

REFERENCES

In all technical writing there are literary conventions to be met in citing sources of information. Not only are you ethically bound to acknowledge any facts or ideas that are not your own (unless of course they are well-known and accepted), but complete bibliographic information is also required by readers wishing to pursue the topic being written about. All references must be cited **in the text**.

Systems of referencing vary across disciplines and also across publications. When submitting papers to particular journals you must ensure that you conform to the instructions to authors of that particular journal. For the purposes of assignments in Biology ensure that your referencing follows a uniform system; for example, that used by CSIRO publications. The examples given below are from the instructions to authors submitting to a CSIRO journal.

CITING REFERENCES IN THE TEXT

There are four things to keep in mind about citing sources in the text:

Acknowledge the source of all material that is not your own. This allows the reader who wishes to find out more about the subject to find the original source material. You must not copy text directly from textbooks or journals.

Do not cite sources for information regarded as common knowledge.

Cite sources using a conventional format.

Some examples are presented below:

“*Limulus polyjemus* is the horse-shoe crab of North America (Fingerman 1976).”

“Esau (1960) points out that vascular plants...”

“Hubby and Lewontin (1966) found a high level of enzyme polymorphism in *Drosophila pseudoobscura*...”

If you did not actually read a reference but obtained information via a second source:

“As shown by Morgan (1944) (quoted in Smith 1957)...” OR “Morgan (1944, cited by Smith 1957) showed that...” (cite both references in the reference list).

Note that the “*et al.*” means that the publication has more than two authors. Although this abbreviation is used in the main body of the text, all of the authors must be given in the list of references given under the heading **References** at the end of the paper.

It is usually not acceptable to cite dictionaries, encyclopaedias, and newspaper articles or lecture notes. In later years it will not be acceptable to cite textbooks either, but you will be able to do this for this year. The reason for this is that these kinds of books and publications are all using someone else's data rather than their own. You should always cite

the original author when you refer to an idea or result of someone else's - so textbooks, encyclopaedias etc are not original data.

You should avoid using the internet as a source since this material is unreliable and even where it is reliable it is often not an original source. In addition, it is usually unclear who author of the web page is and therefore it is difficult to cite it correctly. Try to find a published source for your information that has been edited or refereed and is also attributable.

2. THE REFERENCE LIST

You should include all references you cited in the text in this reference section. Do not include references that you have not cited in the text. References are listed by author in alphabetical order, followed by the year of publication.

For a paper

Loher, W., and Rence, B. (1978). The mating behaviour of *Teleogryllus commodus* (Walker) and its central and peripheral control. *Zeitschrift für Tierpsychologie* **46**, 225-259.

For a book

Raven, P. H., Evert, R. F., and Eichhorn, S. E. (1986). 'Biology of Plants.' 4th edition. (Worth: New York, USA)

For a chapter in an edited book

Bennet-Clark, H. C. (1984). Insect hearing: acoustics and transduction. In: 'Insect Communication'. (Ed. T. Lewis.) pp. 49-82. (Academic Press: London, UK.)

For a Thesis

Erzinclioglu, Y. Z. (1984). Studies on the morphology and taxonomy of the immature stages of Calliphoridae, with analysis of phylogenetic relationships within the family, and between it and other groups in the Cyclorrhapha (Diptera). PhD thesis. (University of Durham: UK.)

Note:

1. Books on specialised topics often consist of a series of chapters written by different authors, with the overall format of the book arranged by an editor. In the above example T. Lewis is the editor of the book "Insect Communication", and T.H. Bennet-Clark contributed the chapter that appears on pages 49 to 82.
2. "Zeitschrift für Tierpsychologie" is an international journal produced in Germany (but most contributors write in English to reach a wide audience). The journal publishes in the area of animal behaviour. The paper by Loher and Rence appeared on pages 225 to 259 in volume 46 of this journal in 1978.

Reference:

Pechenik J. A. (2004) 'A short guide to writing about biology'. 5th edition. (Longman; New York, USA) 808.0665/13