The standard citation style guide for the humanities, especially languages and literature, is the *MLA Handbook*, 8th edition, 2016. The Modern Language Association of America (MLA) publishes the manual.

The English departments at IRSC recommend MLA format for papers written in these fields.

Two types of citations are included in most research papers: 1) citations within the text of the document and 2) a list of reference citations at the end of the paper.

**In-Text Citations:**

In-text citations appear in the body of your paper. They identify your use of an idea or quotation from one of your sources. The MLA Handbook uses the author-page citation system for in-text citations.

**Reference Citations:**

Information about the sources you use in your work are included as a separate list at the end of the paper. The MLA Handbook suggests using the title, "Works Cited", for the list.

*Any source information that you provide in an in-text citation must correspond to a source in your Works Cited page.*

**MLA Works Cited Core Elements**

Works Cited references are made up of a list of Core Elements. The Core Elements allow writers to create reference citations for any type of source, regardless of the medium.

1) **Author.** Personal author(s), editor(s), corporate author, director

2) **Title of source.** Book title, article title, chapter title, title of TV episode, film title

3) **Title of container,** Book title, journal title, title of TV series

4) **Other contributors,** Translators, performers

5) **Version,** Edition, abridged/unabridged, director’s cut

6) **Number,** Volume and issue numbers, season and episode numbers

7) **Publisher,** Publishers, university presses, organizations, governments, production companies

8) **Publication date,** Use the date most pertinent to you, full dates given in this format: 24 Aug. 2016

9) **Location.** Page number(s), web address, DOI, stable URL, time on a recording, DVD disc number

**Major Changes to the Eighth Edition**

- If a core element does not exist or cannot be found, simply omit the element from the Works Cited entry. Placeholders including "n.d." for "no date" and "n.p." for "no publisher" are no longer used.
- Include a DOI (digital object identifier) when available using the format doi:####
- The URL, without http:// or https://, should be included for Web sources. Angle brackets are no longer used.
- The source’s medium (Print. Web., etc.) is no longer included.
- Some sources are whole and some are part of one or two containers and require the repetition of some core elements for each container. Add the elements to your reference entry from Author through to Location, then add any second elements in that same order. For example, journal articles from databases have two containers: the first is the journal in which the article is contained and the second is the database which contains the journal.
- In the Works Cited entry, "p." is used before citing a page number and "pp." is used before citing a page range.
### Examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material Type</th>
<th>In-text Citation</th>
<th>Works Cited</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

---

**In-Text Citations**

In-text references provide a means for you to give credit when using others' words, facts, or ideas. MLA style uses parenthetical notations to identify the source (author's surname) and the specific location (page reference) from which you borrowed material.

Place the parenthetical reference where a natural pause would occur, as near as possible to the material documented. In-text citations are typically placed at the end of a quote, sentence, or paragraph.

**Example:**

According to B.F. Skinner, behavior analysis is necessary for society because "almost all major problems involve human behavior" (24).

or

Behavior analysis is necessary for society because "almost all major problems involve human behavior" (Skinner 24).

---

**More Resources**

- **Ask a librarian!** One-on-one assistance is available in-person, by phone, or email. (617) 521-2784 | [http://www.simmons.edu/library/ask](http://www.simmons.edu/library/ask)

- **Simmons MLA (8th ed) Guide**  See explanations, more examples, and links to resources to help you master MLA, 8th Ed.

- **Simmons Writing Center**  Get one-on-one help with your papers from brainstorming to final polishing of your argument.