Reference Citations. All references included in the References at the end of an article must be cited in the text of the article. For text citations, ASA uses the author’s surname and date of publication, according to the following style.

1. A direct citation of a reference places only the date within parentheses. Gentleman (1978) explored this in greater detail.
2. An indirect citation of a reference as an example places both the name and the date within parentheses with no punctuation between them: Other recent suggestions include the use of Chernoff faces (Smith 1980).
3. Citation of a particular page, section, or equation of a work should follow the date and be preceded by a comma. Use sec., chap., app., eq., p., and pp. in such citations. We rely on an algorithm of Das Gupta (1965, pp. 115-120). This distribution is known to be normal (Smith and Smith 1958, chap. 5).
4. References following direct quotations must include the page number(s) of the quote: "This was found to be fallacious thinking upon closer investigation" (Smith and Smith 1958, p. 209).
5. For works with multiple authors, use the full form of citation at all times for two authors. For three or more authors use the first author’s surname followed by the phrase “et al.” (not underlined).
6. When two or more works by the same author are cited together, do not repeat the name(s): Tukey (1965, 1980)
   Gilula and Smith (1971a,b)
   (Tukey 1965, 1980)

7. When citing several references within parentheses, place them in date order: (Smith and Smith 1958; Tukey 1965, 1980; Gilula and Smith 1971a,b; Smith 1980)

The Reference List

The parts of a reference are author, date of publication, title, and publication information. All parts must be supplied for each reference.

Author. Author names are typed in upper- and lowercase letters, surname first followed by a comma and initials with periods and a space between all:

Bowman, M. J., and Myers, R. G.

Editor(s) are identified by “(eds.)” following the name. The reference list is alphabetized by authors’ surnames, with work by a single author preceding that author’s work in collaboration with others. Works by multiple authors should include all authors’ names, never simply the first author’s name followed by “et al.” When more than one work is listed for the same author or team of authors, replace the name(s) with a long dash preceding the date for second and subsequent works.

Date of Publication. The date of publication follows the author name(s), within parentheses and followed by a comma:


If two or more works by the same author or team of authors have the same publication date, list them by order of appearance in the text and distinguish them by lowercase “a,” “b,” and so on, after the date: “(1970a).” Works accepted for publication but not off press are listed as “in press” instead of the
anticipated date of publication; this may be changed on page proofs if the work comes off press by that time.

Title. The title of an article in a journal or a chapter of a book is given within double quotation marks and immediately follows the date. It is separated from the publication in which it appears by a comma (placed before the closing quotation mark). The title of a journal or book should be typed in italics; journal titles must be spelled out completely and no abbreviations used (unless that is the actual title of the journal). Follow these titles with a comma. All titles should be typed in upper- and lowercase letters, using initial uppercase for all important words and prepositions of four or more letters.

Publication Information. The details of publication for an article in a journal include the series designation (e.g., Series A), volume number (for “in press” articles also), issue number if each issue begins with page 1, and continuous page numbers (e.g., 1148–1152, not 1148-52). The details of publication for a book include the volume number and edition number (or revision) if any, placed within parentheses immediately following the title—(Vol. 1), (rev. ed.), (Vol. 1; 2nd ed.); editor name(s) if any (initials separated by periods and spaces followed by surname)—ed. A. Zellner; place of publication; name of publisher; and continuous page numbers if listing only a single chapter or contribution—pp. 209–244.

Unpublished or Obscure Works. ASA discourages references to unpublished or obscure works. If such a reference is necessary, the entry should include the type of document it is (unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, unpublished technical report, Technical Report 721, unpublished manuscript, etc.) and the sponsoring body or repository. Personal communications are not included in the reference list but are cited in text as follows:

(P. Smith, personal communication, March 2, 1984)

Following are some examples of correct format for different types of references commonly found in articles in ASA publications.


International Mathematical and Statistical Libraries, Inc. (1976), IMSL Library I (5th ed.), Houston, TX: Author.

NOTE: When the publisher is the same as the author, simply state “Author” rather than repeating the name.


Citations of electronically published documents

In most cases, such citations will take the form of an author’s name, title of the document/publications, the type of medium (shown in square brackets), the date of publication, and the document’s availability, shown by its URL.

All elements of the reference should follow those of references to conventionally published documents, separated from each other by commas.


Where possible (or if necessary), include the digital object identifier (DOI) with the reference.