Introduction to Vancouver

This brief guide covers how to reference using the Vancouver Referencing System. It is not intended to explain why you should reference; for this please refer to the DMU Harvard Referencing Guide, or any of the recommended Vancouver guides linked to on the Pharmacy subject guide. The principles of referencing are the same, regardless of whether you use Harvard or Vancouver.

In Harvard, references are organised by author-date, but in Vancouver a number is assigned to each reference. That number is used each time the reference is cited in the text, no matter how many times the reference is cited or where the citation appears in the text. In Vancouver references are listed in numerical order in a list at the end of your essay.

Only use Vancouver referencing if you have been specifically asked to do so by your lecturer/department.

Always record the details of all the information you find so that you can provide accurate references, and locate the information again at a later date if need be. You could use the RefWorks reference management system if appropriate. See information on your subject guide under the referencing
Terminology

Reference List
This is a list at the end of your work, of all the sources that have been cited in the text of your work. In Vancouver, the list will be in numerical order.

Bibliography
This is a list of sources which you may have consulted for your work, but not cited. The bibliography would appear after the reference list and should be listed in alphabetical order by author and laid out in the same way as items in your reference list. If you can cite from every work you consulted, you will only need a reference list.
Always check the guidance you are given for work to find out if you are expected to submit work with a reference list and a bibliography. If in doubt, ask your lecturer or supervisor.

Citation
This is the acknowledgement of another person’s work or idea within your text. Each piece of work cited in your text should be represented by a unique number, assigned in the order of citation. If, in your text, you cite a piece of work more than once, the same citation number should be used. This number refers to the full reference in your reference list.

Citing within the text

Citing one author/study in the text
Although a previous systematic review found no randomised controlled trials of lower total fat intake that aimed to assess effects on body weight. ²

Citing multiple author/studies in the text
Overweight and obesity increase the risk of many cancers, coronary heart disease, and stroke. ¹,²,³

Using the name of the author (paraphrasing – no need for page numbers)
The study by Manson et al discusses the evidence relating diabetes mellitus to obesity. ²

Using the name of the author (direct quote – page numbers required)
Manson et al ² state that “obesity is a cause of diabetes mellitus, hypertension, and lipid abnormalities” (p.882)

NB: Quotations longer than two lines should be inserted as a separate, indented paragraph.
Secondary referencing

According to Smith as cited by Jones hypertension and hyperglycaemia are possible biological results of obesity.

NB: secondary referencing should be avoided and the original source of the information should be consulted, where possible.

These citations then refer to the reference in the reference list


Reference List – key information

The reference list provides the bibliographic details for the reference sources used within the text.

The reference list should be organised numerically, NOT alphabetically by author surname (as is the case in Harvard Referencing).

There are key bits of bibliographic information that form the basis of each reference:

- Author/Editor - the main individual who produced the work, or the organisation if there is not an individually named author (this is known as a corporate author)

- Date of publication - the year of publication is enough for most references; sources such as broadcasts, email correspondence and newspaper articles will require the full date.

- Title - the title is obvious in most cases, however titles of web pages are not always obvious so use common sense if a main title is not provided and identify the key piece of information which best describes what you have used.

Reference List - standard formats

**Book**

Author or Editor (ed.). *Title of book in italics*. Series title and number (if part of a series). Edition (if not the first edition). Place of publication (if there is more than one place listed, use the first named): Publisher; Year of publication.

**Book chapter**

Author of the chapter. Title of chapter, In: Editor (always put (ed.) after the name). *Title of book in italics*. Series title and number (if part of a series). Edition (if not the first edition). Place of publication (if there is more than one place listed, use the first named): Publisher; Year of publication. Page numbers.


**Journal article (printed)**

Author. Title of article. *Title of journal in italics*. Year of publication; volume number (issue number): page numbers.


**Journal article (online/electronic)**

Author. Title of journal article. *Title of journal in italics*. [Online] Year of publication; volume number (issue number): page numbers (not always provided for online articles). Available from: URL (or DOI if available). [Date of access]


If an electronic journal article has a DOI (digital object identifier), you can use this instead of the URL. The DOI is a permanent identifier provided by publishers so that the article can always be found online. You will usually find the DOI at the start of the article. The Cochrane database uses DOI numbers:


**Webpages**

Author or Editor (use the corporate author if no individual author or editor is named). *Title of webpage in italics*. [Online] Available from: URL. [Date of access]

Frequently Asked Questions

*If there are multiple authors how many should I include in the reference?*
In Vancouver you should name up to six authors. If there are more than six authors use the first listed author followed by ‘et al’ instead of giving all the names.

*There doesn’t appear to be an author for this webpage that I want to reference – what should I do?*
If an individual is not named then use the organisation – the corporate author.

*Can I use the abbreviation of the journal title in my references?*
Do not use the abbreviation in your reference list.

*What is a bibliography?*
There may be items which you have consulted for your work, but not cited. These can be listed at the end of your assignment in a ‘bibliography’. These items should be listed in alphabetical order by author and laid out in the same way as items in your reference list. If you can cite from every work you consulted, you will only need a reference list. If you wish to show to your reader (examiner) the unused research you carried out, the bibliography will show your extra effort. You will not need to number each work listed in your bibliography.

Reference List for this guide

Imperial College London. *Citing and Referencing Vancouver Style.* [Online] Available at: [https://workspace.imperial.ac.uk/library/Public/Vancouver_referencing.pdf](https://workspace.imperial.ac.uk/library/Public/Vancouver_referencing.pdf), London: Imperial College; 2012. [Accessed 11th March 2013]