MLA 2009: Documenting Articles in Online Databases

St. Louis Community College Libraries subscribe to many web-based databases. In these databases, you can search for and access electronically duplicated articles from numerous printed journals, newspapers, magazines, encyclopedias, and books, as well as other nonprint sources. To document such an article in your list of works cited, give the author, title of the article, and the print publication information, followed by the electronic publication information.

Author. Begin the source with the name(s) of the author(s), with the first or only author's name reversed from alphabetizing.

"Title of Article." Give the title of the article (enclosed in quotation marks).

Print Publication Information. Continue the source with the print publication information, which varies depending on the source. Many sources in the commonly used databases are articles from printed scholarly journals or general periodicals. For articles, print publication information includes the title of the periodical (italicized but not followed by a period), publication date (followed by a colon), and page numbers (or the abbreviation *n. pag.* if page numbers are not available).

Electronic Publication Information. Instead of the original medium of publication (e.g., *Print*), end the source with the electronic publication information:
1. Title of the database (italicized)
2. Medium of publication (*Web*)
3. Date of access (day, month, and year)

Basic Entry

Scholarly Journal: The basic entry for an article printed in a scholarly journal and accessed in a database is shown below. The volume and issue numbers (separated by a period) and the year of publication (enclosed in parentheses) are included with the print publication information:

Author. "Title of Article." *Title of Periodical* volume.issue (year of publication): page

numbers. *Title of Database*. Web. Date of access.

General Periodical: The basic entry for an article printed in a general periodical (i.e., newspaper, magazine, or other serialized publication) and accessed in a database is shown below. The full date of publication is included with the print publication information, but the volume and issue number are omitted:

Author. "Title of Article." *Title of Periodical* date of publication: page numbers. *Title of*

Database. Web. Date of access.

Examples

*Academic OneFile***:** Articles in this database, provided by Gale, are from both scholarly journals and general periodicals. Cite print publication information accordingly.

Kennard, William E. "The Revolution Is Being Televised—on the Internet." *Black Issues in*

Higher Education 10 Dec. 1998: 112. *Academic OneFile*. Web. 22 May 2007.

*Academic Search Elite***:** Many articles in this database, provided by EBSCOhost, are from scholarly journals, but some are from general periodicals. Cite print publication information accordingly.

Hicks, Troy, et al. "Rethinking the Purposes and Processes for Designing Digital

Portfolios." *Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy* 50.6 (2007): 450–58.

Academic Search Elite. Web. 23 May 2007.

*CQ Researcher Online***:** The articles in this database, provided by CQ Press, appear in the printed periodical *CQ Researcher*, printed 44 times a year (weekly except for 8 weeks). CQ is an abbreviation for Congressional Quarterly, a publisher of Congressional news, policies, and political issues. Cite print publication information like a general periodical.

Masci, David. "The Future of Marriage." *CQ Researcher* 7 May 2004: 397-420. *CQ*

Researcher Online. Web. 23 May 2007.

*Discovering Collections***:** Articles in this database, provided by Gale, originate from different sources: some are articles from periodicals and books, and some come from a variety of other sources. Cite print publication information accordingly.

The example below is for an article that originally appeared in a book and was then reprinted under the same title in another publication. The citation begins with the original print publication information. The abbreviation *N.p.* is used because the city of publication for the original book is not given. *Rpt. in* (reprinted in) is followed by the secondary print publication information. Finally, the citation ends with the electronic publication information.

Sedley, Stephen, "An Immodest Proposal: *Animal Farm*." *Inside the Myth: Orwell, Views*

from the Left. Ed. Christopher Norris. N.p.: Lawrence and Wishart, 1984. 155-62.

Rpt. in *DISCovering Authors*. Online ed. Detroit: Gale, 2003. *Discovering*

Collection. Web. 23 May 2007.

EBSCOhost: A database vendor, providing many databases. See examples under *Academic Search Elite* and *MasterFILE Premiere*.

Gale (formerly InfoTrac): A database vendor, providing several databases. See examples under *Academic OneFile*, *Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center*, and *Discovering Collections*.

***Issues & Controversies*:** Articles in this database, provided by Facts on File News Services, appear in the printed periodical *Issues and Controversies on File*, which is printed semi-monthly. Because the author is usually unknown, begin the source with the title of the article. Cite print publication information like a general periodical. Use *n. pag.* because page numbers are not given.

"Cloning." *Issues and Controversies on File* 18 July 2005: n. pag. *Issues & Controversies.*

Web. 23 May 2007.

LexisNexis: A database vendor, providing several databases. See examples under *LexisNexis Academic*.

***LexisNexis Academic*:** Sources in this database, provided by LexisNexis, cover a wide range of print and nonprint sources. Cite source accordingly.

"Policies vs. Vision." Editorial. *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* 18 Oct. 2000, five star lift ed.: B6.

LexisNexis Academic. Web. 31 Aug. 2004.

***MasterFILE Premiere*:** Articles in this database, provided by EBSCOhost, are mostly from general periodicals.

Samuels, Allison. "Rising Up." *Newsweek* 24 Nov. 2003: 78-79. *MasterFILE Premiere.*

Web. 23 May 2007.

NewsBank: A subscription service, providing several databases. The database *America's Newspapers* includes articles from international, national, and local newspapers, including the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

Bonwich, Joe. "Claiming a Steak: It's Unclear Where They Started, But Pork Steaks Are

Here to Stay in St. Louis." *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* 23 May 2007, 3rd ed.: L1.

America's Newspapers. Web. 24 May 2007.

***Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center*:** Articles in this database, provided by Gale, originate from different sources: most are reprinted articles in periodicals; some are

excerpts from books; and a few come from other sources. To complicate matters, the articles are often given a different title when reprinted in any of dozens of books in one of the five series: Current Controversies Series, Opposing Viewpoints Series, At Issues Series, Literary Companion Series, or Contemporary Issues Companion Series.

The example below is for an article that originally appeared in a magazine under a different title. The citation begins with the print publication information of the book in the Current Controversies Series. The abbreviation *Rpt. of* (reprint of) is followed by the original print publication information. Finally, the citation ends with the electronic publication information.

Anderson, George M. "Alternatives to Mandatory Detention Will Protect the Rights of

Illegal Immigrants." *Immigration*. Ed. Louise I. Gerdes. San Diego: Greenhaven P,

2005. Current Controversies Ser. Rpt. of "Punishing the Immigrant," *America* 19

Feb. 2001: 20. *Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center*. Web. 9 May 2007.