Citing Primary Sources

The citing of written classical primary sources is done in a specific format, dependent on the ancient texts themselves; they are not cited in the same manner as modern sources. Citing in this fashion allows accuracy of the citation, regardless of which translation, edition, or format a scholar consults. This is achieved through standardized numbering throughout a text. Be certain to consult a numbered work; not all translations will have these. According to the Chicago manual of style, classical primary sources should be cited directly in the text, or as foot/endnotes rather than in the bibliography.

**CLASSICAL TEXTS**

Classical texts should be cited in the following manner:

```
Author: Apollodorus
Title of Work: 2.4.3
Volume: Homer, Odyssey
Book: 5.25
Section/Line: 3274
```

Abbreviations of names and works are often used. The same citations may also appear as:

```
Apollod. 2.4.3
Hom., Od. 5.25
```

In text citations of the above sources could appear as follows:

“Apollodorus (2.4.3) tells of how Perseus escaped the wrath of the gorgons...”

“Hermes can be seen undertaking his role as the messenger (Hom., Od. 5.25) when Zeus...”

Referring to multiple sources at one time would appear as:

```
Apollodorus 2.3.1-2, 2.4.3; Hesoid, Theogony 275; Strabo, Geography 8.6.21
```

**COLLECTIONS OF INSCRIPTIONS AND PAPYRI**

Some ancient inscriptions and papyri belong to larger collections, and should be cited according to them. Some collections have names, others should be cited by the name of the collection’s editor(s).

```
IG 2^2 .3274.
```

*IG* = *Inscriptiones graecae*, 2^2 = volume 2, 2nd edition, 3274 = inscription number 3274

```
POxy. 1485.
```

*POxy* = *Oxyrhynchus papyri*, 1485 = document number 1485

**FRAGMENTS OF TEXTS**

Fragments are not numbered consistently, and vary between collections and editions. Include the name of the editor(s) at the end of the citation, and identify the text as a fragment.

```
Hesiod, frag. 239.1 Merkelbach and West.
```

**MODERN EDITIONS**

In some situations, such as the discussion of a specific translation, it may be necessary to cite the modern edition of a work. Cite these works as you would any standard, non-primary source, be it a book, website, article or anything else, and include the citation in the bibliography.