

Sources for academic research

- ✓ Books
- ✓ Journals
- ✓ Internet (reliable websites: Look at the three letters at the end of the site's domain name, such as “**edu**” (educational), “**gov**” (government), “**org**” (nonprofit), and “**com**” (commercial))
- ✓ Interviews
- ✓ Observations

Two types of information sources:

Primary sources: Sources that provide primary data such as *interviews, observations, and questionnaires* are called primary sources.

Secondary sources: Sources that provide secondary data are called secondary sources. Sources such as *books, journals, previous research studies, records of an agency, and client or patient information already collected*.

Example:

- 1. A novel and a literary criticism of the novel**
- 2. Data from a student survey**

BASIS FOR COMPARISON	PRIMARY DATA	SECONDARY DATA
Meaning	Primary data refers to the first hand data gathered by the researcher himself.	Secondary data means data collected by someone else earlier.
Data	Real time data	Past data
Process	Very involved	Quick and easy
Source	Surveys, observations, experiments, questionnaire, personal interview, etc.	Government publications, websites, books, journal articles, internal records etc.
Cost effectiveness	Expensive	Economical
Collection time	Long	Short
Specific	Always specific to the researcher's needs.	May or may not be specific to the researcher's need.

Journals and DOI

A **DOI** (Digital Object Identifier) code is a unique and permanent string of letters and numbers representing an article or document that will take you to that article wherever it is located on the Web. DOI numbers provide a permanent link to an article and are required for many citation styles.

Question: Should I use the entire web address or just the DOI in my reference list?

Answer: Whenever possible, include the DOI at the end of the reference entry. If a DOI is not present, it is ok to use the URL. (APA, 2020, pp.298-301)

For example, if you have the following

URL <http://dx.doi.org.ezproxy.library.wvu.edu/10.1177/0017896911419346>

you should reformat it to

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/0017896911419346>

Use only academic articles not any general source or page or website or personal blog.

Citation note: (In text citation)

Noam Chomsky, *Aspects of the Theory of Syntax*, 1965

- (Surname, year, p)= (Chomsky, 1965, p.11)
- (Surname, year, pp)= (Chomsky, 1965, pp. 11,27)
- (Surname, year, p-p)= (Chomsky, 1965, pp.11-27)

- According to Chomsky (1965, p.11), any linguistic item.....
- Chomsky (1965, p.11) **believes** that any linguistic item.....
- Chomsky **believes** that any linguistic item..... (1965, p.11).
- Any linguistic item..... (Chomsky, 1965, p.11).

Notice the **signal phrases** (i.e, *according to, claims, points out, argues, discusses, defines, proposes, notes, explains, states, writes, demonstrates, says*)

Quoting

Quoting is an important technique used to include information from outside sources in academic writing. When using quotations, it is important that you also cite the original reference that you have taken the quotation from.

When should you quote?

Using a quotation is appropriate in the following situations:

1. The language of the passage is particularly elegant, powerful, or memorable.
2. You wish to confirm the credibility (trust) of your argument in your topic.
4. You wish to argue with someone else's position in considerable detail.

Direct quotes can be integrated directly with your own running text, even within sentences:

The author suggests that “the use of the pronominal forms [...] through time constitutes a change in the typological tendencies in English.” (Laitinen 2008, p.155)

The theoretical context for my paper is a model developed by Croft (2006), which provides a framework for “analyzing language change that integrate[s] functional-typological and variationist sociolinguistic approaches to historical linguistics” (ibid., p. 34).

As a rule of thumb, if a quote is longer than three lines, set it apart from the text (as an extra paragraph, indented, smaller font size, no need to use quotation marks then): This is called a block quotation or block quote.

Declerck describes the temporal schema of the Present Perfect as follows:

[A] present perfect locates a situation in a period of time that starts before t_0 and leads up to it. The situation located in this period can either lie entirely before t_0 and lead up to (and include) t_0 . In the former case the present perfect is said to have an ‘indefinite’ (‘existential’) meaning, in the latter it is ‘continuative’. (Declerck 1991: 28)

Referencing styles

- the *MLA* (Modern Languages Association) system
- the *APA* (American Psychological Association) system,
- **the *Harvard* system,**
- and the *MHRA* (Modern Humanities Research Association) system.

Avoid Direct Quotes when:

- Avoid making your paper an assembly of quotations by using too many of them! You should only fall back on a direct quote if it succinctly makes a point that contributes to your line of argumentation (or presents a counter-position that you intend to challenge). There is no point in providing a list of quotes and in leaving it up to the reader to make sense of it.
- Try to avoid quotations from third sources, i.e. something like (Croft 2003: 17, cited in Evans and Green 2006: 122). Quote from the original source and list this source in the reference section at the end of the paper. It is bad practice to copy quotations made in textbooks, rather than quoting an author's opinion directly. This entails, however, that you also consult the original source whenever possible, i.e. that you check at least whether the original quotation fits the argumentative context in which you want to use it.
- Finally, also try to avoid long quotations. As a rule of thumb, if a quote is longer than three lines, set it apart from the text