WHAT'S NEW IN THE MLA HANDBOOK, 8TH EDITION

The new MLA Handbook includes a major revision to the way sources are cited on the Works Cited page. Instead of separate formulas for each type of source, all sources are now cited with a universal formula. By citing a list of core elements for *any* source, MLA has considerably simplified the way we create Works Cited page entries. Most other revisions to MLA style are minor, and the format of the paper and most rules for in-text citations remain the same.

Works Cited Entries (see p. 20 in MLA Handbook)
Follow the template below when creating a Works Cited entry for any source. Notice and use the punctuation indicated after each core element. For more information, see the related Writing Center handouts.

1.	Author**.**
2.	Title of source**.**
3.	Title of container**,**
4.	Other contributors**,**
5.	Version**,**
6.	Number**,**
7.	Publisher**,**
8.	Publication date**,**
9.	Location**.**

Publisher may be omitted in certain situations (here because title of site is the same)

Example entry for document from a webpage:
Flaherty, Colleen. "The Alleged Conspiracy Grows." *Inside Higher Ed.* 27 April 2016,
https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2016/04/27/sandy-hook-denier-alleges-union-conspired-florida-atlantic-u-fire-him.

URL is now included as location. Medium of publication is no longer indicated.

Abbreviations
- Common terms in the works-cited list like *editor*, *edited by*, *translator*, and *review of* are no longer abbreviated. The eighth edition provides a shorter list of recommended abbreviations (96–97).

Authors
- When a source has three or more authors, only the first one shown in the source is normally given. It is followed by *et al.* (22). (Previously, the omission of coauthors was limited to sources with four or more authors and was presented as an option.) This applies to Works Cited entries and in-text citations.

Books and Other Printed Works
- Page numbers in the works-cited list (but not in in-text citations) are now preceded by *p.* or *pp.* (46).
- For books, the city of publication is no longer given, except in special situations (51).

Journals
- Issues of scholarly journals are now identified with, for instance, "vol. 64, no. 1" rather than "64.1" (39–40).
- If an issue of a scholarly journal is dated with a month or season, the month or season is now always cited along with the year (45).

Source: "What's New in the 8th Edition?" *Modern Language Association.* 8th ed., 2016, https://www.mla.org/MLA-Style/What-s-New-in-the-Eighth-Edition

Online Works
- The URL (without http:// or https://) is now normally given for a Web source. Angle brackets are not used around it (48, 110).
- The citing of DOIs (digital object identifiers) is encouraged (110).
- Citing the date when an online work was consulted is now optional (53).
- Placeholders for unknown information like *n.d.* ("no date") are no longer used. If facts missing from a work are available in a reliable external resource, they are cited in square brackets (2.6.1). Otherwise, they are simply omitted.

Publishers
- Publishers' names are now given in full, except that business words like *Company* (*Co.*) are dropped and, for academic presses, the abbreviations *U*, *P*, and *UP* are still used (97).
- A forward slash (/) now separates the names of copublishers (108).
- The kinds of publications that don't require a publisher's name are defined (42).
- When an organization is both author and publisher of a work, the organization's name is now given only once, usually as the publisher (25). No author is stated.

Miscellaneous
- Full publication information is now given for widely used reference works. Page-number spans are given for articles in alphabetically arranged reference books in print. In other words, reference works are treated like other works and are no longer subject to exceptions.
- The medium of publication is no longer stated, except when it is needed for clarity (52).

In-Text Citations
The principles behind in-text citations in MLA style are unchanged. A few details have been added or clarified, though:
- For time-based media like video, times are now cited in the text (57).
- The use of *my trans.* to identify the writer's translation of a non-English quotation is described (90–91).
- How to shorten long titles when they have to be included in a parenthetical citation is clarified (117–18).
- The common practice of documenting borrowings from Greek, Roman, and medieval works with part numbers, not page numbers alone, is described (122).
- The punctuation used when various items are combined in one parenthetical citation is summarized (126–27).
- Ways of formatting citations in research projects other than traditional papers are suggested (127–28).
- Corporate authors may be cited in-text (117).
- For three more authors**,** only the first author's name is cited, followed by "et al." (22).
- Block quotes are indented one half-inch from the left margin (76).

Other Aspects of Writing
Following are new points that concern the writing in a research project:
- When the title of a periodical (journal, magazine, newspaper) begins with an article (*A*, *An*, *The*), the article is now treated as part of the title: the article is italicized and its first letter capitalized. For example, the handbook previously specified "the *Georgia Review*" in text and "*Georgia Review*" in the works-cited list but now specifies "*The Georgia Review*" in all contexts.
- For works in a language not written in the Latin alphabet, writers must choose between giving titles and quotations in romanization or in the language's writing system (74, 91).
- Two forward slashes (//) mark stanza breaks in run-in quotations of verse (78).
- If a block quotation of prose contains internal paragraphing, the first line of the quotation now begins without a paragraph indention even if one is present in the source (77).