

# MLA 8<sup>th</sup> Edition vs. MLA 7<sup>th</sup> Edition: A Side-by-Side Comparison

While MLA 8 is described by the MLA as a “groundbreaking new edition” that reinvents the citation process in a format-neutral way, the citations it produces are for the most part quite similar to those produced following MLA 7. Below are examples highlighting the key differences between citations from the two editions of the handbook.

Key differences between MLA 7 and MLA 8 include:

- **City of Publication:** This is usually omitted in MLA 8.
- **Medium of Publication (e.g. “Print,” “Web”):** Omitted in MLA 8 (but see below re: ebooks)
- **Date Accessed:** Optional in MLA 8.
- **URLs:** These were omitted in MLA 7 because they were generally not a very stable way of locating a source, but are recommended in MLA 8 because there is a growing availability of persistent links (DOIs or permalinks) and even obsolete links can provide information that can help a reader find the item cited.
- **Spelling Out Terms:** Contributor roles that were abbreviated in MLA 7 (editor, translator, etc.) are spelled out in full in MLA 8; descriptors of numbers (volume, number, page) that were omitted entirely in MLA 7 are included in abbreviated form in MLA 8. This makes citations easier for readers to decipher.
- **Simplified Punctuation:** Colons and parenthesis are no longer used to set apart some elements in MLA 8; commas and periods separate the elements in each citation.

## MLA 7

## MLA 8

### BOOK BY A SINGLE AUTHOR

Franke, Damon. *Modernist Heresies: British Literary History, 1883-1924*. **Columbus:** Ohio State UP, 2008. **Print.**

Franke, Damon. *Modernist Heresies: British Literary History, 1883-1924*. Ohio State UP, 2008.

MLA 8 omits the city of publication in most cases and the designation of the type of source.

### BOOK BY THREE OR MORE AUTHORS

Booth, Wayne C., **Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams**. *The Craft of Research*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. **Chicago:** U of Chicago P, 2003. **Print.**

Booth, Wayne C., **et al.** *The Craft of Research*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., U of Chicago P, 2003.

MLA 8 uses “et al.” for items with three or more authors.

### ARTICLE IN A REFERENCE BOOK

Payne, J. Barton. “Jerusalem.” *The Zondervan Encyclopedia of the Bible*. **Ed.** Merrill C. Tenney. Vol. 3. **Grand Rapids:** Zondervan, 2009. **Print.**

Payne, J. Barton. “Jerusalem.” *The Zondervan Encyclopedia of the Bible*, **edited by** Merrill C. Tenney, Vol. 3, Zondervan, 2009.

MLA 8 spells out contributor roles (editor, translator, etc.) that were abbreviated in MLA 7 and uses a comma as the punctuation between most elements that were separated by periods in MLA 7.

## WORK IN AN ANTHOLOGY/EDITED VOLUME

Allende, Isabel. "Toad's Mouth." **Trans.** Margaret Sayers Peden. *A Hammock beneath the Mangoes: Stories from Latin America*. **Ed.** Thomas Colchie. **New York:** Plume, 1992. 83-88. **Print.**

Allende, Isabel. "Toad's Mouth." **Translated by** Margaret Sayers Peden. *A Hammock beneath the Mangoes: Stories from Latin America*, **edited by** Thomas Colchie, Plume, 1992, **pp.** 83-88.

MLA 8 indicates a page range within a larger work with the abbreviation "pp."

## EBOOK, FROM A WEB-BASED COLLECTION

Leggatt, Alexander, **ed.** *The Cambridge Companion to Shakespearian Comedy*. **Cambridge:** Cambridge UP, 2002. *eBook Academic Collection (EBSCOhost)*. **Web.** **4 June 2013.**

Leggatt, Alexander, **editor.** *The Cambridge Companion to Shakespearean Comedy*. Cambridge UP, 2002. *eBook Academic Collection (EBSCOhost)*. [ezproxy.jbu.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=112493&scope=site](http://ezproxy.jbu.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=112493&scope=site)

MLA 8 omits the designation "Web" but includes the URL. Provide DOI or Permalink to the item if available, otherwise just copy and paste the web address where you accessed it. Omit http:// or https:// at the beginning of a web address. Date of access is an **optional** element in MLA 8. It should be included if the web publication itself is undated, but can usually be omitted when the item has a publication date.

## EBOOK, DOWNLOADED TO ELECTRONIC DEVICE

Billings, J. Todd. *Rejoicing in Lament: Wrestling with Incurable Cancer & Life in Christ*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2015. **Kindle file.**

Billings, J. Todd. *Rejoicing in Lament: Wrestling with Incurable Cancer & Life in Christ*. **Kindle ed.**, Brazos Press, 2015.

While MLA 8 generally omits the designation of the medium of publication that appeared at the end of MLA 7 citations, it treats an ebook edition as a "Version" of a text.

## ARTICLE IN A JOURNAL DATABASE

Hamilton, Sharon. "Musicology as Propaganda in Victorian Theory and Practice." *Mosaic: a Journal for the Interdisciplinary Study of Literature* 31.2 (1998): 35-56. *ProQuest*. **Web.** **29 Oct. 2015.**

Hamilton, Sharon. "Musicology as Propaganda in Victorian Theory and Practice." *Mosaic: a Journal for the Interdisciplinary Study of Literature*, **vol. 31, no. 2, June 1998, pp.** 35-56. *ProQuest*, [ezproxy.jbu.edu/login?url=http://search.proquest.com/docview/205370760?accountid=27685](http://ezproxy.jbu.edu/login?url=http://search.proquest.com/docview/205370760?accountid=27685)

MLA 8 labels volume and number designations and includes month (or season), not just year. A comma (or in some cases a period) is the standard punctuation between elements in MLA 8 citations.

## WEB-BASED CONTENT

"Ukulele Weeps by Jake Shimabukuro." *YouTube*. 22 Apr. 2006. **Web.** **9 Sept. 2010.**

"Ukulele Weeps by Jake Shimabukuro." *YouTube*, **uploaded by cromulantman**, 22 Apr. 2006, [www.youtube.com/watch?v=puSkP3uym5k](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=puSkP3uym5k)

MLA 8 authorizes identifying contributors by their online aliases when appropriate. The person who uploaded a video to YouTube should **not** be identified as the **author** of a work unless you can verify that they created the video themselves and didn't just upload it, but providing the identity of the account that published a video clip can help your reader confirm that they have found the same item that you consulted, so it is usually appropriate to include this information.