

Interpreting Citations

Last updated 5/31/2011.

A citation is a reference to a source of information. A citation typically includes enough identifying information, such as the author, title, and source, for a reader to be able to locate a copy of the item.

Example:

Bolgiano, Chris. Mountain Lion: An Unnatural History of Pumas and People.
Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 1995.

The ability to interpret citations or references to various sources of information is a fundamental research skill. In order to be able to locate and cite an item, you need to be able to determine what type of source the item is.

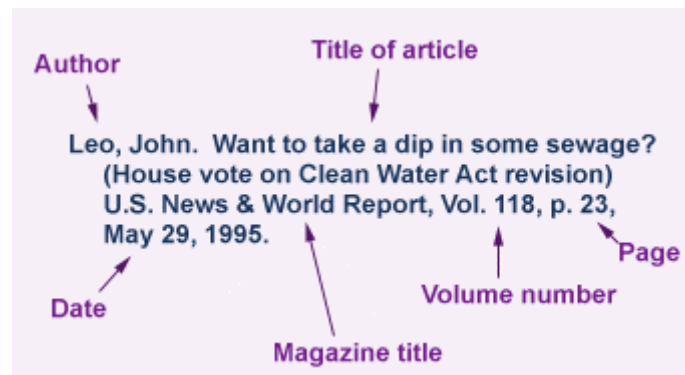
The following are several examples of the most common types of sources found in bibliographies and in databases:

Book



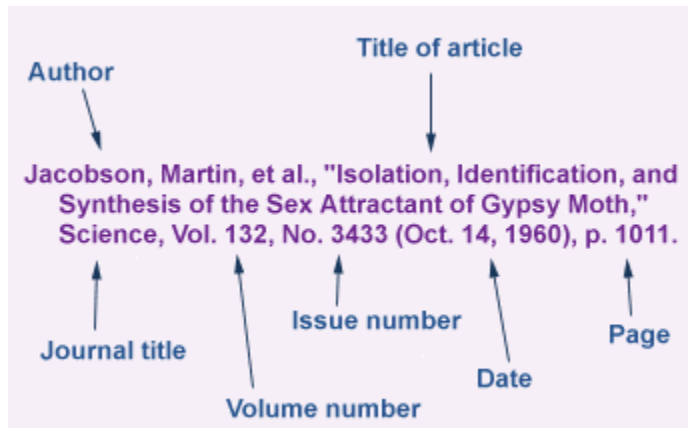
Note: Search the *VCCSLinc Library Catalog* by author or title to determine whether the JSRCC Libraries own a particular book.

Magazine Article



Note: Use the **Journal Locators** tool by Serials Solutions to determine whether the JSRCC Libraries own a particular magazine title. From the library home page, click on **Journal Locators** under the *Find Information* section or go to: <http://library.reynolds.edu/find/journals/default.htm>. When the *Journal Locators* page appears, type the **magazine title** (e.g., *U.S. News & World Report*), not the article title.

Journal Article



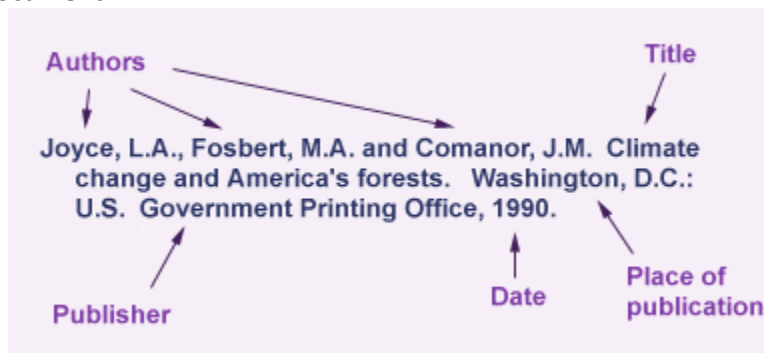
Note: Use the **Journal Locators** tool by Serials Solutions to determine whether the JSRCC Libraries own a particular journal title. From the library home page, click on **Journal Locators** under the *Find Information* section or go to: <http://library.reynolds.edu/find/journals/default.htm>. When the *Journal Locators* page appears, type the **journal title** (e.g., *Science*), not the article title.

Article or Chapter in a Book



Note: Search the *VCCSLinc Library Catalog* by author or title to determine whether the JSRCC Libraries own a particular book. Type the **author or book title** (e.g., *Women and Health: The Politics of Sex in Medicine*), not the article title.

Government Document



Note: Search the *VCCSLinc Library Catalog* by title to determine whether the JSRCC Libraries own a particular government document.

Internet Source Citation



Images taken from James Madison University Libraries *Go for the Gold* Tutorial - Module 4: Interpreting Citations:
<https://www.lib.jmu.edu/gold/mod4find.htm>.

Magazine from an Online Subscription/Database Service

Database Name

Searching: **MasterFILE Premier** Choose Databases »

EBSCO
HOST

Select a Field (optional)

AND Select a Field (optional)

Article Title

DIVIDED WE EAT. (cover story)

Authors

Authors: Miller, Lisa
Yarett, Ian
Ellison, Jesse

Magazine Title

Source: Newsweek, 11/29/2010, Vol. 156 Issue 22, p42-48, 7p, 11 Color Photographs

Document Type: Article

Subject Terms: FOOD
DIET
NUTRITION

Publication Date

Page #'s