

Citing Online Government Documents and Information in APA Style

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. 6th ed. (2010). Washington,

DC: American Psychological Association. DESK REF BF76.7.P83 2010

Note: When explaining how to cite online documents, the APA Manual states: “In general, we recommend that you include the same elements, in the same order, as you would for a reference to a fixed-media source and add as much electronic retrieval information as needed for others to locate the sources you cited.” (p. 187)

In-text citations:

One work by one author:

(Jones, 2005)

Note: “References in APA publications are cited in text with an author-date citation system...” (p. 174).

Groups or agencies as the author:

(National Institute of Mental Health, 2007) (NIMH, 2007)

Note: Spell out the entire name of the agency in the first citation and use the abbreviation or acronym in subsequent citations.

Direct quotations of sources:

(Smith, 2010, pp. 127-128)

Note: “Credit direct quotations of online material by giving the author, year and page number(s) in parentheses.” (p. 171).

(National Institutes of Health, 2010, para. 5)

Note: If no page number exists but the paragraph numbers are visible, use paragraph numbers in place of page numbers. Use the abbreviation para.

(Flavin, 2011, Helping veterans become physical assistants, para. 1).

Note: “If the document includes headings, and neither paragraph nor page numbers are visible, cite the heading and the number of the paragraph following it to direct the reader to the location of the quoted material.” (p. 172) .

Reference Examples:

DOCUMENTS FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES

An entire work:

Library of Congress. (2008). Country Profile: Afghanistan

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/profiles/Afghanistan.pdf>

A journal article from a government web site:

Oscar-Berman, M. & Marinkovic, K. Alcoholism and the brain: An overview. *Alcohol Research and Health* (27), 125 – 133. Retrieved from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, National Institutes of Health website: <http://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/arh27-2/125-133.htm>

A government report:

U.S. Government Accountability Office. (2012, June). Employment for people with disabilities: Little Is Known about the Effectiveness of Fragmented and Overlapping Programs (Publication No. GAO-12-677). Retrieved from: <http://www.gao.gov/assets/600/592074.pdf>

Note: “For reports retrieved online, identify the publisher as part of the retrieval statement unless the publisher has been identified as the author.” (p. 205).

CONGRESSIONAL AND LEGAL MATERIALS

A congressional hearing:

Implementation of caregiver assistance: Are we getting it right?: Hearing before the Subcommittee on Health of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, House of Representatives, 112th Cong. (Serial No. 112-4). (2011). Retrieved from GPO’s Federal Digital System:
<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CHRG-112hhr65870/pdf/CHRG-112hhr65870.pdf>

An unenacted House of Representatives Bill:

Don't Ask Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010, H.R. 2965, 111th Cong. (2010). Retrieved from ProQuest Congressional Database.

An unenacted Senate Bill:

Rebuild America Act of 2012, S. 2252, 112th Cong. (2012). Retrieved from ProQuest
Congressional Database.

A House of Representatives Report:

H.R. Rep. No. 112-276, at 2 (2011). Retrieved from GPO's Federal Digital System:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CRPT-112hrpt276/pdf/CRPT-112hrpt276.pdf>

Note: “As with bills, report numbers should be preceded by H.R. or S. as appropriate. The report number is composed of the year of the Congress followed by a hyphen and the number of the report, and ending with the calendar year....The reference is to material that starts on page 2 of that document. (p. 223).

An enacted bill or statute:

Establishment of Pregnancy Assistance Fund, 42 U.S.C. § 18202 (2011). Retrieved from ProQuest
Congressional Database.

Note: “Enacted bills are laws and should be cited as statutes” (p. 222)

A Supreme Court Case:

Lawrence v. Texas, 539 U.S. 558 (2003). Retrieved from Lexis/Nexis Academic Database. (2003 U.S.
LEXIS 5013).