

# How to Cite Sources for a Scientific Paper

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# How to Cite Sources for a Scientific Paper (Five Easy Steps)

1. Cite all information or ideas from outside sources.
2. Wherever possible, cite peer-reviewed sources.
3. Use parenthetical in-text citations.
4. Provide a reference list at the end of your paper.
5. Provide all necessary bibliographic information for each reference in your reference list.

# 1. Cite all outside information and ideas

- ❖ If you didn't think of it or observe it yourself, it comes from an outside source.

## 2. Wherever possible, cite peer-reviewed sources

- ❖ **Peer-reviewed sources** are articles or books or book chapters that have been vetted through the peer-review process.
- ❖ **Other sources** (in more or less descending order of trustworthiness):
  - Agency reports (i.e., “grey literature”)
  - Graduate theses and dissertations
  - Conference proceedings
  - Personal communications
  - Unpublished data
  - Web pages
  - Wikipedia

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  - Personal communications
  - Unpublished data
  - Web pages
  - ~~Wikipedia~~

Don't cite Wikipedia.

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  - **Agency reports (i.e., “grey literature”)**
  - **Graduate theses and dissertations**
  - **Conference proceedings**
  - Personal communications
  - Unpublished data
  - **Web pages**
- Learn to distinguish between **web pages** and other papers or reports that happen to be **accessible via the web**.

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    - Agency reports (i.e., “grey literature”)
    - Graduate theses and dissertations
    - Conference proceedings
    - Personal communications
    - Unpublished data
    - Web pages
- All of these types of sources can (and must) be cited

## 2. Wherever possible, cite peer-reviewed sources

- ❖ It is usually best to cite **primary sources**:
  - i.e., whenever possible, cite the **original research paper** that first reported a given finding or phenomenon (rather than a later paper that cites or replicates it).
  - Exception: citing review papers or book chapters can be a good way to demonstrate that a certain phenomenon is widespread or commonly accepted.
- ❖ A good way to tell which is the most authoritative paper for a given phenomenon is to see which paper is cited most often by other papers.



### 3. Use parenthetical, in-text citations

- ❖ Include the author and year of publication.

#### Single author:

Analyses of samples brought back from the moon provide no evidence to support the hypothesis that the moon is made of green cheese (**Armstrong 1969**).

OR:

Analyses by **Armstrong (1969)** provide no evidence to support the hypothesis that the moon is made of green cheese.

### 3. Use parenthetical, in-text citations

- ❖ Include the author and year of publication.

#### Two authors:

Analyses of samples brought back from the moon provide no evidence to support the hypothesis that the moon is made of green cheese (**Armstrong and Aldrin 1969**).

OR:

Analyses by **Armstrong and Aldrin (1969)** provide no evidence to support the hypothesis that the moon is made of green cheese.

### 3. Use parenthetical, in-text citations

- ❖ Include the author and year of publication.

≥3 authors:

Analyses of samples brought back from the moon provide no evidence to support the hypothesis that the moon is made of green cheese (Armstrong et al. 1969).

OR:

Analyses by Armstrong et al. (1969) provide no evidence to support the hypothesis that the moon is made of green cheese.

### 3. Use parenthetical, in-text citations

- ❖ Include the author and year of publication.

#### Agency author:

Analyses of samples brought back from the moon provide no evidence to support the hypothesis that the moon is made of green cheese (NASA 1969).

OR:

Analyses by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA 1969) provide no evidence to support the hypothesis that the moon is made of green cheese.

...or, if you've already defined NASA earlier in the paper:

Analyses by NASA (1969) provide no evidence to support the hypothesis that the moon is made of green cheese.

### 3. Use parenthetical, in-text citations

- ❖ Avoid unnecessary narrative descriptions of the study you are citing:

An astronaut and scientist named Neil Armstrong explored the hypothesis that the moon is made of green cheese. He conducted an interesting study during which he flew to the moon and collected samples of moon rock. Then he brought the samples back to Earth and analyzed them and found no traces of cheese or dairy material, green or otherwise. He reported these findings in a research paper titled “Dairy content of moon rock: debunking a longstanding myth”(Armstrong 1969).

### 3. Use parenthetical, in-text citations

- ❖ Avoid unnecessary narrative descriptions of the study you are citing:

~~An astronaut and scientist named Neil Armstrong explored the hypothesis that the moon is made of green cheese. He conducted an interesting study during which he flew to the moon and collected samples of moon rock. Then he brought the samples back to Earth and analyzed them and found no traces of cheese or dairy material, green or otherwise. He reported these findings in a research paper titled “Dairy content of moon rock: debunking a longstanding myth”(Armstrong 1969).~~

Analyses of samples brought back from the moon provide no evidence to support the hypothesis that the moon is made of green cheese (Armstrong 1969).

...Just report the key findings (and methods only to the extent they are relevant to the point you are trying to make).

### 3. Use parenthetical, in-text citations

- ❖ Use the present tense:

~~The study by Armstrong (1969) demonstrated that that the moon is not made of green cheese.~~

Armstrong (1969) demonstrates that the moon is not made of green cheese.

...Treat each paper as a living document. Even if it was published a long time ago, we can still learn from it today.

### 3. Use parenthetical, in-text citations

- ❖ When citing multiple sources to support the same point, list those sources in chronological order:

Analyses of samples brought back from the moon provide no evidence to support the hypothesis that the moon is made of green cheese (Armstrong 1969, Cernan et al. 1972).



### 3. Use parenthetical, in-text citations

- ❖ When citing information from a paper that is described or cited in another paper:

Analyses of samples brought back from the moon provide no evidence to support the hypothesis that the moon is made of green cheese (Armstrong 1969, cited in Lee al. 2016).

... or just cite the original source:

Analyses of samples brought back from the moon provide no evidence to support the hypothesis that the moon is made of green cheese (Armstrong 1969).

## 4. Provide a reference list

- ❖ Include all sources cited in your paper.
- ❖ Include only sources cited in your paper.
- ❖ List references alphabetically by lead author surname.
- ❖ Follow a consistent style.
- ❖ Include all necessary bibliographic information.

## 4. Provide a reference list

List **all** sources cited in your paper.

List **only** sources cited in your paper.

### Literature Cited

Aumiller, L.D., and C.A. Matt. 1994. Management of McNeil River State Game Sanctuary for viewing of brown bears. *Proc. Int. Conf. Bear Res. Manage* 9:51–61.

Bartz, K.K., and R.J. Naiman. 2005. Effects of salmon-borne nutrients on riparian soils and vegetation in Southwest Alaska. *Ecosystems* 8:529-545.

Ben-David, M., T.A. Hanley, and D.M. Schell. 1998. Fertilization of terrestrial vegetation by spawning Pacific salmon: the role of flooding and predator activity. *Oikos* 83:47–55.

Berejikian, B.A., D.M. Van Doornik, R.C. Endicott, T.L. Hoffnagle, E.P. Tezak, M.E. Moore, and J. Atkins. 2010. Mating success of alternative male phenotypes and evidence for frequency-dependent selection in Chinook salmon. *Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci.* 67:1933-1941.

Bledsoe, T. 1987. *Brown Bear Summer: My Life Among Alaska's Giants*. Plume Books. New York, New York.

Chi, D.K. 1999. The Effects of Salmon Availability, Social Dynamics and People on Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*) Fishing Behavior on an Alaskan Salmon Stream. PhD Dissertation. Utah State University, Logan, Utah.

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Bartz, K.K., and R.J. Naiman. 2005. Effects of salmon-borne nutrients on riparian soils and vegetation in Southwest Alaska. *Ecosystems* 8:529-545.

Ben-David, M., T.A. Hanley, and D.M. Schell. 1998. Fertilization of terrestrial vegetation by spawning Pacific salmon: the role of flooding and predator activity. *Oikos* 83:47–55.

Berejikian, B.A., D.M. Van Doornik, R.C. Endicott, T.L. Hoffnagle, E.P. Tezak, M.E. Moore, and J. Atkins. 2010. Mating success of alternative male phenotypes and evidence for frequency-dependent selection in Chinook salmon. *Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci.* 67:1933-1941.

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Chi, D.K. 1999. The Effects of Salmon Availability, Social Dynamics and People on Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*) Fishing Behavior on an Alaskan Salmon Stream. PhD Dissertation. Utah State University, Logan, Utah.

## 4. Provide a reference list

For multiple references with the same single author, list in chronological order (e.g., Hilderbrand 1997, 1999):

### Literature Cited

Hilderbrand, G.V. 1997. Role of brown bears (*Ursus arctos*) in the flow of marine nitrogen into a terrestrial ecosystem. *Oecologia* 121: 546-550.

Hilderbrand, G.V. 1999. The importance of meat, particularly salmon, to body size, population productivity, and conservation of North American brown bears. *Canadian Journal of Zoology* 77: 132-138.

**NB:** Some journals will ask for reverse chronological order. Either way is acceptable. Just be consistent.

## 4. Provide a reference list

For multiple references with the same two authors, list in chronological order (e.g., Hilderbrand and Hanley 1997, 1999):

### Literature Cited

- Hilderbrand, G.V., and T.A. Hanley. 1997. Role of brown bears (*Ursus arctos*) in the flow of marine nitrogen into a terrestrial ecosystem. *Oecologia* 121: 546-550.
- Hilderbrand, G.V., and T.A. Hanley. 1999. The importance of meat, particularly salmon, to body size, population productivity, and conservation of North American brown bears. *Canadian Journal of Zoology* 77: 132-138.

**NB:** Some journals will ask for reverse chronological order. Either way is acceptable. Just be consistent.

## 4. Provide a reference list

For multiple 2-author references with the same lead author but different second authors, list in alphabetical order by second author surname (e.g., Hilderbrand and Schwartz 1999, Hilderbrand and Hanley 2001):

### Literature Cited

- Hilderbrand, G.V., and T.A. Hanley. 2001. Role of brown bears (*Ursus arctos*) in the flow of marine nitrogen into a terrestrial ecosystem. *Oecologia* 121: 546-550.
- Hilderbrand, G.V., and C.C. Schwartz. 1999. The importance of meat, particularly salmon, to body size, population productivity, and conservation of North American brown bears. *Canadian Journal of Zoology* 77: 132-138.

NB: In this case, the papers are listed in chronological order in the parenthetical reference, but in alphabetical order in the list of references.

## 4. Provide a reference list

For multiple references with the same lead author but  $\geq 3$  co-authors, list in chronological order (e.g., Hilderbrand et al. 1997, 1999):

### Literature Cited

- Hilderbrand, G.V., T.A. Hanley, C.T. Robbins C.T., and C.C. Schwartz. 1997. Role of brown bears (*Ursus arctos*) in the flow of marine nitrogen into a terrestrial ecosystem. *Oecologia* 121: 546-550.
- Hilderbrand, G.V., C.C. Schwartz, C.T. Robbins, M.E. Jacoby, T.A. Hanley, S.M. Arthur, and C. Servheen. 1999. The importance of meat, particularly salmon, to body size, population productivity, and conservation of North American brown bears. *Canadian Journal of Zoology* 77: 132-138.

**NB**: This applies whether the co-authors are the same or different in both references



## 4. Provide a reference list

For multiple references with the same author and the same year of publication, assign letter values (e.g., Hilderbrand 1999a, 1999b):

### Literature Cited

- Hilderbrand, G.V. 1999a. Role of brown bears (*Ursus arctos*) in the flow of marine nitrogen into a terrestrial ecosystem. *Oecologia* 121: 546-550.
- Hilderbrand, G.V. 1999b. The importance of meat, particularly salmon, to body size, population productivity, and conservation of North American brown bears. *Canadian Journal of Zoology* 77: 132-138.

**NB:** The reference you cite first should be designated “a”.

## 4. Provide a reference list

Same goes for two authors (e.g., Hilderbrand and Hanley 1999a, 1999b)...

### Literature Cited

- Hilderbrand, G.V., and T.A. Hanley. 1999a. Role of brown bears (*Ursus arctos*) in the flow of marine nitrogen into a terrestrial ecosystem. *Oecologia* 121: 546-550.
- Hilderbrand, G.V., and T.A. Hanley. 1999b. The importance of meat, particularly salmon, to body size, population productivity, and conservation of North American brown bears. *Canadian Journal of Zoology* 77: 132-138.

## 4. Provide a reference list

... and  $\geq 3$  authors  
(e.g., Hilderbrand et  
al.1999a, 1999b):

### Literature Cited

Hilderbrand, G.V., T.A. Hanley, C.T. Robbins C.T., and C.C. Schwartz. 1999a. Role of brown bears (*Ursus arctos*) in the flow of marine nitrogen into a terrestrial ecosystem. *Oecologia* 121: 546-550.

Hilderbrand, G.V., C.C. Schwartz, C.T. Robbins, M.E. Jacoby, T.A. Hanley, S.M. Arthur, and C. Servheen. and T.A. Hanley. 1999b. The importance of meat, particularly salmon, to body size, population productivity, and conservation of North American brown bears. *Canadian Journal of Zoology* 77: 132-138.

**NB:** This applies whether the co-authors are the same or different in both references

# 4. Provide a reference list

Follow a consistent style.

Include all necessary bibliographic information.

This will vary to some extent, depending on the type of source.

## Literature Cited

- Aumiller, L.D., and C.A. Matt. 1994. Management of McNeil River State Game Sanctuary for viewing of brown bears. *Proc. Int. Conf. Bear Res. Manage* 9:51–61.
- Bartz, K.K., and R.J. Naiman. 2005. Effects of salmon-borne nutrients on riparian soils and vegetation in Southwest Alaska. *Ecosystems* 8:529-545.
- Ben-David, M., T.A. Hanley, and D.M. Schell. 1998. Fertilization of terrestrial vegetation by spawning Pacific salmon: the role of flooding and predator activity. *Oikos* 83:47–55.
- Berejikian, B.A., D.M. Van Doornik, R.C. Endicott, T.L. Hoffnagle, E.P. Tezak, M.E. Moore, and J. Atkins. 2010. Mating success of alternative male phenotypes and evidence for frequency-dependent selection in Chinook salmon. *Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci.* 67:1933-1941.
- Bledsoe, T. 1987. *Brown Bear Summer: My Life Among Alaska's Giants*. Plume Books. New York, New York.
- Chi, D.K. 1999. *The Effects of Salmon Availability, Social Dynamics and People on Black Bear (Ursus americanus) Fishing Behavior on an Alaskan Salmon Stream*. PhD Dissertation. Utah State University, Logan, Utah

# 5. Provide all necessary bibliographic information

## Journal article:

### Literature Cited

Schmedlap, H.J. 1996. Effects of salmon-borne nutrients on riparian soils in Southwest Alaska. *Canadian Journal of Forest Research* 8:529-545.

Schmedlap, H.J., and P.K. Snodgrass. 1998. Effects of large woody debris on pool creation in headwater streams. *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences* 10:111-145.

Schmedlap, H.J., P.K. Snodgrass, H.R. Puffnstuff, and J.M. Smith. 2011. Use of wood-formed pools by cutthroat trout in the Stillaguamish River basin. *Northwest Science* 24:63-81.

Author(s). Year of Publication. Title of Article. *Title of Journal* Volume: Page Nos.

# 5. Provide all necessary bibliographic information

## Book (authored):

### Literature Cited

Schmedlap, H.J. 1996. Salmon and Nutrients. Springer-Verlag, New York.

Schmedlap, H.J, and P.K. Snodgrass. 1996. Ecology and Management of Salmon Carcasses in Coastal Watersheds. Springer-Verlag, New York.

Schmedlap, H.J., P.K. Snodgrass, H.R. Puffnstuff, and J.M. Smith. 1996. Ecology and Management of Salmon Carcasses in Coastal Watersheds. Springer-Verlag, New York.

Author(s). Year of Publication. Title of Book. Publisher, Location (city) of Publisher.

# 5. Provide all necessary bibliographic information

## Book (edited volume):

### Literature Cited

Schmedlap, H.J. (ed.) 1996. Salmon and Nutrients. Springer-Verlag, New York.

Schmedlap, H.J, and P.K. Snodgrass (eds.). 1996. Ecology and Management of Salmon Carcasses in Coastal Watersheds. Springer-Verlag, New York.

Schmedlap, H.J., P.K. Snodgrass, H.R. Puffnstuff, and J.M. Smith (eds.). 1996. Ecology and Management of Salmon Carcasses in Coastal Watersheds. Springer-Verlag, New York.

Editor(s). Year of Publication. Title of Book. Publisher, Location (city) of Publisher.

# 5. Provide all necessary bibliographic information

## Chapter in Book (edited volume):

### Literature Cited

Jones, B.A. 1996. Decomposition of chum salmon. pp. 51-73 in H.J. Schmedlap (ed.), Salmon and Nutrients. Springer-Verlag, New York.

Jones, B.A., and F.J. Grant. 1996. Decomposition of chum salmon. pp. 51-73 in H.J. Schmedlap and P.K. Snodgrass (eds.), Salmon and Nutrients. Springer-Verlag, New York.

Jones, B.A., F.J. Grant, and G. Lafleur. 1996. Decomposition of chum salmon. pp. 51-73 in H.J. Schmedlap, P.K. Snodgrass, H.R. Puffnstuff, and J.M. Smith (eds.), Salmon and Nutrients. Springer-Verlag, New York.

Author(s). Year of Publication. Title of Chapter. Page nos in Editor(s), Title of Book. Publisher, Location (city) of Publisher.



# 5. Provide all necessary bibliographic information

Agency report  
(or other grey  
literature):

Define acronyms



## Literature Cited

Berry, H.D. 2000. Methods for conducting rapid assessment field surveys of aquatic nonindigenous species. Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Nearshore Habitat Division Survey 00-4532. Olympia, WA, 234 pages.

Berry, H.D., and B.H. Bookheim. 2000. Methods for conducting rapid assessment field surveys of aquatic nonindigenous species. Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Nearshore Habitat Division Survey 00-4532. Olympia, WA, 234 pages.

Berry, H.D., B.H. Bookheim, J.P. Mason, and B.F. Roche. 2000. Methods for conducting rapid assessment field surveys of aquatic nonindigenous species. Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Nearshore Habitat Division Survey 00-4532. Olympia, WA, 234 pages.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), 2000. Methods for conducting rapid assessment field surveys of aquatic nonindigenous species. WDFW Nearshore Habitat Division Survey 00-4532. Olympia, WA, 234 pages.

Author(s). Year of Publication. Title of Report. Agency Name and Report No. Location, Page count.

# 5. Provide all necessary bibliographic information

Thesis or  
dissertation:

## Literature Cited

Wonham, M.A. 2002. Genetic analysis and ecological correlates of native and non-native mussel populations in the inland waters of Washington State. Ph.D. dissertation, University of Washington, Seattle, WA., 197 pages.

Author(s). Year of Publication. Title of Thesis/Dissertation.  
Thesis or Dissertation, Name of University, Location  
of University, Page Count.

## 5. Provide all necessary bibliographic information

### Personal communication:

Cite in-text in parentheses, do not include in Lit. Cited

Bear 654 (“Plunger”) was unique in his fishing technique and use of Centre Pool as a primary fishing location. Since the establishment of the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary in 1972, no other bear had ever been observed to catch fish in centre pool (L. Aumiller, *pers. comm.*).

# 5. Provide all necessary bibliographic information

## Web page:

### Literature Cited

Guapo, E.L. 2014. Foghorn Leghorn: Tenkara Afficianado? Moldy Chum.  
<http://www.moldychum.com/home-old/2014/6/10/foghorn-leghorn-tenkara-afficianado.htm>, accessed June 11, 2014.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). 2014. NOAA Fisheries, Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund: Project and Performance Metrics Database. <https://www.webapps.nwfsc.noaa.gov/pcsrp/>, accessed February 28, 2014.

Editor, author, or compiler name (if available). Year of Publication. Title of Article or Page. Title of Web Site and/or Sponsoring or Publishing Organization. URL. Date Accessed.

# Learn to Distinguish: Web Pages vs. Other Sources Available Online

## Web Page:

- Only available online

## Literature Cited

Guapo, E.L. 2014. Foghorn Leghorn: Tenkara Afficianado? Moldy Chum.  
<http://www.moldychum.com/home-old/2014/6/10/foghorn-leghorn-tenkara-afficianado.htm>, accessed June 11, 2014.

Schmedlap, H.J. 1996. Effects of salmon-borne nutrients on riparian soils in Southwest Alaska. *Canadian Journal of Forest Research* 8:529-545.

## Other Source:

- Also available in hard copy (e.g., in a library, bookstore or newsstand)

# Learn to Distinguish: Web Pages vs. Other Sources Available Online

## Web Page:

- Only available online

## Literature Cited

Guapo, E.L. 2014. Foghorn Leghorn: Tenkara Afficianado? Moldy Chum.  
<http://www.moldychum.com/home-old/2014/6/10/foghorn-leghorn-tenkara-afficianado.htm>, accessed June 11, 2014.

Schmedlap, H.J. 1996. Effects of salmon-borne nutrients on riparian soils in Southwest Alaska. *Canadian Journal of Forest Research* 8:529-545.  
[http://www.jstor.org/stable/2679924?seq=1#page\\_scan\\_tab\\_contents](http://www.jstor.org/stable/2679924?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents), accessed November 6, 2016.

## Other Source:

- Also available in hard copy (e.g., in a library, bookstore or newsstand)

Do not include URL or date accessed.

# Citing web pages can be confusing

- Author?
- Year?
- Web page vs. Other source available online?
  
- A good solution: **DON'T CITE WEB PAGES**
  - There is almost always a better option
  - (Exceptions: Institutional mission statements, online data)