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The CSE Format

Council of Science Editors (CSE) Format

It is important to know that the Council of Science Editors format for documenting sources refers to conventions in the biological sciences and does not universally apply to other sciences. For information on how to cite sources in chemistry, medicine, physics or other scientific disciplines consult writer's guides in major journals for those disciplines. The information that we are providing here is adapted from the CBE manual *Scientific Style and Format* in the University of Wisconsin Madison Writing Center's *Writer's Handbook* (University 2001).

CSE documentation takes two forms, the name-year system and the citation-sequence system. The difference between the two is essentially the difference between inserting an author's name after using a source (name-year system) and applying a raised number or superscript after such use (citation-sequence). For purposes of convenience and in the spirit of consistency with the Modern Language Association (MLA) and American Psychological association (APA) format, we will describe the name-year system.

In-Text Citations

- When citing a source generally, we typically give the last name of the author and date of publication in parentheses:
(Jones 1995)
- If what we are borrowing comes from a specific page, we are obliged to indicate the page:
(Jones 1995, p. 25)
- If we mention the name of the author within our own writing, we need give only the year that the work was published:
"Jones had traced this effect in an earlier study" (1985).
- For special cases, consider the following:
Same author, different years
If citing more than one work done by a single author, we need to put the years in which the work was published in chronological order:
". . . Jones's landmark studies" (1985, 1995)

Same author, same year
If citing the works of a single author done within the same year, we need to distinguish each work with lower-case letters and in alphabetical order:
"Jones' series of works" (1977a, 1977b, 1985, 1995)

Two authors
In the case of joint-authorship, include both names separated by "and":
(Jones and Smith 1998)

Three or more authors
When citing the work of three or more authors, give the first or primary writer's name followed by "and others" and the year:
(Jones and others 1978)

Multiple citations

When referring to several works cite them from earliest to latest; give those published in same year alphabetically by author's name; separate studies by semicolon:

“A number of studies (Dawson and Briggs 1974; Dawson and Jones 1974; Smith, AL 1978; Smith GT 1978; Smith and others 1978; Tyndall and others 1978; Zymgomoski 1978; Brown 1980) have established”

Secondary citations

If we have not seen material in the original which is cited in another source, we need to give the original author's name and year, followed by “cited in’ and the source name and year:

“The original description (Powell 1858, cited in Forbes 1872) . . .”

Sample paragraph

This is the way a paragraph might look when the name-year format is used (quoted in *University 2001*):

In vitro fertilization (IVF) is a valuable tool for assessing functionality and for studying the success or failure of gamete interaction in the domestic cat and its wild relatives (Wildt and others 1992). Viable-appearing IVF embryos have been generated in the cat (*Felis catus*) (Goodrowe and others 1988; Johnston and others 1991a, 1991b; Donoghue, Johnston, and others 1992), leopard cat (*f. bengalensis*) (Goodrowe and others 1992), Indian desert cat (*F. silvestris*) (Pope and others 1989), puma (*F. concolor*) (Miller and others 1990), tiger (*Panthera tigris*) (Donoghue and others 1990; donoghue and others 1993), and cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) (Donaghue, Howard, and others 1993). Furthermore, IVF embryos from the domestic cat (Goodrowe and others 1988), Indian desert cat (Pope and others 1989), and tiger (Donoghue and others 1990) have proven biologically competent as demonstrated by the production of live offspring after embryo transfer.**

**Howard JG, Donoghue AM, Johnston LA, Wildt, DE. Zona pellucida filtration of structurally abnormal spermatozoa and reduced fertilization in teratospermic cats. *Biol Reprod* 1993; 49; 131.

Sample Reference list

At the end of the document, we need to include a list of references alphabetically arranged by author's name. Please note that only those works cited the text are included in the reference list. The following examples are drawn from *Writer's Handbook (University 2001)*:

Book: two authors

Voet D, Voet JG. 1990. *Biochemistry*. New York: J Wiley. 1223 p.

Article: two journal articles, same author, different years

Sapolsky R. 1985. Stress-induced suppression of testicular function in the wild baboon: role of glucocorticoids. *Endocrinology* 116:2273-8.

Sapolsky R. 1986. Endocrine and behavioral correlates of drought in wild olive baboons (*Papua anubis*). *Am J. Primatol* 11:217-27.

Electronic Sources: government web site

Influenza Virus Vaccine 2008-2009 Season [Internet]. Rockville (MD): US Food and Drug Administration (US); [updated 2008 Feb 25; cited 28 Feb 2008]. Available from: <http://www.fda.gov/cber/flu/flu2008.htm>

References

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Writing Center, 2001. *Writer's handbook: documentation: CBE documentation*. Retrieved February 28, 2008, from c

Lunsford, A. (2006) *Easywriter: A pocket reference (3rd ed.)*. Bedford/ St. Martins. Retrieved February 28, 2008, from <http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/easywriter3e/docsource/3a.asp>

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