Vancouver Citation Style

The Vancouver Style is the citation style used by most biomedical journals and many scientific journals. It came out of a meeting of medical journal editors in 1978, held in Vancouver, BC, and is maintained by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE). It is also known as the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals.

The Dental Hygiene program at Vancouver Community College uses Vancouver Style in all assessment tasks. All sources used should be properly referenced according to the following guidelines. Proper citations are a reflection of your professionalism and respect for other scholars and practitioners. Failure to do so is plagiarism and is a serious academic offense.

Note: The Dental Hygiene program requires additional pieces of information when citing resources:

1. Where called for in Dental Hygiene assessment task directions, include the direct link to any article accessed through an online database, not just the name of the database. You will need to find a “permanent link” for the article. Consult the “Help” files for the database or contact the librarians.

2. Short URLs (also referred to as ‘tiny’) are recommended - see page 4.

Additional Resources on the Vancouver Style

For the complete guide to the Vancouver Style, please consult this online book:

Citing Medicine, 2nd ed.

This book provides very detailed examples for almost any type and variation of resource: conference papers, wikis, journal articles with a supplement, etc.

Remember that the Dental Hygiene department uses a modified version of Vancouver Style, and that you will need to provide working links to any online material cited.

URM Sample References at: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html

For more help, please contact a VCC librarian: http://library.vcc.ca/contact/contact_directory.cfm
**Using Vancouver Style**

Vancouver Style uses in-text citations and a Reference List at the end of your document.

- Citations within the text of your paper are identified with a number in round brackets or numbers in superscript.
  
  **Example:** Jones (8) has argued that…
  
  Jones^8 has argued that…

- References are numbered consecutively in the order they are first used in the text. The full citations will be included in the Reference List at the end of your document, with matching numbers identifying each reference.

- When multiple references are cited together, use a hyphen to indicate a series of inclusive numbers. Use commas to indicate a series of non-inclusive numbers. A citation with these references (4,5,6,7,14,19) is abbreviated to (4-7,14,19).
  
  **Example:** Multiple clinical trials (4-6,9) show…

- The original number used for a reference is reused each time the reference is cited.
  
  **Example:** “…the theory was first put forward by Lee (7) in 1999, but there was disagreement (3,5,8) over its importance.”

- Include the page number for any direct quotes or specific ideas.
  
  **Example:** “…has been proven demonstrably false.” (4, p23)

- The citation in brackets is placed after any commas and periods, and before any colons and semi-colons.
  
  **Example:** …a new definition. (13, p111-2)
  
  …this option is preferred (11);

**Indirect Citations**

An indirect source is when one author is quoted in the text of another author. These types of citations are generally not accepted in Vancouver Style, so seek permission from your instructor. Include the author and date of the original source in the text. Use “as cited in” or “as discussed in” to say where you found the quotation and provide the citation to that reference.

**Example:** James Wallace (2001) argued (cited by 5, p26), that…

**Reference List**

Provide full citations in your Reference List, included starting as a new page at the end of your document. Follow the examples included in this guide for different types of resources:

- Books
- Articles in Journals
- Websites
- Other Resources
- Personal Communication
Books

Standard Format for Books:
Author Surname Initials. Title: subtitle. Edition (if not the first). Place of publication: Publisher; Year.

Book with One Author or Editor

Two-Six Authors/Editors

More than Six Authors/Editors

Organization as Author

No Author/Editor

Government Document

Chapter in a book

E-book
**Articles in Journals**

Journal articles can be accessed in three different ways: (1) from the print (paper) copy; (2) from the journal’s website; or (3) from an online article database like Medline. You will cite the article differently depending on how you accessed it.

**Standard Format for Journal Articles:**

Author Surname Initials. Title of article. Title of journal, abbreviated. Date of Publication: Volume Number(Issue Number): Page Numbers.

**Finding the Journal Abbreviation**

Vancouver Style does not use the full journal name, only the commonly-used abbreviation: “New England Journal of Medicine” is cited as “N Engl J Med”.


**Journal Article in Print**


**Journal Article from a Website**


**Journal Article from an Online Database**


**Creating Small URLs**

If the URL of an article is long, go to: [www.tinyurl.com](http://www.tinyurl.com)

Create a working link to a website that is shorter.
**Websites**

**Standard Format for Websites:**

Author Surname Initials (if available). Title of Website [Internet]. Place of publication: Publisher; Date of First Publication [Date of last update; cited date]. Available from: URL

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**Publication Information Online**

Publication information is often unavailable on websites and is not standardized like books or journals.

Vancouver Style requires the “Place of Publication”, the “Publisher” and the “Original Publication Date” as part of the citation. If these pieces of information are not given, use: [place unknown], [publisher unknown] or [date unknown].

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**Website with Author**


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**Website without Author**


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**Part / Article within a Website**


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**Blog**


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**An Entry / Article within a Blog**

Image on the Internet

Other Resources
Newspaper Articles

Like journals, newspapers are cited differently depending on how the article was accessed. Include a working “permanent link” to any article accessed online.


Videorecordings


Dictionary, Encyclopedia or Similar Reference Book

Entries in reference books are either signed or unsigned. The author will be listed at the start or end of the individual entry. An editor(s) will usually be listed at the front of the book but the editor is not included in the citation for reference works.

Unsigned
Signed (and Online)

**Personal Communications**

**Personal Letters and Conversations**

Personal communication (with the exception of email) should not be included in the Reference List, as they are unpublished and cannot be easily traced by the reader. Instead, acknowledge personal conversations and letters within the text in parentheses.

**Conversation**
“…in conversation with a fellow student from the Dental Hygiene program (Affleck, Ben. Conversation with: Matt Damon. 2008 Sep 07.).”

**Personal Letter**
“…this information was later confirmed in a letter (Hepburn, Katherine. Letter to: Spencer Tracy. 2005 Mar 03. 4 pages.).”

**Email**
Email correspondence is included in the Reference List as emails are easily traceable and dated.


**Permission**
When citing any personal communication, you must have written permission from the cited person(s) to use that communication. Acknowledge the permission in a footnote or in a “Notes” section at the end of the text.