

The  
**PEARSON CANADA**  
Guide to the 2009  
***MLA HANDBOOK***  
Updates

**Cynthia K. Marshall, Lisa Berland  
Consultants**

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# The Pearson Canada Guide to the 2009 *MLA Handbook* Updates

In March 2009, the Modern Language Association (MLA) published the seventh edition of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, which provides documentation and manuscript preparation guidelines for university, college, and high school students. This new *Handbook* introduces some significant changes to current MLA documentation guidelines. Pearson is providing this brief booklet summarizing the new *Handbook* guidelines as a resource for students.

The notable changes in the documentation requirements of the *MLA Handbook* include the following:

- Addition of the *medium of publication* to every entry in works-cited lists
- A simplified format for works-cited entries for online sources that does not include the URL
- Inclusion of volume and issue numbers for every journal citation
- Use of italics, rather than underlining, for titles

You may want to consult the MLA website ([www.mla.org](http://www.mla.org)) for additional information.

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### *Changes to Works-Cited Entries*

The MLA divides sources into three categories: print, Web, and other common sources. To find the appropriate citation format, determine the category to which your source belongs.

Two new general rules apply to all works-cited entries:

#### **1. Include the medium of publication in every entry.**

- *Medium of publication* is the medium in which you found the content you are citing. For example, the medium of publication for a book would be *Print*, while the medium for an online book would be *Web*. Other examples include *CD*, *Television*, *Performance*, etc.
- *Web* is the medium of publication for any content that you retrieve online, even if it originally appeared in another medium—for example, a newspaper article that you retrieved from a website.
- The medium of publication is generally the last element in your citation. When *Web* is the medium of publication, the last element should be the date of access.

- #### **2. Use italics rather than underlining for all titles of independently published works** (books, plays, book-length poems, periodicals, websites, online databases, television and radio broadcasts, CDs, record albums, performances, and works of art). Continue to use regular type and quotation marks for titles of stories, articles, songs, and other shorter works included in larger publications.

## ***Sample Works-Cited Entries: Print Sources***

### **BOOKS**

#### *Book by one author*

Saul, John Ralston. *The Collapse of Globalism and the Reinvention of the World.*

Toronto: Viking Canada, 2005. Print.

#### *Book by two or three authors*

Levitt, Steven D., and Stephen J. Dubner.

*Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything.* New York:

Harper, 2005. Print.

#### *Book by more than three authors*

Macmillan, Margaret, et al. *Canada's House:*

*Rideau Hall and the Invention of a*

*Canadian Home.* Toronto: Random, 2004.

Print.

#### *Illustrated book or graphic novel*

For an illustrated edition of a written text, include the illustrator's name with the abbreviation *Illus.* after the book's title.

Hughes, Ted. *Cave Birds.* Illus. Leonard Baskin.

New York: Viking, 1978. Print.

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Cite a graphic novel written and illustrated entirely by one author as you would a non-illustrated book by one author.

Delisle, Guy. *Pyongyang: A Journey in North Korea*. Montreal: Drawn and Quarterly, 2005. Print.

#### PERIODICALS

For all scholarly journals, include both the volume and the issue number in the works-cited entry, whether the journal is paginated by issue or by volume.

##### *Article in a journal*

Nakhaie, M. Reza. "Social Capital and Political Participation of Canadians." *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 41.4 (2008): 835-60. Print.

##### *Article in a journal that uses only issue numbers*

Thomas, Neal. "Video Games as Moral Universes." *Topia* 11 (2004): 101-16. Print.

##### *Magazine article*

Easterbrook, Gregg. "The Sky Is Falling." *Atlantic Monthly* June 2008: 74-84. Print.

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*Newspaper article*

El Akkad, Omar. "New Identification Rules Bar  
Some Canadians from Casting Ballots."  
*Globe and Mail* 15 Oct. 2008: A14. Print.

***Sample Works-Cited Entries: Web Sources***

In the past, writers have been asked to provide information for electronic sources well beyond what was needed to retrieve the source, including multiple dates and uniform resource locators (URLs, also called Web addresses), which often proved unreliable. The updated citation format is designed to provide the information needed to retrieve an online source in a simpler, more consistent format. It includes a set of standard publication information and *does not require a URL*, unless the writer feels that readers need the URL to locate the original source.

**Standard publication information for all online sources:**

1. Name of the author, director, narrator, performer, editor, compiler, or producer of the work. For works with more than one author or a corporate author, or for anonymous works, follow the guidelines for print sources. (If no author is given, begin the entry with item 2, the title of the work.)
2. Title of the work. Italicize the title, unless it is part of a larger work. Titles that are part of a larger work should be enclosed in quotation marks.
3. Title of the overall website (in italics) if this is distinct from item 2.

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4. Version or edition of the site, if relevant.
5. Publisher or sponsor of the site. This information can often be found at the bottom of the webpage. If this information is not available, use *N.p.* (for *no publisher*).
6. Date of publication (day, month, and year, if available). If no date is given, use *n.d.*
7. Medium of publication. **For all online sources, the medium of publication is *Web*.**
8. Date of access (day, month, and year).

*Example*

Cook, John. "Cult Friction." *Radaronline.com*.  
 Radar Magazine, Apr. 2008. Web. 13 Apr.  
 2009.

Usually you do not include URLs in works-cited entries. However, if your readers will not be able to locate the source without the URL, include it in your citation.

**Format for a URL, when necessary:**

- Place a period and a space after the date of access; insert the URL as the last item in the entry.
- Enclose the URL in angle brackets (< > ), followed by a period.
- Give the complete URL, including the access-mode identifier (*http*, *ftp*, etc.). For accuracy, use your browser's copy-and-paste function to move the URL directly from the address bar to your text.

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- Break a URL only **after** a slash.
- Do not hyphenate a URL or allow your word processor to insert a hyphen.

*Example*

"Become a Volunteer." *Health Promotion*. Public Health Agency of Canada, 2005. Web. 15 Apr. 2009. <<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/vs-sb/benefits/index-eng.php>>.

**SOURCES FOUND ON THE WEB***Entire online site*

McGann, Jerome J., ed. *The Rossetti Archive*. U of Virginia, n.d. Web. 12 Apr. 2009.

*Part of a site*

"Tax Cuts Impact Quality of Life: Study." *CBCNews.ca*. CBC, 15 Apr. 2009. Web. 15 Apr. 2009.

Statistics Canada. "Foreign Control of the Canadian Economy, 2006." *The Daily*, 3 Mar. 2009. Web. 15 Apr. 2009.

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*Online magazine article*

"Medicine Goes Digital." *The Economist*.

The Economist, 16 Apr. 2009. Web.

17 Apr. 2009.

*Online newspaper article*

Lurie, Steve. "My List: 10 Things to Do to

Improve Mental Health Care in Canada."

*Globe and Mail*. *Globe and Mail*, 26 Nov.

2008. Web. 15 Apr. 2009.

*Online reference article*

"Film Noir." *Encyclopaedia Britannica Online*.

Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2009. 15 Apr.

2009.

*Online scholarly journal article*

For scholarly journal articles that exist only online in independent websites—as opposed to articles accessed from a database—use the format for an article from a print journal. Include *Web* as the medium of publication, followed by the date of access. If page numbers are not included, use *n. pag.*

Sandifer, Philip. "When Real Things Happen to

Imaginary Tigers." *ImageText* 3.3 (2007):

*n. pag.* Web. 15 Apr. 2009.

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*Wiki*

"Pottery of Ancient Greece." *Wikipedia*. Wikimedia Foundation, 2009. Web. 15 Apr. 2009.

*Blog*

Kirby, Jason. "On the Front Lines of the U.S. Meltdown." *Macleans.ca*. Maclean's, 15 Apr. 2009. Web. 15 Apr. 2009.

*Podcast*

"Africa Today." *BBC World Service*. BBC, 14 Apr. 2009. Web. 15 Apr. 2009.

*Online audio or video*

"Hip Hop Dancer." *Made*. Exec. Prod. Dave Sirulnick. *MTV Overdrive*. MTV Networks, 19 Feb. 2008. Web. 5 May 2008.

BookLounge. "An Interview with Margaret Atwood." *YouTube*. YouTube, 19 Oct 2006. Web. 15 Apr. 2009.

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**SOURCES FOUND THROUGH A DATABASE  
OR SCHOLARLY PROJECT**

*Book accessed from a scholarly project*

Rossetti, Dante Gabriel. *Ballads and Sonnets*.

London: Chiswick, 1881. *The Rossetti*

*Archive*. Web. 4 May 2009.

*Scholarly journal accessed from a database*

For scholarly journal articles accessed through a database, use the format for an article from a print journal. Include *Web* as the medium of publication, followed by the date of access. If page numbers are not included, use *n. pag.*

Include the title of the database or website from which the content was retrieved, in italics. Do *not* include the database URL or (for a library-based subscription) information about the library system.

Wiseman, Nelson. "Five Immigrant Waves: Their  
Ideological Orientations and Partisan  
Reverberations." *Canadian Ethnic Studies*  
39.1-2 (2007): 5-30. *Project Muse*. Web.  
15 Apr. 2009.

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Yandell, John. "Exploring Multicultural Literature: The Text, the Classroom, and the World Outside." *Changing English: Studies in Culture and Education* 15.1 (2008): 25-40. *Academic Search Elite*. Web. 20 Apr. 2009.

*Magazine article accessed from a database*

Ward, Jacob, Doug Cantor, and Bjorn Carey. "The Hard Science of Making Videogames." *Popular Science* Oct. 2007: 68-76. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 8 May 2008.

**ELECTRONIC SOURCES ALSO AVAILABLE  
IN ANOTHER MEDIUM**

When you cite an online source that is also available in another medium—such as a painting that you view online—you *may* choose to include publication information for that other medium if you decide that your readers would find that information useful.

Use the citation format for the other medium, but use *Web* as the medium of publication. End the entry with the following information: (1) The title of the database or website (in italics) from which you retrieved the content; (2) the medium of publication (*Web*); and (3) the date of access (day, month, and year).

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*Work of art accessed online*

Godwin, Ted. *Red Grew*. 1961. Glenbow Museum.  
*Collections*. Web. 15 Apr. 2009.

*Film accessed online*

*Being Caribou*. Dir. Diana Wilson and Leanne  
Allison. National Film Board of Canada,  
2004. *NFB.ca*. Web. 15 Apr. 2009.

***Sample Works-Cited Entries:  
Other Common Sources***

For sources other than print or Web, include the precise medium of the work you are citing, such as *CD* for compact disc and *E-mail* for an e-mail message you received.

*Performance*

*Satyagraha*. By Philip Glass. Vocal text by  
Constance DeJong. Dir. Philem McDermott  
and Julian Crouch. Cond. Dante Anzolini.  
Metropolitan Opera. Metropolitan Opera  
House, New York. 19 Apr. 2008.  
Performance.

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*Television or radio program*

Italicize the name of the series.

Davies, Andrew, adapt. "Emma." By Jane Austen.  
Perf. Kate Beckinsale and Mark Strong. *The Complete Jane Austen. Masterpiece*. PBS.  
WGBH, Boston, 23 Mar. 2008. Television.  
"You've Been Great, Goodnight." *Corner Gas*.  
CTV, 13 Apr. 2009. Television.

*CD or other sound recording*

List the medium last, after the manufacturer's name and date of release.

Coltrane, John. *Afro Blue Impressions*. Rec.  
1963. Prod. Norman Granz. Pablo, 1993. CD.  
Mitchell, Joni. *Blue*. Reprise, 1971. LP.

*Video recording or film*

List the medium last, after the distributor's name and date of release.

Amalric, Mathieu, perf. *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*. Dir. Julian Schnabel.  
Miramax, 2007. Film.

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*The Wind That Shakes the Barley*. Dir. Ken Loach. Perf. Cillian Murphy and Liam Cunningham. BIM, 2006. DVD.

*Interview*

If the source is a published or recorded interview, include the medium of publication (*Radio, Television, Web*, etc.) at the end of the entry.

Galloway, George. Interview by Anna Maria Tremonti. *The Current*. CBC Radio One, 30 Mar. 2009. Radio.

If the source is an interview you conducted yourself, give the name of the person interviewed, the kind of interview (*Personal interview, Telephone interview*), and the date the interview was conducted.

Lynch, Zoya. Personal interview. 10 Apr. 2009.

*Visual art*

Include the date of composition after the title, or *n.d.* if the date is unknown. When the source is the original work of art itself, include the medium of composition after the date of composition.

Murakami, Takashi. *Tan Tan Bo*. 2001. Acrylic on canvas mounted on board. Collection of John A. Smith and Victoria Hughes.

When the source is a reproduction (a print or an online reproduction), include the medium of publication (*Print or Web*).

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Rodin, Auguste. *Monument to Balzac*. 1898.

Museum of Mod. Art, New York. *MOMA.org*.

Web. 9 May 2008.

*Email message*

Include *Email* as the medium of publication, but use *Message to* rather than *Email to* in the body of the entry. Give the name of the writer and, if the message includes a title in the subject line, put the title in quotation marks.

Harrison, Tony. "Re: MLA Style." Message to

Darlene Empson. 8 May 2008. Email.

*Legal case citations*

Citations to acts, codes, and legal cases include the medium of publication at the end of the entry.

*Digital file*

This new category includes computer files such as PDFs, *Word* documents, JPEGs, MP3s, etc., not retrieved from a website or online database. To cite this kind of source, first determine what kind of work you are citing (book, photograph, sound recording, etc.) and follow the guidelines for that kind of work.

Include *file* preceded by the specific kind of file you are citing as the medium of publication. If you can't identify the kind of file, use *Digital file* as the medium of publication.

Leung, Valerie. "The New Canadian Graphic

Novel." 2008. *Microsoft Word* file.

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Rockwell, Norman. *The Golden Rule*. 1985. Mosaic.  
United Nations, New York. JPEG file.

### ***Additional Changes to Style and Formatting***

#### *Comma before coordinating conjunction*

The comma before a coordinating conjunction may be omitted if the sentence is short and the connection between the clauses is clear without punctuation.

She left and he was sad.

The crocodile snapped and the child ran away.

#### *Spacing after punctuation*

Leave one space after all concluding punctuation marks.

#### *Italics*

In addition to using italics for all titles of independently published works, use italics for words and letters referred to as words, foreign words in an English text, and for emphasis. Select a typeface in which the italic and roman versions are easy to distinguish.

#### *Abbreviations*

Abbreviate *Japan* as *Jpn.*, not *Jap.*

The symbol © and *copr.* are acceptable abbreviations for *copyright*.

#### *Capitalization*

Do not capitalize *http*.

Capitalize MS and MSS when abbreviating *manuscript* and *manuscripts*.