



5.10 Compiling a bibliography

Students learn about the importance of a comprehensive and accurate bibliography, before compiling one of their own for the article they wrote as part of Activity 5.7.

Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- explain the importance of a bibliography
- compile a bibliography based on sources used in writing their article.

Time required

Allow 15 minutes class time plus homework.

Outline of the activity

In this activity, students become acquainted with and practise the way a bibliography is compiled using the accepted standards of the scientific community.

A bibliography is a list of the sources of information you read in preparing an article, essay or report. It allows you to acknowledge others who have contributed to your work, or whose ideas have been incorporated in your activity. It allows readers of your article to follow up on particular areas that they are interested in. Authors of scientific papers get credit for the number of times their papers are cited in bibliographies of other papers. This information is used by the UK government to help judge the quality of research in each university.

When including a citation to a chapter in a book, you must follow the appropriate convention, rather than just the book itself. Also any images that are copied and included in your articles must be cited using the same standard formatting used for the other citations.

The above information and the different conventions are all included in Slides 5.10.

Give an initial overview of what a bibliography is and how it should be formatted. The Resources show examples of formatted citations. These are also in the slide presentation, along with more information, and you could use this to brief the students.

The students have two options for incorporating their bibliography:

- 1 They could simply put a list of citations with the correct formatting at the end of their article, in alphabetical order by author.
- 2 They could use the numbered in-text note citation system which is shown in the Slide presentation and on the resource sheet. This is used in nearly all journals, and can be seen in most Wikipedia articles.

The latter is more demanding, and will carry more marks in the evaluation exercise.

- 3 Students can write their bibliographies in class if you wish, but it may be more appropriate to set it as a homework. Note that the bibliography should also include citations to the sources of any images which students have copied and used in their article.

Tips and strategies

Two books which might be of interest to students (and teachers!), which also have extensive bibliographies are:



Walker, G., & King, D. (2008). *The Hot Topic*. London: Bloomsbury Publishing.

Bryson, B. (2003). *A Short History of Nearly Everything*. London: Transworld Publishing.

Point out to students that their bibliography will be assessed as part of the final evaluation that they will do in Activity 5.11 Evaluating scientific writing.

You may choose to make the more demanding numbered in-text note citation system compulsory, as this matches the convention of most journals.



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Slides

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Learning Skills for Post-16 Sciences

SEP
Science Enhancement Programme

Nuffield
Curriculum Centre

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What is a bibliography?

- A bibliography is a list of citations to the sources of information you read in preparing an article, essay or report.
- It allows you to acknowledge others who have contributed to your work, or whose ideas have been incorporated in your activity.
- It allows readers of your article to follow up on particular areas that they are interested in.
- Authors of scientific papers get credit for the number of times their papers are cited in bibliographies of other papers. This information is used by the UK government to help judge the quality of research in each university.

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How do you format a bibliography?

- Different journals and publications have different conventions, so it is important to stick to the requirements that are specified.
- The following slides show how you are expected to format the bibliography for your article.
- Pay attention to punctuation and the order that different parts are placed in. The formatting of the text for each part (e.g italics or bold) is important.

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Compiling a bibliography

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Writing a bibliography for your article

- If you are including a citation to a chapter in a book, make sure you follow the convention for citing a chapter in a book, rather than just the book itself.
- Make sure that you add citations to the sources of any images that you copy and include in your articles using the same standard formatting used for the other citations.



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Citing a book

Surname of author, first name or initial (year of publication). Title of book. Place of publication: Publisher.

For example:

Clugston, M., & Fleming, R. (2000). *Advanced Chemistry*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.



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Citing a chapter of a book

Surname of author, first name or initial (year of publication). Title of article. In: name of editor (Ed.), Title of book, page numbers. Place of publication: Publisher.

For example:

Daniel, J. C. Jr., & Chilton, B. S. (1978). Virus-like particles in embryos and the female reproductive tract. In: Johnson, H. (Ed.), *Development in Mammals*, pp 131—187. Amsterdam: North Holland/Elsevier.



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Citing an article from a journal:

Surname of author, first name or initial (year of publication). Title of article. *Name of journal*, volume, page numbers.

For example:

Alder, R. W., Butts C. P., Orpen A. G., Read, D. and Oliva J. M. (2001). The chemistry of bicyclic diphosphines., *Journal of the chemical society*, 2, 282-287.



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Citing an Internet source:

Surname of author, first name or initial (year of publication). Title of article. *Name of journal or other source as appropriate*, volume (issue), page numbers. The full URL of the site, including the precise 'page' from which the information was taken.

For example:

Doran, C.R., & Jose, J. (1999). Riding the Tiger of Globalization: International challenges Facing Singapore. *The International Scope Review*, 1 (2), 26pp available at: <http://www.internationalscope.com/journal/volume1/999/issue2/Doran.htm>.

For a simple webpage, use this format:

World Atlas: Maps and Geography of the World: <http://geography.miningco.com/education/geography!library/rmaps/blindex.htm>



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Using an in-text numbering system

- It is common for articles to use an in-text note citation system. This uses a numbering system to identify which sources are being cited at each point in the text.

e.g. "It was reported that bicyclic diphosphines are the strongest trialkylphosphine bases that have been synthesised.¹"

Literature cited: **(This goes at the end of the article)**

1. Alder, R. W., Butts C. P., Orpen A. G., Read, D. and Oliva J. M. (2001). The chemistry of bicyclic diphosphines., *Journal of the chemical society*, 2, 282-287.

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