Documentary-note (Oxford)

The documentary-note (Oxford) referencing style

This resource explains some of the more common applications of the documentary-note (Oxford) style of referencing. It is based on the *Style manual for authors, editors and printers*, 6th edn, 2002, pp. 208–15; pp. 218–19; and pp. 228–32.

You should always check your unit guide and/or with academic staff (unit chair, lecturer or tutor) to make sure that this is the recommended style for your unit. Note that some units, courses and disciplines use variations of the style described here.

You must reference *all* material you use from *all* sources and acknowledge your sources in the body of your paper each time you use a fact, a conclusion, an idea or a finding from someone’s work. This establishes the authority of your work and acknowledges the researchers and writers you have drawn upon in your paper.

It is necessary to cite your sources each time you:

- reproduce an author’s exact words (quote), that is, copy word for word directly from a text
- use your own wording (summarise or paraphrase) to explain or discuss what someone has said.

If you copy an entire table, chart, diagram or graph or if you take only some of the data contained in such sources, you must provide a reference.

Sources such as journals, books, encyclopedias, computer programs and software, information from the internet, reports, newspapers, interviews, radio and television must be cited in the body of your paper and detailed in a reference list at the end. Information from Deakin study guides and readers must also be acknowledged.

**The documentary-note style consists of the following elements:**

1. *citations in the body of the paper*, using a superscript (raised) number, generally at the end of a sentence

2. *a list of footnotes at the bottom (foot) of each page*, for all citations on that page. These are known as endnotes if they appear at the end of a chapter, section or other division (for longer texts, for multi-author texts and for texts intended to be read as separate parts)

3. *possibly a bibliography*. If a bibliography is required it should be provided at the end of the paper giving the details of each source referred to and possibly other materials consulted in preparing the paper.

Part 1 of this resource looks at *citing sources* in the body of the paper. Part 2 shows how to set out footnotes/endnotes. It gives examples of a range of common types of sources that students are likely to use in their assignments. Part 3 shows how to present the related *bibliography* entries for some of the footnotes/endnotes presented in Part 2.
Part 1: Citing sources

Superscript numbers with corresponding footnotes should be used whenever information or ideas from sources are discussed. Sources such as books, journals, reports, newspapers, interviews, radio, television and information from the Internet must be acknowledged in text and detailed in footnotes. Information from Deakin study guides and readers must also be referenced.

Superscript numbers are generally placed at the end of a sentence or clause rather than immediately after the words to which they refer. However, where possible, they should be placed immediately after direct quotes.

Summarising and paraphrasing

Writers can discuss ideas and findings from sources by using their own words in summaries and paraphrases. Summarising is condensing a text; paraphrasing is conveying all the information in a short stretch of text.

When summarising or paraphrasing material from a source, a superscript number should be used as follows:

Spiro Kostof notes that Ggantija, on the Maltese island of Gozo, is the earliest true building type discovered.¹

or

Ggantija, on the Maltese island of Gozo, is the earliest true building type discovered.¹

Quoting

This is how a direct quote would appear:

Spiro Kostof notes, ‘Ggantija is a wholly manmade form, which is to say it is thought out and reproduceable. As such, it is the first true building type…’¹

or

In terms of manmade buildings, ‘Ggantija is a wholly manmade form, which is to say it is thought out and reproduceable. As such, it is the first true building type…¹

If a quote is more than about 30 words long, omit the quotation marks, start the quote on a new line and indent the quote about 1 cm from the left-hand margin of the page. As for a short quote, a superscript number is used and a footnote is necessary to indicate the source of the quote.

Part 2: Footnotes/endnotes

At the bottom of the page you would have a short line separating the body of the text from the footnotes relating to the superscript numbers. (Many word processing programs have an automatic footnoting facility.)

The first time a source is cited, the footnote must provide full bibliographic details. The footnotes for subsequent references to the same source do not repeat all the details again but use a shortened form. See the section that follows on repeat citations.

Examples of first citations of common footnote types are shown below. (Endnotes have the same format as footnotes.)

Repeat citations

When a particular source is cited more than once in a paper, the full bibliographic details are not provided each time in a footnote. It is becoming more common now to use the author’s family name and the page number, if appropriate, rather than the Latin abbreviations *ibid.*, *op. cit.* and *loc. cit.* for repeat citations.

In footnoting a repeat citation, use the author’s family name and the page number, if the page number is different from the earlier footnote. (See footnote 3 in the examples below.)

If you use two or more different publications by the same author then, in a repeat citation, you also need to include part of the title to distinguish publications by the same author. (See footnote 5 in the examples below.)
Latin abbreviations

If you have to use the Latin abbreviations, make sure that you use them correctly.

- **ibid.** (ibidem, meaning *in the same place*) relates to the same work, cited *immediately* before.
  
  (a) *ibid.* can refer to the same page:

  2. ibid. ← same as 1, including page

  (b) *ibid.* can also refer to a different page:

  2. ibid., p. 45. ← same as 1, but different page

- **op. cit.** and **loc. cit.** are used for works previously cited, but not immediately before.

  *op. cit.* (opera citato, meaning *in the work cited*) refers to a different page of a work cited earlier.
  *loc. cit.* (loco citato, meaning *in the place cited*) refers to the same page of a work cited earlier.

  3. Kostof, op.cit., p. 46. ← same as 1, but different page
  5. Tansey & Kleiner, loc. cit. ← same as 2, including page

Secondary sources

Sometimes you may read one author (secondary, e.g. Brown below) who cites another author (primary, i.e. Smith), and you want to use what the primary author has said. You should cite the primary author using a superscript number in the ways already discussed. However, the footnote should list both sources, as follows:


Electronic sources

In the body of your assignment, use superscript numbers for electronic materials in the same ways as for print materials. In your footnotes, use the following formats.
Part 3: Bibliography

A bibliography consists of sources cited in text, sources consulted in preparing a paper, as well as other sources thought to be of use or interest to the reader.

A reference list consists of only the sources cited in a paper. Note, however, that the term ‘bibliography’ is sometimes used for what would more accurately be called a reference list.

In compiling entries for a bibliography (and for a reference list) according to the documentary-note style, note that the order of elements, the punctuation and capitalisation are the same as for footnotes/endnotes, with two exceptions:

(1) The family name of the author comes before initials (or the family name of the first-listed author, if there is more than one). However, in footnotes/endnotes, the initials of all authors come before their family names.

(2) Entries are arranged alphabetically according to the family names of authors. No numbers are used, unlike footnotes/endnotes.

**Book**

Author, A, B Author & C Author, *Title of book*, edition number other than the first, Publisher, City, year.


**Chapter or article in an edited book**


**Translated work**

Author, A & B Author, *Title of work*, trans. C Translator, details of the work as appropriate to its form.

**Journal article**


**Newspaper article, authored**

Author, A, ‘Title of article’, *Title of Newspaper*, day month year, Section of Newspaper if applicable, p. x.


**Group as author**

Organisation name, details of the work as appropriate to its form.


**Films, videos, and television and radio programs**

*Title*, format, Publisher, place of recording, date of recording.


**Internet article**

Author, A, *Title of article*, Name of site sponsor, year, retrieved day month year, <URL>.


**Electronic copy of a journal article, authored, from database**

Author, A, ‘Title of article’, *Title of Journal*, vol. xx, no. xx, year, pp. x–x, retrieved day month year, database name.


**Sample bibliography in documentary-note (Oxford) style**

Bibliography


**Further reading**

*Documentary-note (Oxford)* can be accessed online at <www.deakin.edu.au/referencing>.

Other resources available at this web address include:

- *Avoiding plagiarism and collusion*
- *Summarising, paraphrasing and quoting*
- *Why reference?*