

FAQs on Vancouver

Who uses Vancouver Referencing and what is it?

It is a referencing system first established in Vancouver, Canada by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) and now widely used in biomedical and health publications. It uses an in-text numbering system matched with a final numbered Reference list at the end of the text.

What is distinctive about Vancouver?

Features to note in the examples given in this Quick Guide:

- Vancouver uses in-text numbers at the point of citation
- These numbers are placed in bracket after sentence or clause punctuation
- The same citation number is used whenever the same source is cited in your text
- The numbered References list gives publications in the order they appeared in the text
- The References list provides full details of the source

Put citation numbers after mid-sentence punctuation like this, (1) and / or after the full stop like this.(2)

What is the difference between Bibliography and Reference List?

- Technically, a Reference List contains only items that the author of a book or journal article has actually cited. The larger Bibliography would contain also items that the author may not have referred to directly but would regard as of interest to a reader wishing to know more on the subject.

So my References must list all the sources I have read and nothing else?

Yes, follow that principle and you can't go wrong. To repeat (as this is an important point), your References lists should contain a full reference for every work mentioned in your text, but should not include works which you might have come across while researching your topic but did not choose to cite. So be sure to acknowledge all your sources at the point of (each) use in your own work.

So is Vancouver suitable for all my course work assignments?

Different academic disciplines and departments use different referencing systems, so be sure to check what style you should use if you enrol for a module outside your department.

This leaflet shows layout for only common types of sources – where can I find the full ICMJE guidance on Vancouver style?

Full details with regular updates are managed and published by the U.S. National Library of Medicine ("Citing Medicine") published online at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK7256/>

More points to note about Vancouver style



Multiple authors

Many science research articles and reports are the result of collaborative work and have multiple authors. Vancouver guidelines are to list up to 6 authors. If there are more authors, give the first six followed by 'et al'.

Bourne AD, Davis P, Fuller E, Hanson AJ, Price KN, Vaughan JT, et al

Organisations as authors

Organisation reports often do not to give names of individual authors.

General Medical Council (not GMC)

Journal names

Well known journals are often abbreviated in Vancouver referencing

Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine → J Occup Environ Med

How to cite studies that you have read about in secondary sources

It is important to acknowledge where you have obtained your information.

In text example

Lawler and Hopper (5) report on studies (6,7) that have found exercise can be helpful in distracting subjects from negative thoughts be important.

End-of-text example

6. Lepore SJ. Expressive writing moderates the relation between intrusive thoughts and depressive symptoms. J Pers Soc Psychol 1997 (73):1030-7. Cited in Lawlor DA, Hopker SW. The effectiveness of exercise as an intervention in the management of depression: systematic review and meta-regression analysis of randomised controlled trials. BMJ. 2001 Mar 31;322(7289):763

Vancouver Style

Referencing Quick Guide Series



Example of a numbered references list in Vancouver Style *

Sample text

According to statistics given on the Macmillan Cancer Charity website, more than 38,000 people are diagnosed with lung cancer every year in the UK. (1) Clinical studies have investigated links between occupation or socio-demographic status and cancer (2,3,4), but smoking still appears to be the single biggest cause of lung cancer in the UK. (1,3) Some researchers have analysed populations to establish incidences of tumours. (5) Tumours may spread from the lungs to elsewhere in the body. (6)

Charities and self-help groups provide advice and moral support to victims. (1,7)

Web pages with organisations as authors

- 2010 = publication date on web page
- 2015 = date website was accessed by student writer

Book

- Only first word in the title begins with a capital letter
- John Wiley & Sons = name of publisher

Academic Report or Paper

- 1999 Jun 6-8 = date of the conference
- Notice use of 1st 3 letters for the month (Jan/Feb...Jun)

Chapter from an edited book

- Hart is chapter author
- Knowles and Selby are the book editors

Journal article

- (10) = issue number for that year (journal appears monthly)
- From Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine

Journal article

- Cancer = name of the journal.

Self-help group website

- No author names, so starts with organisation name

Related items in a References list

1. Macmillan Cancer Support. Lung cancer. [Internet]. 2010 [accessed 2015 Aug 23]; Available from: <http://macmillan.org.uk/Cancerinformation/Cancertypes/Lung/Lungcancer.aspx>
2. Almeida CA, Barry SA. Cancer: basic science and clinical aspects. John Wiley & Sons; 2011.
3. Valberg PA, Watson AY. Lack of concordance between reported lung-cancer risk levels and occupation-specific diesel-exhaust exposure. 3rd Colloquium on Particulate Air Pollution and Human Health; 1999 Jun 6-8; Durham, (North Carolina).
4. Hart I. The spread of tumours. In Knowles MA, Selby PJ, editors. Introduction to the cellular and molecular biology of cancer. Oxford: Oxford University Press; 2005. p. 278-88.
5. Amr S, Wolpert B, Loffredo CA, Zheng YL, Shields PG, Jones R. Occupation, gender, race and lung cancer. J. Occup Environ Med 2008 Oct. 50(10):1167-75
6. Wingo P, Reis AGR, Rosenberg HM, Miller DS, Edwards BK. Cancer incidence and mortality, 1973-1995. Cancer 82(6): 1197 - 1207
7. WhyQuit.com. [Internet] 2012 Aug 13 [cited 2015 Aug 23]; [50+ screens]. Available from: <http://whyquit.com/>

Notice use of punctuation to separate reference details

Examples of in-text referencing in Vancouver Style

Almeida and Barry (1, p.124) provide a clear account of the basic mechanisms involved in

p.124 = page reference
Page references are always helpful to the reader.

According to Hayden et al "[exercise therapy encompasses a heterogeneous group of interventions... [and] ... there continues to be uncertainty about the most effective exercise approach in chronic low back pain". (4, p.1)

Note use of square brackets for adaptations in a quotation (to integrate the quote into the reporting text).

According to Hayden et al 'exercise therapy' covers a range of possible interventions, and there is as yet no agreement about the most effective treatment for lower back pain. (4, p.1)

Be sure to reference carefully for paraphrased reporting as well as quotation.

Essex Referencing Quick Guides



Several examples in this leaflet have been resourced from *Cite Them Right*, an interactive referencing guide available for free to Essex students through the University Library.

For further support with referencing, visit the library website: <http://libwww.essex.ac.uk/referencing.htm> and select the relevant School from the drop-down box

Essex University Talent Development Centre Publication.

* Example text and reference list adapted from 'Cite Them Right' online.