



21st Century Information Fluency Project

IMS A Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy



MicroModule: Citation

REVIEW Page

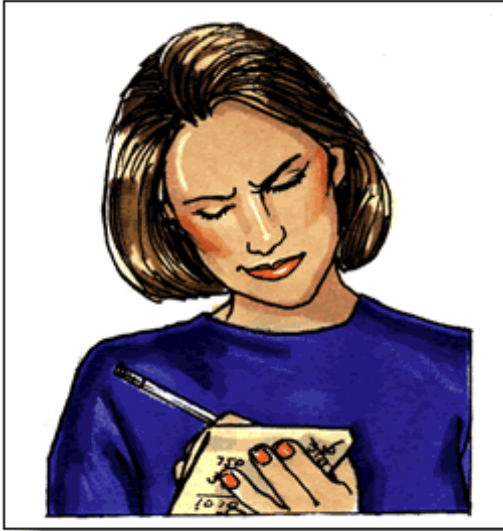
Below is the entire module on one page.

What is the procedure and format for citing web pages in reports and presentations?

Does your teacher insist on MLA or APA citations? Does the journal you are writing for mandate CBE style? When citing any resource for research-based work, you must use the citation style your audience demands. There are many popular citation styles. The IMSA [Citation Wizard](#) automates basic citation formatting for *electronic resources* in five popular styles:

- American Psychological Association [APA](#) Style
- Council of Biology Editors [CBE](#) Style
- [Chicago Style](#)
- International Organization for Standardization [ISO](#) Style
- Modern Language Association [MLA](#) Style

When using the [Citation Wizard](#), just fill in the text boxes with as much of the requested information as you can find.



Digging In

It is important to look beyond the first page when developing a web page citation. Citing web pages accurately requires an investigator's mind set. Basic information is often hidden or even missing. Creating a citation for [TechDictionary.com](#) illustrates some common difficulties.



Site Maps and About pages

You often need to search other pages on the web site to find the information needed for a complete citation. How did I find the authors for TechDictionary.com? I didn't find any names on the home page of the site. In this case, the link called About/Site map was the key. This lead to another page that included a link called: Credits: People who have contributed terms. This is where I found the site author's names. "About" or Site map pages can be very helpful when seeking information on the author and publisher of a web page.

Finding publication dates

Often you will find a copyright or publication date at the bottom of the web page. If you check the bottom of the page you are viewing right now, you will see a "Last Updated" notice. Every time we change this page, the date is automatically revised.

More often than not, you will have to settle for a copyright date. In the case of TechDictionary.com, it is easy to be distracted by the dates of the newsfeeds on the home page. These dates are refreshed constantly, reflecting the streaming content of the live newsfeed, rather than the publication or copyright date for the entire site. To find TechDictionary.com's copyright information we have to go the very bottom of the TechDictionary homepage.

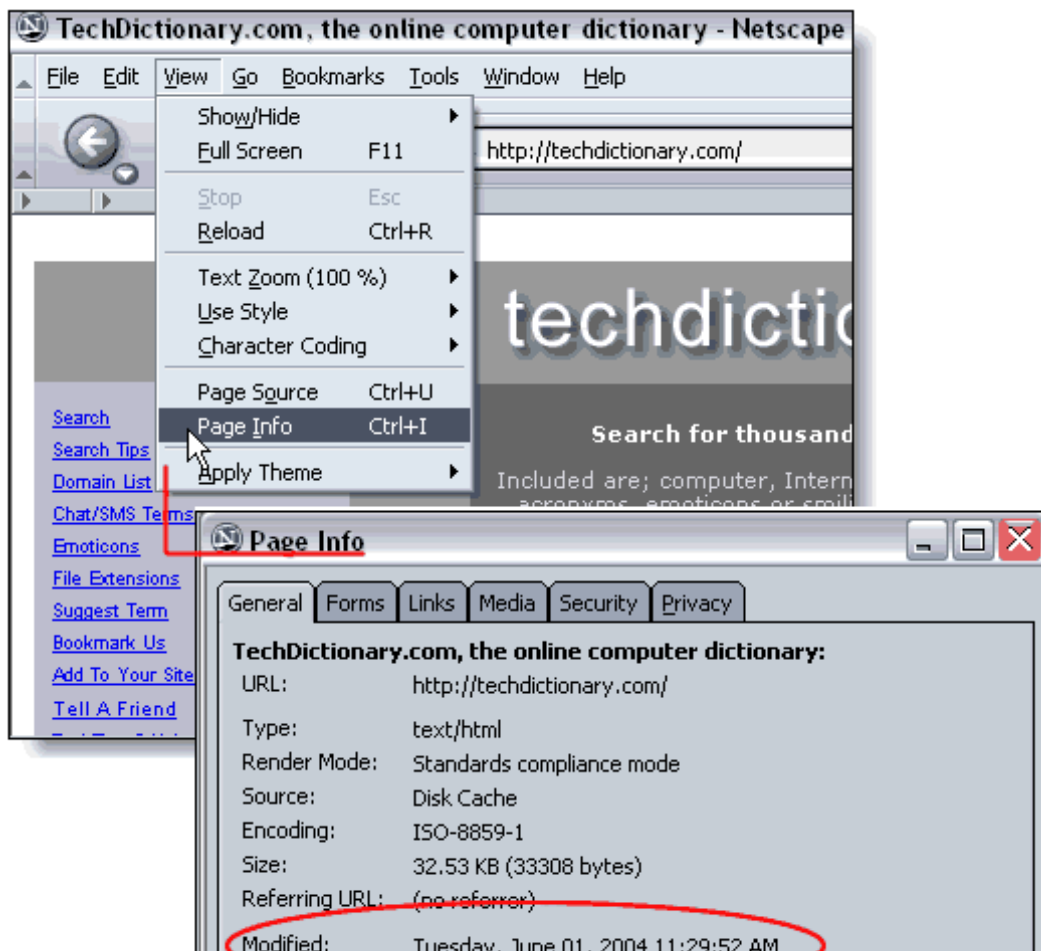


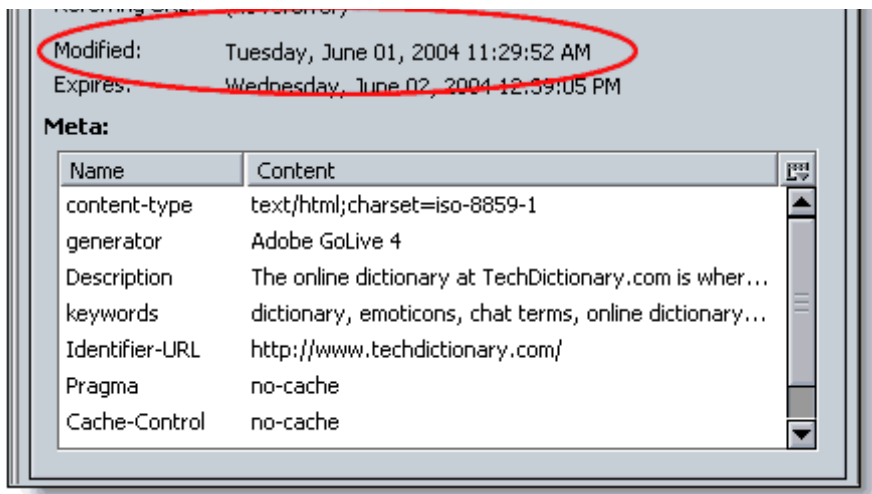
Look for publication and copyright information at the bottom of the page.

copyright © 2004 TechDictionary.com All Rights Reserved
Permission to use any terms must be granted in writing by techdictionary.com.

Useful Netscape Feature

If you search using the Netscape browser, you can use a pull down menu called "Page Info" to find the most recent modification date for any page on the web site.





Don't just accept what you see at first glance, dig around. You are the archaeologist!

Creating a basic citation using the Citation Wizard

You have seen how important it is to look beyond the first page when developing a citation. Citing web pages accurately requires critical thinking. Basic information is often hidden or even missing. Creating a citation for [TechDictionary.com](http://www.techdictionary.com) illustrates some common difficulties.

techdictionary.com

Search for thousands of technology terms.

Included are; computer, Internet and telecommunications terms, acronyms, emoticons or smilies, chat abbreviations, filename extensions, HTML tags, and domain suffixes.

Search by term: or by keyword:

[Search](#)
[Search Tips](#)
[Domain List](#)
[Chat/SMS Terms](#)
[Emoticons](#)
[File Extensions](#)
[Suggest Term](#)
[Bookmark Us](#)
[Add To Your Site](#)
[Tell A Friend](#)
[TechTips & Links](#)
[Tech News](#)
[Virus News](#)
[Advertise](#)
[About/Site Map](#)

[Tech News](#) [more tech news >](#)

[Application Server](#)
Award-Winning Fanatical Support™
Get Custom Solutions & 0% Downtime!...
Ads By Google - www.rackspace.com

[HP extends open source support to servers...](#)
PC Magazine UK Wed Jun 2 14:37:00 PDT 2004

[diNovo Media Desktop not just another keyboard and mouse combo...](#)
National Post Wed Jun 2 14:33:00 PDT 2004

[Virus News](#) [more virus news >](#)

[TrendMicro.com](#)
PC-cillin is 20% off. Browse all fine security products. affiliate...
Ads By Google - www.trendmicro.com

[Worm korqo.f...](#)
Trend Micro Wed Jun 2 15:10:00 PDT 2004

[Suspected Trojan horse author arrested in Taiwan, Sophos comments...](#)
Sophos Anti Virus Wed Jun 2 10:33:00 PDT 2004

copyright © 2004 TechDictionary.com All Rights Reserved
Permission to use any terms must be granted in writing by techdictionary.com.

The Process

With TechDictionary.com in one window, I open the Citation Wizard in a second window and begin the process of creating a citation. I click from page to page, copying, pasting and typing, I gather as much information as I can find. Still some of the fields in the form are left blank because I was unable to find a publisher or location indicated on the TechDictionary.com site.

Citation Wizard

The current style is: **MLA**

Select a new style: Modern Language Association (MLA)

Select

Author 1 first names/initials: Ken

Author 1 last name: Hoffman

Author 2 first names/initials: Dale

Author 2 last name: Meyerhoeffer

Author 3 first names/initials: Greg

Author 3 last name: Chapman

Document Title: TechDictionary

Title of journal, database, website: TechDictionary

Journal volume, issue, page: [blank]

Publisher: [blank]

Publisher's city: [blank]

Publisher's state (2-letter abbrev.): [blank]

Publication Date: Year 2004

If you can't find the author check with your instructor before citing!

If you can't find the publisher, city, or state leave the field blank.

Results

I have selected the popular APA citation style. When I click the "View" button at the bottom of the page, the Citation Wizard formats my data in basic APA style. I receive the following citation:

The screenshot shows the Citation Wizard interface. On the left is a navigation menu with links: Home, Wizard Tools (Search, Evaluation, Citation, Thesaurus, Spelling), Tutorials, Resources, Events, About Us, and Site Map. The main content area has a header 'Citation Wizard' with 'About this tool' and 'Examples' links. Below the header, it displays 'The current style is: MLA' and a dropdown menu for 'Select a new style:' with 'Modern Language Association (MLA)' selected. A 'Select' button is below the dropdown. Underneath is a 'View Citation' section with a text box containing the citation: 'Hoffman, Ken; Dale Meyerhoeffer; and Greg Chapman. "TechDictionary." TechDictionary (2004): **publisher** 5 September 2005 < http://techdictionary.com/ >.' An 'Edit this Citation' button is below the text box.

Final Edit

I can now copy and paste the citation into any word processed document. Notice that the missing publisher information is highlighted by the placeholder ****publisher****. I will correct this by editing a final draft of the citation. I will also note that there are more than three authors for this web site.

Hoffman, Ken; Dale Meyerhoeffer; and Greg Chapman. "TechDictionary."
TechDictionary (2004): 5 September 2005 <http://techdictionary.com/>.

Remember, the Citation Wizard does not check for proper spelling, capitalization or dates that should be spelled out rather than numbered. You need to know these aspects of the style you are working with. We don't do everything for you, but we handle most of that tedious information order formatting and citation punctuation.

Why should I bother with a formal citation style?

We usually use a formal citation style because someone tells us we "have to". These styles are taught and required as part of the academic research process. *The practical reason for creating formal citations is so that we can find important resources again later.* Formal citation style forces you to be more thorough. If all I save about a resource is the website address (URL) will I remember what the page was about? What if a key web page is moved? How can I find it again? A formal citation gives me the author's name and the publisher. Having this contact information improves my chances of finding the new location for a missing resource. The date information in a citation, can help me decide whether to use the resource again or look for something more current. Also a formal citation provides credibility and saves time when sharing information with other researchers.

What if I need to cite more details than the Citation Wizard provides?

The Citation Wizard will help you create a basic citation for a web page. However, if you are working with something other than a typical web page, you might need more information about citation style. In that case the Citation Wizard provides links to in depth resources about citation.

Here's what a citation looks like in each style for this web page:

World's largest fish is shrinking

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/news/stories/s1367719.htm>



Style
Guide Format

[APA](#) van Santen, J. (2005, May 13) World's largest fish is shrinking. *News in Science* . Retrieved July 25, 2005, from website: <http://www.abc.net.au/science/news/stories/s1367719.htm>

[CBE](#) van Santen J. 2005 May 13. World's largest fish is shrinking. Sydney, Australia: ABC Science Online. *News in Science*. < <http://www.abc.net.au/science/news/stories/s1367719.htm> >. Accessed 2005 July 25.

[Chicago](#) J. van Santen, "World's largest fish is shrinking," in *News in Science* , [website] (13 May 2005 [cited 25 July 2005]); available from World Wide Web @ <http://www.abc.net.au/science/news/stories/s1367719.htm>

[ISO](#) van Santen, Jacquie. World's largest fish is shrinking. *News in Science* [website]. Sydney (Australia): ABC Science Online, 13 May 2005- [cited 25 July 2005]. Available from Internet: < <http://www.abc.net.au/science/news/stories/s1367719.htm> >.

[MLA](#) van Santen, Jacquie. "World's largest fish is shrinking." *News in Science* (13 May 2005): ABC Science Online 25 July 2005 < <http://www.abc.net.au/science/news/stories/s1367719.htm> >.

The most common citation styles are from these organizations:

- APA - American Psychological Association
- CBE - Council of Biology Editors
- Chicago - Chicago Style
- ISO - International Organization for Standardization
- MLA - Modern Language Association

Additional resources:

[International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions: Style Guides and Resources](#)

[The University of Iowa: Karla's Guide to Citation Style Guides](#)

Tip: Citing electronic references can be confusing since each style presents the information in a slightly different format. The best method for citing references is the one your institution and/or professional organization advocates. Most organizations maintain style sheets or reference guides.

Additionally, IMSA provides links to specific examples and additional information for each of the [citation styles](#) used by the Citation Wizard.

Authored by Lora K. Kaisler and Dennis O'Connor



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End of Micromodule - Citation.

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