Documenting Sources

- Research sources need to be recorded using citations
- A citation is a source reference written in a standard format (e.g. MLA)
- In-text links (parenthetical references) point to detailed references at the end of a paper
- Citations to research sources are compiled into a List of Works Cited (AKA bibliography)
Citations are important because they:

- Give authors credit for their ideas and work
- Verify the accuracy of your research and writing
- Allow you and others to pursue further leads and research
- Provide a standardized method of communicating research sources

Citation style overview

- There are a variety of citation styles depending on subject discipline
- MLA (Modern Language Association): humanities
- APA (American Psychological Association): social sciences
- Others: Council of Biology Editors (CBE), Chicago Manual of Style etc.
- Make sure you know which style your professor requires
Typical citation elements

- Author(s)
- Title of book/journal/magazine/newspaper article
- Source information depends on type: (e.g. publication name, volume, issue, year, page numbers, publisher, place of publication)
- Publication date
- Publication medium: print or web.
- Subscription sources: database name

Tips for recording sources

- Keep an accurate record of all sources
- Use colored 3x5 cards, create a tracking sheet, or use notecards in Noodlebib
- Record as you go rather than at the end of a project
- Be organized!
MLA: Citing books

 AUTHOR:  
 Fraser, Russell A.

 TITLE:  
 Shakespeare, the later years / Russell Fraser.

 PUBLISHER:  

 DESCRIP:  
 xii, 380 p. : ill., map ; 24 cm.

 BIBLIO:  
 Includes bibliographical references (p. 261-368) and index.

 SUBJECTS:  
 1) Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616.
 2) Dramatists, English -- Early modern, 1500-1700 -- Biography.

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 Elements you need to record:

• Author’s full name(s)  
• Title of the book  
• Place of publication (city)  
• Publisher  
• Date  
• Medium

Format:

First author’s name inverted  
Title in italic with initial caps  
City only (in US)  
Abbreviate Publisher  
Print

Example:

Fraser, Russell A. Shakespeare, the Later Years.

MLA Practice – your turn!

Book

Title: Global Warming: Are We Entering the Greenhouse Century? / Stephen H. Schneider
Author: Schneider, Stephen Henry
Publisher: San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 1989
Description: 317 p. : ill., maps, 24 cm.
Format: Book
Subjects: Global warming.
        Climatic changes.
Notes: Includes bibliographical references (p. [386]-390) and index.

Format:
Author(s). Title of Book. Place of pub.: Publisher, Year of pub. Medium.