

## Changes in Modern Language Association Documentation

The seventh edition of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* includes several significant changes in documentation.

- **Use italics to designate titles:** Use italics, rather than underlining, to designate the following kinds of titles: books, magazines, journals, newspapers, films, TV shows, radio programs, albums, long musical pieces, long poems, software programs, and works of art.
- **Omit URLs from documentation notes:** URLs are problematic for at least two reasons: they are too long and people often make errors when entering URL information. Most people rely on a search engine to find sources. You should, however, provide the URL when citation information won't lead readers to the source.
- **Cite the issue number for all scholarly journals:** In the past, you could omit the issue number if the journal was paginated by volume (rather than issue). According to the handbook, including the issue number makes it easier to find articles in databases.
- **List the provenance or medium of publication:** For every entry included in the works cited, identify each source with one of the following designations: Print, Film, Radio, Television, CD, LP, Laser disc, DVD, Slide program, Web, E-mail, or Performance (for a play, dance, opera, or concert). For digital files, use JPEG, PDF, or Microsoft Word file. For oral presentations, use Address, Lecture, Keynote speaker, or Reading. Check the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* for more complete information.

**Note:** These designations should be placed at the end of entries. For Web sources, however, follow the designation with the date of access.

### Example:

Rose, Mike. *The Mind at Work: Valuing the Intelligence of American Workers*. New York: Viking, 2004. Print.

### Example:

Gladwell, Malcolm. "Most Likely to Succeed." *The New Yorker.com*. 15 Dec. 2008. Web. 28 Mar. 2009.

- **Italicize only the main title when you cite the title of a book that includes the title of another book:** The titles of many scholarly works contain titles of other works; the example below illustrates how the title of such a book would appear in a works cited entry.

**Example:**

Smith, John. A *Casebook on Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man*. New York: Viking, 1999. Print.

- **Emphasize information in the work cited entry that you emphasize in the paper:** When you cite films, performances, sound recordings, and other sources that rely on collaboration, the writer's emphasis in the document should be reflected in the work cited entry. For example, if you emphasize the film director rather than the film, the director's name should be identified first in the citation entry. If you focus on the film, list the title first.

**Example:**

Capra, Frank, Dir. *It's a Wonderful Life*. Perf. James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore, and Thomas Mitchell. RKO, 1946. Film.

**Example:**

*It's a Wonderful Life*. Capra, Frank, Dir. Perf. James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore, and Thomas Mitchell. RKO, 1946. Film.

- **Include new abbreviations when you cite Web sources:** Entries for Web sources require the following: the publisher's name, the date of publication, and page numbers. When this information is unavailable, include the following designations: use N.p. for no publisher when citing online periodicals; use n.d. when the site includes no date of publication; and use n. pag. for no pagination when citing online articles without page numbers that appear only online or in a database.

**Example:**

Kessl, Fabian, and Nadia Kutsche. "Rationalities, Practices, and Resistance in Post-Welfarism. A Comment on Kevin Stenson." *Social Work & Society* 6.1 (2008): n. pag. Web. 10 Oct. 2008.