Vancouver Referencing

Important: This document is meant for use as a guide only.

To avoid losing marks, confirm referencing requirements of your School with your Lecturer, and consult the Citing medicine: the NLM style guide for authors, editors, and publishers, on which this document is based, for clarification and additional examples.

Vancouver is a numbered referencing style which is predominantly used in the medical field. From the in-text reference number, the reader may consult the Reference List for full publication details.

In-text references

- In the Vancouver reference style authorship is acknowledged using a number to represent the reference
- Each source is given a number when it is referred to for the first time in the text. This number becomes the unique identifier for that source and, if referred to again in the text, the number is repeated
- References are numbered consecutively in the order in which they appear in the text, e.g. the first source is given the number 1, the second source 2, etc.
- From the in-text reference, the reader can consult the Reference List for full publication details
- A number placed in the text of the essay, indicates the relevant reference
- No distinction is made between print and electronic references when citing within the text
- It is not necessary to mention either the author(s) or the date of the reference unless it is relevant to your text
- Identifying numbers are placed outside the sentence punctuation
- The number appears in parentheses (round or square) or as superscript in the text

Using round brackets:
The theory was first put forward in 1987. (1)

Using square brackets:
The theory was first put forward in 1987. [1]

Using superscript:
The theory was first put forward in 1987.¹

The way you cite information can be important depending on the emphasis you wish to apply

If you wish to quote or paraphrase an author, and want to emphasise the author, then your citation becomes 'author prominent'. The citation will look something like this:

... in his research, Jones (2) asserts....
If you wish to emphasise the information you have paraphrased or quoted from an author, then your citation becomes ‘information prominent’. The citation will look something like this:

... as evidenced from a recent Australian study. (1)

For multiple authors list the first author then abbreviate subsequent authors to et al.

Destounis et al. (1) found that...

Citing more than one reference at a time

- If referring to multiple references cited at the same place in the text, use a comma or a hyphen (if the numbers are consecutive).
- There should be no space between numbers and hyphens.
- One space between comma and the next number.

A number of researchers (3, 6) discovered that...
A number of researchers (4-7) discovered that...

Direct quotes
Direct quotations are rarely, if ever, used in Vancouver Style. You should include the page number in the in-text citation when directly quoting the exact wording of a source.

Short direct quotes are enclosed within quotation marks, for example:

"The increasing availability and growth rate of biomedical information, also known as ‘big data’, provides an opportunity for future personalized medicine programs that will significantly improve patient care". (1, p.433)

Quotes longer than 4 lines should be indented in a block, without quotation marks and in reduced type. For example:

With the increased need to store data and information generated by big projects, computational solutions, such as cloud-based computing, have emerged. Cloud computing is the only storage model that can provide the elastic scale needed for DNA sequencing, whose rate of technology advancement could now exceed Moore’s Law. Moore’s law is the observation that, over the history of computing hardware, the number of transistors on integrated circuits and the speed of computers double approximately every 2 years. Although cloud solutions from different companies have been used, several challenges remain, particularly related to the security and privacy of personal medical and scientific data. (1, p.433)

Reference List

- The reference list is placed at the end of the work and begins on a new page, titled ‘References’ or ‘Reference List’.
- The Reference List contains details only of those works cited in the text. If other sources are used, but not cited in the text, then the list is called a Bibliography.
- The reference list is arranged numerically in the order that the sources appear in the text.
- Minimal capitalization is used in book titles and journal article titles.
- No italics or quotation marks are used for either book or journal article titles.
▪ Journal names are **abbreviated**. To find abbreviated journal names access the PubMed database and select "Journals in NCBI Databases" and then enter the journal’s full title to display its abbreviation.

▪ The reference list is **single spaced** with one line space between each entry.

▪ **Authors’ initials** follow the family name and are set without full stops or spaces (e.g. Smith AB).

▪ If there are **more than six authors**, list the first six followed by *et al.* With six or fewer, list all the authors.

▪ For books in the Reference List, pagination is optional. The examples in this guide do not include pagination for books.

▪ For citations that end with a URL: End with a full stop only if the URL ends with a slash, otherwise end with no punctuation.

**Examples**

**Books: examples**

**Book—single author**

**Book—multiple authors**

**Edited book**

**Chapter in an edited book**

**E-book (from a database)**

**Journal articles: examples**

**Journal article – single author**

**Journal article – multiple authors**
Journal article on the internet


Conference papers: examples


Webpages: examples


Reference List example


How to reference illustrations from a paged source

Citing illustrations
Vancouver includes the following within the definition of illustrations:
- Figures
- Tables
- Appendixes
- Charts
- Graphs

If you include any illustrations in your work that you have obtained from another source, you need to reference them. They should be acknowledged both in the text and in the reference list.

General rules
- Enter the name of the illustration, such as Table, Figure, or Appendix, as it appears in the article.
- Do not abbreviate names. For example, convert Fig. to Figure.
- Follow the name with any accompanying number or letter, such as Table 2, Figure 3.1, or Appendix A.
- Use Arabic numbers only. For example, convert VI or Six to 6.

Reference list
For the Reference List you need to include your normal journal or book reference with assigned Vancouver Style number followed by:
- Figure number from original source
- Title of figure number from original source
- Page number of figure from original source

Example
14. Fernandez-Lizarbe E, Montero A, Polo A, Hernanz R, Moris R, Formenti S, Ramos A. Pilot study of feasibility and dosimetric comparison of prone versus supine breast radiotherapy. Clin Transl Oncol 2013; 15:450-459. Figure 2, Dose distributions for a left-breast tumor (a, b) at the level of surgical bed defined by titanium clips (arrows) and the corresponding DVH (c,d) for supine (left) and prone (right) positions; p. 453.
In-text citation

Number the figure whenever you refer to it in the text of your paper, just as you would for any other in-text reference.

When citing figures in the text of your paper, you need to acknowledge them in two locations:

1. **Within the written body of your paper**
2. **Below the figure (reproduced in your paper)**

   1. **Within the written body of your paper**, as you would for a normal in-text reference. For example
      
      As shown in Figure 1.(14)… OR Figure 1.(14) shows that...

   2. **Below the figure (reproduced in your paper)**, containing the following information:

      - Label of figure, table etc., followed by a brief but descriptive phrase
      - Your assigned number e.g. (14)

Example

![Figure 1](image)

Figure 1. Dose distributions for a left-breast tumor (a, b) at the level of surgical bed defined by titanium clips (arrows) and the corresponding DVH (c, d) for supine (left) and prone (right) positions (14).