

Referencing in Biology 140

There are many different referencing styles in the science discipline – particularly in biology, almost every journal has a particular referencing style! To keep it simple, however, we use the **Harvard Citation and Referencing style** in Biology 140. This is a style you are possibly already familiar with and it is used across a range of different disciplines.

The University of Western Australia has a useful website that you should use for **Harvard Citations and Reference List formatting**:

<http://guides.is.uwa.edu.au/harvard>

Most resources that you will be using in Biology 140 will be Books, Journal Articles, and maybe websites and theses. You can access information and examples on how to cite and reference each type of resource by using the 'Reference formats' menu bars.

The screenshot shows the 'Harvard citation style: Introduction' page from the UWA Library website. The page has a navigation bar with links to 'UWA Library', 'Guides', 'harvard citation style', and 'Introduction'. Below the navigation bar is a search box with the text 'Enter Search Words' and a 'Search' button. The main heading is 'Harvard citation style: Introduction'. Below this is a subheading 'This guide shows students and staff how to reference using the Harvard Referencing style.' There are five tabs: 'Introduction', 'Reference formats', 'All examples', 'EndNote', and 'Questions and comments'. The 'Reference formats' tab is selected. On the left, there is a sidebar with 'In this guide.' and a list of links: 'Introduction', 'Why is Referencing', 'Getting Started', 'Reference Format', 'References by Format', 'Citing Info Sources', 'Books/eBooks', 'No Authors', '1, 2 or More Authors', and 'No Editors'. The 'Reference formats' dropdown menu is open, showing a list of categories: 'Books/eBooks', 'Cases and legislation', 'Company information', 'Conference proceedings', 'Internet/websites', 'Journal articles', 'Lecture notes', 'Multimedia formats', 'Newspapers', 'Prisms and standards', 'Theses', and 'Tables and figures'. The main content area has a heading 'Why is referencing important?' and a subheading 'Getting started'. The text explains that referencing is an important part of academic writing and that the Harvard citation style can vary in minor features such as punctuation, capitalisation, abbreviations, and the use of italics. It also mentions that the examples in the guide have been developed in collaboration with the UWA Business School.

In-text Citations

In general, there are two main methods of citing in text that include only **author surname** and **year of publication**. For example,

According to Smith and Jones (2015), the majority of Biology 140 students have difficulty citing correctly in text.

OR

The majority of Biology 140 Students have difficulty citing correctly in text (Smith & Jones 2015)

Carefully follow the **Harvard In-Text formatting style**, since citations varies slightly depending on a number of things such as number of authors, authors with the same name, or multiple citations in one set of parentheses.

You will notice the use of the words '*et al.*', which is an abbreviation of a Latin phrase that means 'and others'. For example, 'research by Smith *et al.* shows...' refers to Smith and colleagues.

Page numbers are only applicable if you quote directly, which you should avoid.

Reference List

The reference list (sometimes called Literature Cited) comes at the end of a piece of writing (on a new page) and provides the necessary information for the reader to locate any source you may have cited. Every in-text citation must be included in your reference list, and *vice versa*. (A reference list is different from a bibliography where you might include a resource you read in preparation of your paper, but did not cite directly).

Carefully follow the **Harvard In-Text formatting style**, since the format varies depending on which type (e.g. book chapter, journal article *etc.*) of resource you are referencing. Below is an example of how you should reference the resource cited above (under 'In-text Citations'):

Smith, TG & Jones, DW 2015, 'Student difficulties with citing and referencing', *Journal of Biology Students*, vol. 21, no. 3, pp. 401-409. Available from: <url> [23 December 2015]