

Video Transcript: How to Read a Journal Citation

A journal article citation is a very brief, descriptive entry that you might find in a reading list, bibliography, or a database. It gives you information about the article's content, and about how to find it.

Here are citations for a journal article, arranged according to Chicago, APA, MLA and the Council of Science Editors. Note that each simply takes the same basic elements and arranges them in a specific way.

They all contain the same basic information, and include

- Author
- title of article
- name of journal
- volume and issue numbers
- date of publication
- page numbers.

This database entry for the same article adds some elements to the citation, like a **DOI**, which is a unique number assigned to each published article, and **subject headings**, usually drawn from a controlled vocabulary that is unique to the database.

In a database entry like this one, journal citations look a bit different, as each element is arranged in its own field, with field labels: title, author, source, etc.

This longer entry gives us an abstract, which is a summary of the contents of the article. Looking at both the subject terms and the abstract can give us a very good sense of whether or not this article will be useful to us.

To learn how to move from the citation to the full text of the article itself, please view the screen-casts "Getting to Full Text."

This video is available at: <http://www.lib.unb.ca/research/video/journalcitation.html>

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