUS

Full publication information is now given for widely used reference works. Page-number spans are given for articles in alphabetically arranged reference books in print. In other words, reference works are treated like other works and are no longer subject to exceptions. The medium of publication is no longer stated, except when it is needed for clarity.

## WORKS CITED EXAMPLES: MLA 8<sup>th</sup> edition

<b>Book</b>	Garcia Marquez, Gabriel. <i>Love in the Time of Cholera</i> . Vintage, 1988.
<b>eBook</b>	Atkins, Peter. <i>Animal Cities: Beastly Urban Histories</i> . Routledge, 2016. ebrary, <a href="http://bit.ly/ebrarybook">http://bit.ly/ebrarybook</a> .
<b>An article in a print journal</b>	Goldman, Anne. "Questions of Transport: Reading Primo Levi Reading Dante." <i>The Georgia Review</i> , vol. 64, no. 1, 2010, pp. 69-88.
<b>An article in an electronic journal</b>	Chan, Evans. "Postmodernism and Hong Kong Cinema." <i>Postmodern Culture</i> , vol. 10, no. 3, May 2000. <i>Project Muse</i> , doi: 10.1353/pmc.2000.0021.
<b>A encyclopedia entry</b>	Kessler, Eric H. "Value Chain." <i>Encyclopedia of Management Theory</i> . Sage Publications, 2013.
<b>A government publication</b>	United States, Department of Labor. <i>Child Care: A Workforce Issue</i> . Government Printing Office, 1988.
<b>A personal interview</b>	Brandt, Deborah. Personal Interview. 28 May 2008.
<b>A film/DVD</b>	Jonze, Spike, director. <i>Adaptation</i> . Columbia Pictures, 2002.
<b>Website with no author</b>	"What's New in the Eighth Edition." <i>The MLA Style Center</i> . 2016, <a href="https://style.mla.org/whats-new/">https://style.mla.org/whats-new/</a> .
<b>Website - with author</b>	Pinsker, Joe. "Why So Many Smart People Aren't Happy." <i>The Atlantic</i> . 26 Apr. 2016, <a href="http://bit.ly/atlant1c">http://bit.ly/atlant1c</a> .
<b>Song or a piece of music from an album</b>	Adele. "Send My Love (To Your New Lover)." 25, XL Recordings, <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fk4BbF7B29w">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fk4BbF7B29w</a> .
<b>Email</b>	Boyle, Anthony T. "Re: Utopia." Received by Daniel J. Cahill, 21 June 1997.
<b>Tweet</b>	@persiankiwi. "We have report of large street battle in east & west of Tehran now - #Iraelection." <i>Twitter</i> , 23 June 2009, 11:15 a.m., <a href="https://twitter.com/persiankiwi/status/2298106072">twitter.com/persiankiwi/status/2298106072</a> .
<b>Television series</b>	<i>Buffy the Vampire Slayer</i> . Created by Joss Whedon, performance by Sarah Michelle Gellar, Mutant Enemy, 1997-2003.
<b>Radio/TV episode in a series</b>	"Hush." <i>Buffy the Vampire Slayer</i> , created by Joss Whedon, performance by Sarah Michelle Gellar, season 4, episode 10, Mutant Enemy, 1999.
<b>A work within a multi-volume edition</b>	Poe, Edgar Allan. "The Masque of the Red Death." <i>The Complete Works of Edgar Allan Poe</i> , edited by James A. Harrison, vol. 4, Thomas Y. Cromwell, 1902, pp. 250-58. <i>HathiTrust Digital Library</i> , <a href="http://bit.ly/1U61zrPoe">http://bit.ly/1U61zrPoe</a> .
<b>Comment on webpage/blog post</b>	Jeane. Comment on "The Reading Brain: Differences between Digital and Print." <i>So Many Books</i> , 25 Apr. 2013, 10:30 p.m., <a href="http://bit.ly/1ZuWJGe">http://bit.ly/1ZuWJGe</a> .
<b>Artwork</b>	Bearden, Romare. <i>The Train</i> . 1975, Museum of Modern Art, New York.
<b>Photograph (online)</b>	The New York Public Library. "New Banners." <i>Instagram</i> . 2 June 2016, <a href="http://bit.ly/nyplinsta">http://bit.ly/nyplinsta</a> .