

MLA WORKS CITED: WEBSITES

How to reference websites with missing publication information

First, determine what kind of source the website is. If you answer yes to any of these questions, follow the indicated MLA Works Cited handout:

- Is the source an article from a journal, magazine, or newspaper? See handout: **Articles**.
- Is it an encyclopedia entry? See handout: **Online Reference Works**.
- Is it an image, video, song, or podcast from a website? See handout: **Photographs / Visual Art, Online Videos, and Audio Recordings**.
- Is it a social media post? See handout: **Social Media**.
- Is it an audiobook or an ebook? See handout: **Ebooks and Audiobooks**.
- Is it a law or government report? See handout: **Grey Literature / Laws**.

If the source can **only** be classified as a website, then follow the instructions below.

A WEBSITE:

- When preparing an entry for a website, look for **items 1–7** from the list below.
- Some sites have all the items while other sites do not. Enter the items that are available and leave out the ones that are not available.
 1. Author (if available, it could appear as a person, institution, or username)
 2. "Title" or heading of the document or section (in quotation marks)
 3. *Name* of the website (in italics)
 4. Version or edition (if any is indicated)
 5. Sponsoring organization—if not already indicated in the site's name
 6. Date that the item was placed online (if any date is given)
 7. URL (the Internet address) omitting "http://" or "https://"
 8. Date that you accessed the website, if you choose to include it
- Author information can sometimes be discovered by scrolling to the bottom of a page, or by reading the "About" section on certain websites.
- If the date of access seems useful (e.g., for a site where the content changes often, such as Wikipedia), you may add it at the end of the entry in this form: **Accessed 22 Sept. 2016**.

KEEP IN MIND:

- Only a few of your Works Cited entries will begin with an **author's name**; most will begin with the **title** of a document or the **heading** of a section on a website.
- Sometimes your entry will start with **the name of the site** or online research project.
- In all cases, your in-text citations will begin with **the first item in your Works Cited entry**. For this reason, it is easiest to write your Works Cited entry first.



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URLs:

- Right-click and use “Remove Hyperlink” to eliminate the blue lettering and underlining on URLs.
- Leave uneven line breaks alone. **Never** place a space or a hyphen to break up a URL.
- URLs that are longer than **three** full lines, or which are longer than the reference, must be truncated. Retain at least the **host** (e.g., web.hostname.com/en/).
- When providing an URL to a Dawson College database, use a permalink so outsiders can access the source.
- An MLA Works Cited entry always ends with a period, even after a URL.

EXAMPLES OF WORKS CITED ENTRIES:

An author is named:

- The entry begins with the **author's name**, followed by the **title** of the document or webpage heading and the name of the **website**.
- The **sponsoring organization** is included because it is not evident in the name of the site.
- The researcher decided to include **the date of access** at the end.
- In-text citations contain the author's last name without a page number: (**Blackthorne**).

Blackthorne, Judith A. “The Supernova.” *Astronomy Trek*, Xerxes Observatory, May 2015, www.xobs.org/astrotrek/starsys/nova. Accessed 14 Apr. 2016.

No author is named:

- The entry begins with the **title** of a document or the webpage heading, followed by the name of the **website**.
- In the example below, the sponsoring organization is not mentioned because the site's name already identifies it. Also, the URL is **broken** (after a slash) so that it appears on two lines.
- In-text citations begin with the title or heading. If it is long, shorten it after the first citation: (“**Indigenous Heritage**”) (“**Heritage**”).

“Indigenous Heritage.” Library and Archives Canada, www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/indigenous-heritage/pages/introduction.aspx.

No author, title of document, or webpage heading is named:

- The entry begins with the name of the **website**.
- In the example below, a sponsoring **organization** (a university) is also named.
- The **year** is included, since the online material is dated—in this case by year.
- In-text citations begin with the name of the website. If the website name is long, shorten it or use an acronym after the first citation: (**Victorian Women Writers Project**) (**VWWP**).

Victorian Women Writers Project. U of Indiana, 2007, www.uind.edu/index/histdept/vwwp/.

For more information, consult the *MLA Handbook* or contact the Academic Skills Centre.