How to Cite References: IEEE Documentation Style

IEEE citation style is used primarily for electronics, engineering, telecommunications, computer science, and information technology reports. The three main parts of a reference are as follows:

- Author’s name listed as first initial of first name, then full last.
- Title of article, patent, conference paper, etc., in quotation marks.
- Title of journal or book in italics.

This system allows the reader to identify the information source at a glance. All punctuation, dates, and page numbers depend on the type of reference cited, so follow the examples with care. Please note this style guide is wide ranging, but not all sources are identified. Further research may be required.

Citation Within The Text

The first step of the reference citation process is within the report itself. Each citation must be noted within the text through use of simple sequential numbers. A number enclosed in square brackets, placed in the text of the report, indicates the specific reference. Citations are numbered in the order in which they appear. Once a source has been cited, the same number is used in all subsequent references in the report. No distinction is made between electronic and print sources, except in the citation reference details.

Each reference number should be enclosed in square brackets on the same line as the text, before any punctuation, with a space before the bracket.

Examples

“. . .end of the line for my research [13].”

“The theory was first put forward in 1987 [1].”

“Scholtz [2] has argued. . . .”

“For example, see [7].”

“Several recent studies [3, 4, 15, 22] have suggested that. . . .”

Note: Authors and dates do not have to be written out after the first reference; use the bracketed number. Also, it is not necessary to write “in reference [2].” Just write “in [2].”

The preferred method to cite more than one source at a time is to list each reference in its own brackets, then separate with a comma or dash:

[1], [3], [5]
Reference Lists
To finish citing sources, a numbered list of references must be provided at the end of the paper. The list is comprised of the sequential enumerated citations, with details, beginning with [1], and is not alphabetical.

Page Format
• Place references flush left
• Single-space entries, double-space between.
• Place number of entry at left margin, enclose in brackets.
• Indent text of entries.

The following examples demonstrate the format for a variety of electronic and print sources. These citations are ones in widest use. Not everything is listed.

Electronic Documents

E-books

Article in Online Encyclopedia

Journal Article Abstract (accessed from online database)

Journal Article in Scholarly Journal (published free of charge on the Internet)

Newspaper Article from the Internet
Internet Documents

Professional Internet Site

General Internet Site

Personal Internet Site

Email

Internet Newsgroup

Microform

Computer Game

Software

Lecture
Print Documents

Books

Single Author

Edited Book

Selection in an Edited Book

Three or More Authors

Book by an Institutional or Organizational Author

Manual

Application Note

Note: Titles of unpublished works are not italicized or capitalized. Capitalize only the first word.

Technical Report

Patent/Standard
Data Sheet

Government Publication

Paper Published in Conference Proceedings

Papers Presented at Conferences (unpublished)

Thesis or Dissertation (unpublished)

Article in Encyclopedia, Signed

Journal Articles

Article in Journal (paginated by annual volume)

Article in Professional Journal (paginated by issue)

Article in Monthly or Bimonthly Periodical

Article in Daily, Weekly, or Biweekly Newspaper or Magazine