How Do I Find This Reference?

Mary Lou Baker Jones

Wright State University - Main Campus, marylou.jones@wright.edu

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These materials were designed to be used with Wright State University first-year students or faculty of first-year students to improve research skills.

Project Team:
Maureen Barry, Mary Lou Baker Jones, Cheryl Lauricella, Piper Martin, Sue Polanka, Mandy Shannon

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How Do I Find This Reference?

University Libraries Workshop
Our outcomes:

• You will be able to identify the various elements of a citation in order to determine what is being cited

• You will be able to choose an appropriate library database to locate the item
Where we find citations

• We find citations (or references) at the end of book chapters or articles.
• Or maybe your instructor gives you one to look up.
Why citations?

• All citations have the same goal: to help you – the reader – find the cited item.
• In order to find the item, you have to know what you are looking for!
Commonly-cited items

• Books
• Book chapters

• Articles
• Web sites
Which of these citations is for a book?


What information is in a citation?
What is in a citation?

• Author(s)
• Title (article, chapter, essay, etc.)
• Source title (journal, book, proceedings, etc.)
• Publisher info (may include URL or DOI)
• Copyright date
• Volume & issue numbers
• Page numbers
When you see this in a citation, it is probably a book

A. Author name
B. City of publication
C. Title
D. Year of publication
E. Volume & issue numbers
When you see this, it is probably a journal article.

A. Author
B. City of publication
C. Title
D. Year of publication
E. Volume & issue numbers
What is in a citation? 2 clues

• Author(s)
• Title (article, chapter, essay, etc.)
• Source title (journal, book, proceedings, etc.)
• Publisher info (may include URL or DOI)
• Copyright date
• Volume & issue numbers
• Page numbers
Random clues

• Why aren’t the parts of a citation always in the same order?
• What kind(s) of sources include a full date in the citation, such as May 14, 2012?
Practice

Book
Book chapter
Journal article
Newspaper article
Web site

A. Book
B. Newspaper article
C. Journal article
D. Book chapter
E. Web site

A. Book
B. Newspaper article
C. Journal article
D. Book chapter
E. Web site

A. Book
B. Newspaper article
C. Journal article
D. Book chapter
E. Web site

A. Book
B. Newspaper article
C. Journal or magazine article
D. Book chapter
E. Web site

A. Book
B. Newspaper article
C. Journal article
D. Book chapter
E. Web site
Now that we know what we are looking for…

Where should we look?
Finding sources is like shopping. We have to look in the right store or we won’t find what we are looking for.

- Starbucks – no motor oil
- Home Depot – no birthday cakes
Books? Start here.
Books here, plus articles, too – a Google of library-purchased information
Articles? Search here.
Database description
Academic Search Complete

Academic Search Complete provides access to over 7,900 full-text periodicals, including more than 6,800 scholarly journals. Academic areas of study include social sciences, humanities, education, computer sciences, engineering, language and linguistics, arts & literature, medical sciences, and ethnic studies.
Use the Libraries’ home page to find the source in your envelope.
Where did you look to find this?

Where did you look to find this?

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