Transitioning from APA (6th ed.) to APA (7th ed.): A guide for students

Key changes

This is a summary of the most relevant and frequently used changes only. For more details and specific examples, please refer to the examples table below, Charles Sturt’s Referencing Summary, the Academic Referencing Tool, APA (7th ed.) manual, or the APA style blog. You should always use a guide when referencing.

Formatting

- More options for choice of fonts are now offered: Calibri 11, Arial 11, Lucida Sans Unicode 10, Times New Roman 12, Computer Modern 10, and Georgia 11. Always check the presentation guidelines in your Subject Outline.
- Only one space, not two, should be used between sentences.
- No superscript should be used with ordinal numbers in reference titles. For example, APA (6th ed.) has become APA (7th ed.).

Language choices

- The singular and gender-neutral “they” replaces “he”, “she”, “he/she”, etc.
- Additional information on inclusive, bias-free language is included in the manual.
- Descriptive phrases are used in preference to pejorative labels.
- Specificity and precision is preferred over broad categorisation of people.

In text citations

- In-text citations have been simplified: all in-text citations for works with three or more authors are shortened to the name of the first author plus “et al.” (except where this would create ambiguity). Previously, the first citation of a source with three to five authors had to include all surnames.
- The date of the original source is now included with the author in a secondary citation.
- The manual contains examples of paraphrasing to demonstrate clear attribution without over-citation.

Reference list

- The title **References** is now presented in bold font.
- Publication locations are no longer required for book entries. A location is still required when referencing a conference paper or an artwork in a museum or museum website.
• Up to 20 authors (rather than seven) are now included in reference list entries before names are omitted with an ellipsis⁷.

• The presentation of digital object identifiers (DOIs) (e.g. https://doi.org/xxxxx) and URLs has been standardised. Both are presented as hyperlinks⁸.

• The label “doi:” is no longer used⁹, and the words “Retrieved from” are used only when a retrieval date is also needed (i.e., if the information is likely to change over time).

• For ebooks, the platform or device (e.g., Kindle) is no longer included in the reference.

• Journal article references now always include the issue number.

• The website name is included unless it’s the same as the author, and web page titles are in italics⁹.

• More audio-visual examples are provided in the manual: e.g., YouTube videos, PowerPoint slides and lecture notes, TED Talks, and more.

• Guidelines on who to include in the author position for audio-visual materials are provided.

• Social media, webpages, and websites are addressed in new categories. For consistency and ease of formatting, blogs and other online platforms that publish articles are now in the periodicals category.

Resources


   Available from most campus libraries. Call number: 808.06615 PUBL

2. Student resources available from: https://www.csu.edu.au/current-students/learning-resources/build-your-skills/academic-skills-help/referencing

   • Charles Sturt University’s APA Referencing Summary
   • Academic Referencing Tool
   • APA website and blog (also https://apastyle.apa.org/)
   • Endnote
   • Referencing workshops
   • Academic Writer Tutorials (awaiting transition to 7th ed. by APA in August 2020)


### Examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Superscript</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Instead of “the elderly” use “older adults” or “people over the age of …”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Instead of “the poor” use “people with incomes of less than $20000 per year”.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
*is cited in-text as*: (Booth et al., 2008) |
| 5 | (Peet et al., 1990, as cited in Bourke, 2005, p. 264) |
| Include the first twenty authors’ names, then insert an ellipsis (three spaced full stops), and add the last author’s name. |
[https://www.abc.net.au/landline/](https://www.abc.net.au/landline/) |