

CSE Documentation (formerly CBE) Citation-Sequence System

When you use the words or original ideas of another person in your writing, you need to document, or give credit to, the sources of those words or ideas. If exact words from the original are used, quotation marks are necessary. If you paraphrase or restate the idea in your own words, quotation marks are not required, but documentation of the source is still required.

There are several different formats for documentation. This guide explains the **CSE (Council of Science Editors)** format.** In this format, you briefly identify your sources in the text of your paper, then give the full information in the list of references at the end of the paper.

The CSE style manual describes two systems of documentation:

- the Citation-Sequence system (used for the chemistry lab/library assignment)
- the Name-Year system (used by many biology classes)

Your instructor can tell you which method or system to use.

Identify Sources in the Text - Citation-Sequence system

According to CSE style, you identify in the text of your paper the sources of information (references) you have used. This serves the same purpose as "footnotes," but is integrated smoothly into the text of your paper, rather than listed separately. The CSE style offers several systems of citing your references. This handout illustrates the Citation-Sequence system.

As each source is mentioned in the text, it is numbered in sequence. Page numbers are not added.

Ozone plays an important role in photochemical smog and in the production of acid rain.¹

If a source is used again later, the original number is reused.

"The American Lung Association (ALA) reports that lung disease is now the third leading cause of death in the country and the fastest growing among the top five causes and that ozone pollution contributes to this deadly trend."⁸

On the other hand, atmospheric ozone absorbs ultraviolet radiation with wavelengths between 240 and 320 nanometers which is lethal to simple unicellular organisms and the surface cells of higher plants and animals.¹

The complete references are listed at the end of the paper in the order they were numbered in your paper.

AI platforms, such as ChatGPT, are treated as a personal communication. Personal communications are not included in the end references but should be acknowledged in the text of the paper. This means any content in your paper that was produced by AI will not be numbered and listed at the end of the paper, but it will have an in-text citation like the following example:

In-Text: (date type of communication)

In-Text: (2025 ChatGPT response to prompt from author)

Listing Your References

The list of references (or bibliography) at the end of your paper should be a list of all the sources that contributed ideas and information to your paper. It can be titled "References" or "Cited References."

- The arrangement of references in your list depends upon how you have cited them in your text. In the Citation-Sequence system, each reference appears in the order that it is first mentioned in your paper.

The general rules for an end reference list are:

PRINT BOOKS

Last name and Initials of author. Title with only first word and Proper Nouns capitalized. Edition. Publisher; Year.

Tilley RJD. Understanding solids: the science of materials. 3rd ed. Wiley; 2021.

ONLINE ENCYCLOPEDIA

Last name and Initials of author. Title with only first word and Proper Nouns capitalized. Publisher; Year. URL

Brasseur GP, Prinn RG. Stratospheric ozone. McGraw Hill's Access Science; 2023. <https://doi.org/10.1036/1097-8542.757477>

-OR-

Last name and Initials of author. Title with only first word and Proper Nouns capitalized. In: Last name and Initials, editor. Encyclopedia Name. Edition. Volume #. Publisher; Year. Page numbers. URL

Uretsky SD, Davidson T. Antacids. In: Longe JL, editor. The Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine. 6th ed. Vol 1. Gale; 2020. p 288 - 290. link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX7986600110/GVRL?u=txshracd2487&sid=bookmark-GVRL&xid=301845c8

MAGAZINE ARTICLES FROM LIBRARY DATABASE

Last name and Initials of author. Article Title with only first word and Proper Nouns capitalized. Magazine title. Date;Volume#(Issue#):Page numbers. URL

Rosen M. Lab-made protein foils snake toxins. Science News. 2024;205(6):10. <https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=081c8b76-d256-3a7f-8dbd-b83ad829e7b9>

SCHOLARLY JOURNALS FROM LIBRARY ONLINE DATABASE

Last name and Initials of author. Title with only first word and Proper Nouns capitalized. Journal Name with Correct Abbreviations (see note below). Year;Volume#(Issue# OR Article#):Page numbers. URL

Lewis J. True colors: unmasking hidden lead in cosmetics from low- and middle-income countries. Environ Health Perspect. 2022;130(4):042001-1-042001-6. <https://doi.org/10.1289/EHP9220>

WEBSITE

Last name and Initials of author (if available). Website name with only first word and Proper Nouns capitalized. Publisher Name; Year Mon Day. URL

Ground water and drinking water. United States Environmental Protection Agency; 2025 Jul 14. <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water>

OTHER RULES

Journal titles - when longer than one word the title of a journal should be abbreviated. Recognized abbreviations can be confirmed with CAS Source Index or International Organization for Standardization.

Issue vs article number - some articles do not have an issue number but do include an article number. The article number should be used in the place of the issue number in the end reference.

AI - references to AI are treated as a personal communication. Personal communications are not included in the end references list, but an in-text reference, like the following example, should be included in your paper:

In-Text: (date type of communication)

In-Text: (2025 ChatGPT response to prompt from author)

**If you have a type of source not covered by the example reference list below, see <http://library.austincc.edu/help/CSE/CSE-cs.php> or ask a librarian to show you the CSE style manual, *Scientific Style and Format: The CSE Manual for Authors, Editors, and Publishers*, 9th ed. Chicago (IL): University of Chicago Press; 2014. REF T11 .S386 2024.
CSE's link for citing includes sources accessed via the Internet is <https://www.csemanual.org/Tools/CSE-Citation-Quick-Guide.html>. Ask a librarian for assistance if you need help.

Example Reference List

Note: Print and Electronic sources are listed separately below to aid in locating the correct format. In your Reference List, print and electronic sources will be integrated into one list.

Print Sources (Citation-Sequence system)

Book with one author	Tilley RJD. Understanding solids: the science of materials. 3rd ed. Wiley; 2021.
Book with two to five authors	Andersen S, Sarma K. Protecting the ozone layer: the United Nations history. Earthscan Publications; 2002.
Book with organization as author	National Research Council. Ozone-forming potential of reformulated gasoline. Washington (DC): National Academy Press; 1999.
Book with editor	McCuen GE, editor. Our endangered atmosphere: global warming and the ozone layer. Hudson (WI): Gary E. McCuen Publications; 1987.
Part of Book	
-Contribution	Mackenzie D. Anybody want to save the ozone layer? In: Gribbin J, editor. The breathing planet. Basil Blackwell; 1986. p. 185-192.
-Part	Everard M. Ecosystem services: key issues. Routledge; 2017. Chapter 8, Regenerative landscapes: reversing the cycle; p 141-169.
Journal article with one author	Suran M. EPA takes action against harmful "forever chemicals" in the US water supply. JAMA. 2022; 338(18):1795-1797.
Journal article with one to five authors	Bekki S, Law KS, Pyle JA. Effect of ozone depletion on atmospheric CH ₄ and CO concentrations. Nature. 1994; 371(6498):595-597.
Journal article with more than five authors	Lamprecht AL et al. Towards FAIR principles for research software. Data Sci. 2020; 3(1): 37-59.
Magazine article with discontinuous pages	William P. The ozone below. Audubon. 1994;96(5):14, 22-23.
Newspaper article	Browne MW. Antarctica's ozone layer is threatened by depletion. The New York Times. 1994 Oct 8;Sect A:7.

Online Sources (Citation-Sequence system)

Note: Write down the URL and date accessed for citations when downloading. They may not appear on printouts.

Encyclopedia article found in an online database, example one	Brasseur GP, Prinn RG. Stratospheric ozone. McGraw Hill's Access Science; 2023. https://doi.org/10.1036/1097-8542.757477
Encyclopedia article found in an online database, example two	Young CT. Nuts. Kirk-Othmer Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology; 2007. https://doi.org/10.1002/0471238961.1421201925152114.a01.pub2
Encyclopedia article found in an online database, example three	Uretsky SD, Davidson T. Antacids. In: Longe JL, editor. The Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine. 6th ed. Vol 1. Gale; 2020. p 288 - 290. link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX7986600110/GVRL?u=txshracd2487&sid=bookmark-GVRL&xid=301845c8
Science magazine article found in an online database	Rosen M. Lab-made protein foils snake toxins. Science News. 2024;205(6):10. https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=081c8b76-d256-3a7f-8dbd-b83ad829e7b9
Journal article from a database with one author.	Lewis J. True colors: unmasking hidden lead in cosmetics from low- and middle-income countries. Environ Health Perspect. 2022;130(4):042001-1-042001-6. https://doi.org/10.1289/EHP9220
Journal article from a database with two to five authors.	York JM, Borghese CM, George AA, Cannatella DC, Zakon HH. A potential cost of evolving epibatidine resistance in poison frogs. BMC Biol. 2023;21(144):1-16. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12915-023-01637-8
Journal article from a database with more than five authors.	Silva LAP et al. Rapid and sustainable HPLC method for the determination of uremic toxins in human plasma samples. Anal Bioanal Chem. 2023;415(4):683-694. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00216-022-04458-w
Newspaper article found online	Joselow M. No, chemtrails are not real or causing floods, E.P.A. says. The New York Times. 2025 Jul 10. https://www.nytimes.com/2025/07/10/climate/epa-debunks-chemtrails-conspiracy-theory.html?smid=url-share

Website	Ground water and drinking water. United States Environmental Protection Agency; 2025 Jul 14. https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water
Database	Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man. Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; 1966– [updated 2025 Aug 25]. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/omim

Example - Cited References

1. Brasseur GP, Prinn RG. Stratospheric ozone. McGraw Hill's Access Science; 2023. <https://doi.org/10.1036/1097-8542.757477>
2. Tilley RJD. Understanding solids: the science of materials. 3rd ed. Wiley; 2021.
3. Rosen M. Lab-made protein foils snake toxins. Science News. 2024;205(6):10.
<https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=081c8b76-d256-3a7f-8dbd-b83ad829e7b9>
4. Lewis J. True colors: unmasking hidden lead in cosmetics from low- and middle-income countries. Environ Health Perspect. 2022;130(4):042001-1-042001-6. <https://doi.org/10.1289/EHP9220>
5. Silva LAP et al. Rapid and sustainable HPLC method for the determination of uremic toxins in human plasma samples. Anal Bioanal Chem. 2023;415(4):683-694. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00216-022-04458-w>
6. Joselow M. No, chemtrails are not real or causing floods, E.P.A. says. The New York Times. 2025 Jul 10
<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/07/10/climate/epa-debunks-chemtrails-conspiracy-theory.html?smid=url-share>
7. Ground water and drinking water. United States Environmental Protection Agency; 2025 Jul 14.
<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water>
8. York JM, Borghese CM, George AA, Cannatella DC, Zakon HH. A potential cost of evolving epibatidine resistance in poison frogs. BMC Biol. 2023;21(144):1-16. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12915-023-01637-8>
9. Mackenzie D. Anybody want to save the ozone layer? In: Gribbin J, editor. The breathing planet. Basil Blackwell; 1986. p. 185-192.
10. National Research Council. Ozone-forming potential of reformulated gasoline. National Academy Press; 1999.