Referencing is a standard method of acknowledging the sources of information you have consulted in compiling your assignment. Anything – words, figures, graphs, theories, ideas, facts, images – originating from another source and used in your assignment must be referenced (i.e. acknowledged).

In your assignment (e.g. essay, seminar paper, dissertation, project, etc.) you must provide the reader with precise information pertaining to every source referred to in your written work or consulted as part of your research.

What is APA Referencing?

APA referencing is a specific style of referencing which has been set out and standardised by the American Psychological Association (APA). This guide provides students with a brief introduction to using this referencing style, with examples for the most commonly used source-types provided on the following pages. For further details and examples, students should refer to the APA’s official Publication manual and Concise rules of APA style, which are available in the Library.

All Arts students within Dublin Business School are required to use the APA referencing format in their assignments.

Why reference?

Referencing is a vital part of academic research and writing. There are several reasons why it is so important, some of which are listed below:

- To avoid plagiarism
- To back up your argument(s)
- To establish credibility
- To verify your research and quotations
- To provide your reader with the details needed to source the original documents, etc. used in your research

What is plagiarism?

Plagiarism is defined by the College as the act of presenting the work, written or otherwise, of any other person, including another student or institution, as your own. The only way to use another person’s work without committing plagiarism is to fully and precisely reference the original author(s) in your own work.

You must cite and reference all materials, including both print and electronic, which you have used or presented in your own work. Whether you use another author’s words directly or you summarise someone else’s ideas and write about them in your own words, you must cite and reference the original work in your assignment. Not to do so would be an act of plagiarism. Please follow the examples detailed in this guide to ensure you cite and reference correctly in all your assignments.

What about common knowledge?

Widely known information or facts such as names, events and/or dates do not always have to be referenced. This is known as common knowledge. For example, it is commonly known that Neil Armstrong was the first man to walk on the Moon in 1969, thus there is no need to cite or reference such a statement in your work.

If you are in doubt over whether or not something is common knowledge, cite it!

How to reference: a three-step process

There are 3 basic steps to citing and referencing throughout your research and writing:

1. Record the details of all materials used in your research and reading as you go along – this will ensure you have all the requisite information to create your citations and references when you begin writing your assignment.
2. Create an in-text citation every time you use or refer to someone else's work within your own assignment.
3. Build your reference list as you go along (in alphabetical order), listing every source cited within the text of your assignment.
**Types of use**

**Direct Quotation**
1. Direct quotes should be used sparingly and only when relevant to your argument. Short and long quotes are treated differently.
   - **Short quotes** (less than 40 words) should be contained within the main body of your text with a citation which includes the page number and quotation marks, as in the following example:

   **Example**
   Martinez (2016) states that Facebook can be considered “a rowdy assemblage of humanity talking, gossiping, flirting, sharing and creating experiences” (p. 288).

   - **Long quotes** (40 words or more) should be entered as a separate paragraph from the main body of your text. The quotation should be indented and contain a full citation. Quotation marks are not required.

   **Example**
   Thomson (2016) describes the effect technology is having on the way people consume digital media:
   
   They have other screens- their computer, a laptop, or a smartphone-on which, one way or another, they get lot of what they want , on HBO Go, Hulu Plus or Netflix. A lot of people young or old, watch on the computer, using “shared” passwords. It is piracy, but the pirated system wants their attention on the ads,...(p. 378)

2. If you cite the author and year in your introductory sentence, only the page number is required at the end of the quote (as above).
3. If you omit a section of a quote, place three spaced dots (…) in place of the removed text.
4. If you want to explain a section of the quote in more detail (with your own words), place your explanation inside square brackets within the text of the quote, as in the following example:

   **Example**
   “Young men were keen to enter the [telegraph] business as messengers, since it was often a stepping stone to better things” (Standage, 2007, p. 64).

**Paraphrasing**
1. Paraphrasing is re-writing or re-stating another person’s idea or argument in your own words, rather than using a direct quote.
2. You must always cite (including page number) and reference the original material when you paraphrase another writer’s work.
3. Paraphrasing is often more appropriate than a direct quote as it does not disrupt the natural flow of your own writing style.

**Example**
Thompson (2016, p. 334) states that Donald Trump’s election, the Brexit vote, the rise in support of far-right parties in continental Europe all indicate that ignorance and prejudice are on the rise.

**Summarising**
1. Summarising is different to paraphrasing. When you summarise something you create a brief synopsis or list the main points of another piece of work without providing minute detail of the arguments or ideas portrayed in that work.
2. As with quotations and paraphrasing, you must always cite (no page number needed) and reference the original author(s).

**Example**
Adbulla (2016) illustrates how the introduction of the Cable News Network (CNN), the launch of Al Jazeera and introduction of the Internet transformed the media landscape in the Middle East.

**Secondary referencing**
1. When a book or article references another source use the phrase “as cited in” to refer to both the original author and the source which you have found it in.

   **Example**
   
   Or
   This belief has been confirmed (Muller, 2016, as cited in Richards, 2017).

2. In your reference list, you should only add the source that you referred to directly.
3. Although secondary referencing is acceptable, ideally you should try to locate and read the original work in order to confirm and critically evaluate the point or issue being referred to in the secondary source.

**Fair Use or Copyright Infringement?**
- It is important to note that extensive use (either quotes or paraphrasing) of another person’s work can constitute unfair use and be deemed a case of copyright infringement.
- Therefore, although you may reference everything correctly you may still commit an act of plagiarism if your assignment is made up of a significant amount of another person’s work.
- Your assignment should be your own thoughts and words based on a critical analysis of the ideas, theories, discussions and arguments that you have researched and read.
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| Book – two authors                | ... discuss the impact modern office settings can have on peoples well being, making them feel like clones working on mindless tasks in a boring environment (Hogg and Vaughan, 2018, p. 289).
| Book – three or more authors      | All citations: Share et al. (2012, p. 169) found that ...                       | Share, P., Tovey, H., & Corcoran, M. P. (2012). *A Sociology of Ireland* (4th ed.). Gill & Macmillan. |
| Book - editor                     | ... are examples of well known studies in social psychology (Smith and Haslam, 2012, p. 13). |                                                                                   |
|                                  | NOTE: If works were published in the same year, enter a symbol or letter beside the year in the in-text citation to link it to the relevant reference list entry, e.g. Giddens and Sutton (2009a, 2009b) |                                                                                   |
|                                  |                                                                                   | When the author and publisher are the same, use the word ‘Author’ as the name of the publisher. |
| Book – no identifiable author     | ... which was set out in the 1937 constitution of Ireland (Facts about Ireland, 2001, p. 36). | *Facts about Ireland*. (2001). Department of Foreign Affairs, Information Section. |


**MANAGING YOUR REFERENCES**

You can use a software package such as Zotero to manage your references. Check out the Library’s guide to Zotero, available online & in the Library.
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**WEB PAGE WITH AN INDIVIDUAL AUTHOR**

- In-text Citation: (Freud, 1923/2001).

**WEB PAGE WITH AN ORGANISATION AS AUTHOR**


**WEB PAGE WITH NO AUTHOR AND NO DATE**

- In-text Citation: ... infant mortality rate was significantly higher amongst working class families (“The World of the Child,” n.d.).

**EVALUATING WEBSITES:** You should always ask the question *Is this website reliable?* when using the internet for research. Check out the guide to ‘Evaluating Websites’ for further details.