

Econ Citations Guide: How to Properly Cite Your Sources and Avoid Plagiarism

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Introduction

Citations are the cornerstone of academic inquiry

Academic discourse requires a system of acknowledging the sources of ideas and of verifying assertions of fact. Although the format may vary from discipline to discipline, and even among practitioners in the same discipline, the principal of providing fully documented sources is sacrosanct to all academics. Why, you might ask, are academics so uptight about citations? There are several reasons:

First, readers must be able to examine for themselves the sources that a writer marshals in arguing his or her case. Citations are necessary for conducting informed debate.

Second, those of us who make our livings from words and ideas get pretty ticked off if someone presents our ideas as his or her own. Citations are necessary for giving credit where credit is due. Presenting other writers' ideas as your own is theft.

Third, it is dishonest to present someone else's words or ideas as your own. In academia, where words and ideas are deeply valued, lifting phrases and ideas is fraud.

Fourth, if you present words and ideas of published authors as your own, you are gaining an unfair advantage over your classmates, who are honestly and often painfully extracting words and ideas from their own brains. If you plagiarize, you are cheating both yourself and your classmates.

And if the ethics haven't convinced you, there are some nasty consequences for plagiarizers: UNM instructors have the authority to impose a grade penalty up to an F for the course and are obligated to report plagiarism to the Dean of Students, who may impose further sanctions, including suspension or outright expulsion from the University. See <http://pathfinder.unm.edu/policies.htm> for more information about University policies regarding Academic Dishonesty.

How to avoid plagiarism

Do not lift text verbatim without placing it in quotations (or indented and single-spaced for verbatim text of more than three lines) and citing it. Do not use other people's ideas, even if paraphrased, even if from the Internet, without attribution. Failure to follow these rules constitutes plagiarism.

Do not fabricate your references. False attribution is considered academic dishonesty.

Properly cite your sources as you reference them in the text. A bibliography at the end is not enough.

Finding Sources

The best place to start is **EconLit w/Full Text**, a searchable database of articles in the field of Economics. You can find the link on the Parish Library Home Page <http://elibrary.unm.edu/parish/>. In your first search, consider trying general key words that incorporate your topic (“Trade,” “Inequality,” “Externalities”) AND limiting the sources to the Journal of Economic Perspectives and the Journal of Economic Literature. These journal provide broad, high quality and generally accessible overviews of the literature on any broad topic you can think of.

Be wary of internet sources. Recall that what we do in academia is verifiable and traceable (see first point above about why academics value citations so much). By contrast, most of what you see on the internet is undocumented and unverifiable. Your paper won’t have much credibility if you are citing rants or statistics from obscure web sites. The web is an orgy of plagiarism, with interest groups lifting undocumented and unverifiable text from each other like crazy. Wikipedia is very unreliable as a source for Economics, since extreme ideas couched in Economics terms are the traffic of ideologues. Resist the temptation to go there, even as a first step. **EconLit** should be your first step. Need late breaking news? Go to a credible source: the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, the Economist, CNN.

Chicago Style Manual

These guidelines, and a few of the examples, are drawn from the Chicago Manual of Style Online http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html. The style is typical in Economics manuscripts and published articles, although each Journal has its own quirks and requirements. Parenthetical references, rather than footnotes or endnotes, are the norm in Economics, and you should use them for course papers.

In-Text Citations

- As you cover ideas and findings from different sources, identify them by authors’ names and the year of the publication. If your narrative uses the authors’ names, you need only provide the year of publication in parentheses.
- The parenthetical reference belongs inside the sentence, which means that the period goes after.
- Two authors? List them both. Three or more authors? List as First Author, *et al.* *Et al.* means “and others.” The italics denote that the phrase is not English; “*al.*” is an abbreviation for *alia*, thus the period. Use italics and the period after *al.*

According to Francisco Rivera-Batiz (1999), average hourly wages are higher for documented immigrants, relative to undocumented immigrants.

Monks and Robinson (2000) estimate wage equations separately for men and women and find that, of the observed 21 percent raw earnings differential, 8.2 percentage points can be explained by rank and 4.5 points can be explained by experience and seniority.

Mothers of infants face larger wage penalties than mothers of school-age children (Anderson *et al.* 2003).

- Stringing together lots of ideas from different sources? Cite each idea.

Much of the United States gender gap in the labor market as a whole—two-thirds by one estimate—can be attributed to occupational sorting by gender (Groschen 1991). Yet even within narrowly defined job titles, differences exist. For example, Wood *et al.* (1993) find large unexplained wage differentials by gender among graduates of a prestigious law school and much of the explained wage differentials arise from type of organization: men were more likely to hold jobs in large private law firms and women were more likely to work in the public sector. Within firms and by job title, wage gaps largely disappear because workers are increasingly homogeneous, and increasingly segregated by gender (Bayard *et al.* 2003).

- Many authors have found the same thing? Cite several articles after your statement.

Studies of enrollment and completion of primary education tend to find better outcomes in countries that dedicate greater GDP shares to public spending on education (Bruns *et al.* 2003; Colclough and Al-Samarrai 2000; Colclough and Lewin 1993; Mehrotra 1998) and have lower pupil-to-teacher ratios and repetition rates (Bruns *et al.* 2003; Mehrotra 1998).

- If you want to use the author's exact words, put them in quotes and provide the page number.

Monks and Robinson (2000) conclude that, since experience, seniority, rank and tenure status account for the lion's share of wage differences, "...as women and minorities achieve parity with white males in experience, seniority and promotion, the aggregate gender and racial gaps should continue to narrow" (670).

- If you want to use verbatim text of three lines or more, do not use quotation marks, instead indent on both sides, single space and provide citation with page number directly following.

The rent seeking problem can be summarized as follows:

If the market mechanism is suspect, the inevitable temptation is to resort to greater and greater intervention, thereby increasing the amount of economic activity devoted to rent seeking. As such, a political "vicious circle" may develop. People perceive that the market mechanism does not function in a way compatible with socially approved goals because of competitive rent seeking. A political consensus therefore emerges to intervene further in the market, rent seeking increases, and further intervention results (Krueger 1979; 302).

- If you are citing a publication that does not have an author, use the publisher and year of publication.

There is compelling evidence that secondary school education reduces fertility, infant mortality, and HIV/AIDS prevalence, and improves women's health outcomes (World Bank 2005).

- If you are using figures from an online database, provide the source, web address and date accessed, but do not include it in your References, since the Reference sections is for documents.

Our study replicates Katz (1979) in a very different gender environment. Thirty-six years since Katz' original study, women now comprise 35 percent of tenured and tenure track nationally and 27 percent of faculty in U.S. doctoral institutions.¹

¹National Survey of Postsecondary Faculty (NSOPF-04). <http://nces.ed.gov/dasol/tables/> (accessed July 21, 2008).

References

The in-text citations provide author names and year of publication only. A bibliography at the end of the paper, which economists call “References,” provides the full citations. No one in academia uses “Bibliography,” but other disciplines use “Works Cited.” For econ papers, use “References.”

References should be listed alphabetically by first author’s last name. When there is more than one author, only the first author's name in inverted (last name, first name). Subsequent authors’ names should be listed with the first name first. Use a hanging indent, where the first line is left justified, and subsequent lines are indented.

Books and Published Reports

Last Name, First Name. Year. *Book Title*. City of Publication: Publisher.

Bruns, Barbara, Alain Mingat, and Ramahatra Rakotomalala. 2003. *Achieving Universal Primary Education by 2015: A Chance for Every Child*. Washington, DC: The World Bank.

Colclough, Christopher, with Keith Lewin. 1993. *Educating All the Children: Strategies for Primary Schooling in the South*. Oxford, UK: Clarendon Press.

Levitt, Steven D. and Stephen J. Dubner. 2005. *Freakonomics*. New York: HarperCollins.

World Bank. 2005. *Expanding Opportunities and Building Competencies for Young People: A New Agenda for Secondary Education*. Washington, DC: The World Bank.

Journal Articles

Last Name, First Name. Year. “Article Title.” *Journal Title* Volume(Number): page numbers.

Anderson, Deborah J., Melissa Binder and Kate Krause. 2003. “The Motherhood Wage Penalty Revisited: Experience, Heterogeneity, Work Effort and Work-Schedule Flexibility.” *Industrial and Labor Relations Review* 56(2): 273-94.

- Bayard, Kimberly, Judith Hellerstein, David Neumark, and Kenneth Troske. 2003. "New Evidence on Sex Segregation and Sex Differences in Wages from Matched Employee-Employer Data." *Journal of Labor Economics* 21 (Special Issue): 887-922.
- Colclough, Christopher, and Samer Al-Samarrai. 2000. "Achieving Schooling for All: Budgetary Expenditures on Education in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia." *World Development* 28 (11): 1927-1944.
- Groshen, Erica. 1991. "The Structure of the Female/Male Wage Differential: Is It Who You Are, What You Do, or Where You Work?" *The Journal of Human Resources* 26(3): 457-472.
- Katz, David A. 1973. "Faculty Salaries, Promotions, and Productivity at a Large University." *American Economic Review* 63(3): 469- 477.
- Krueger, Anne. 1979. "The Political Economy of the Rent Seeking Society." *American Economic Review* 64(3): 291-303.
- Rivera-Batiz, Francisco L. 1999. "Undocumented Workers in the Labor Market: An Analysis of the Earnings of Legal and Illegal Mexican Immigrants in the United States." *Journal of Population Economics* 12(1): 91-116.
- Monks, James and Michael Robinson. 2000. "Gender and Racial Earnings Differentials in Academic Labor Markets." *Economic Inquiry* 38(4): 662 – 671.
- Wood, Robert, Mary Corcoran and Paul Courant. 1993. "Pay Differences among the Highly Paid: The Male-Female Earnings Gap in Lawyer's Salaries." *Journal of Labor Economics* 11(3): 417-441.

Chapters in Edited Volumes

- Glewwe, Paul and Meng Zhao. 2007. "Attaining Universal Primary Schooling by 2015: An Evaluation of Cost Estimates." In *Educating All Children: A Global Agenda*, ed. David Bloom and Joel Cohen. Boston: MIT Press.

Working Papers and Research Report Series

- Costa, Dora and Matthew Kahn. 2010. "Energy Conservation 'Nudges' and Environmentalist Ideology: Evidence from a Randomized Residential Electricity Field Experiment." NBER Working Paper 15939.
- Mehrotra, Santosh. 1998. "Education for All: Policy Lessons from High-Achieving Countries." UNICEF Staff Working Papers, Evaluation, Policy and Planning Series: EPP-EVL-98-005.

Magazine Articles

When referring to a magazine article, the page numbers for the article should appear within the text, as in (Gardner 2007: 235-237). Do not include the page numbers in the References.

Gardner, D. B. 2007. "Immigration and Health Care Reform: Shared Struggles." *Nursing Economics*, July/August.

Newspaper Articles

In general, newspaper articles may be cited within the text, along the lines of "According to Carol Leonnig's article in the *Washington Post* on June 10, 2008...". According to the Chicago Manual of Style, the citation can be left out of the References page altogether. However, if necessary it can be formally cited as follows:

Leonnig, Carol D. 2008. "How HUD Mortgage Policy Fed the Crisis." *Washington Post*, June 10, sec. A3.

Thesis or Dissertation

Kandel, Isaac L. 1910. *The Training of Elementary School Teachers in Germany*. PhD Dissertation, Teachers College, Columbia University.

Online Articles and Reports

Article, with author

Anderson, C. 2008. "Free! Why \$0.00 Is the Future of Business." WIRED.com. http://www.wired.com/techbiz/it/magazine/16-03/ff_free (accessed August 21, 2009).

Corporate/Government author

Congressional Budget Office 2006. "Immigration Policy in the United States: A CBO Paper." CBO Publication No. 2499. <http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/70xx/doc7051/02-28-Immigration.pdf> (accessed August 21, 2009).

In the text, cite this as (CBO 2006).

No author

"The Immigration Act of 1924." 2007. The Internet Archive, Wayback Machine. <http://web.archive.org/web/20080210025205/http://www.historicaldocuments.com/ImmigrationActof1924.htm> (accessed August 21, 2009).

In the text, cite this as ("Immigration Act," 2007).

Online lecture notes

Autor, David. 2003. "Efficiency Wages, Neoclassical and Non-Neoclassical Evidence." Lecture Notes.

MIT Department of Economics. <http://econ-www.mit.edu/files/549> (accessed September 21, 2009).

In the text, cite this as (Autor 2003).

NOTE: The in-text citation examples are from the following sources, with the exceptions of those referencing Anderson *et al.* (2003), Krueger (1979) and Rivera-Batiz (1999):

Binder, Melissa, Kate Krause, Janie Chermak, Jennifer Thacher and Julia Gilroy. Forthcoming. "Gender Pay Differences for the Same Work: Evidence from a United States Public University." *Feminist Economics*.

Binder, Melissa. 2009. "Why Are Some Low Income Countries Better at Providing Secondary Education?" *Comparative Education Review* 53(4): 513-34.

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