

## Citing References – a refresher

### Why cite references?

1. You need to give credit to people for ideas and information.
2. Your points are much stronger if you back them up with studies illustrating or expert opinion supporting your points.

### In text citations

- Normally you cite references in the text by using the last name and year if there are one or two authors.
- If there are more than two authors then put the first author's name and et al. et al. = et alia so there is no period after et and there is a period after al.
- Normally the citations are put in parentheses with a comma or semicolon separating citations. The period ending the sentence goes after the parentheses.

*Ex.:* Low seed dispersal commonly limits tropical forest recovery (Cubiña and Aide 1994, Holl et al. 2002).

- When you use direct quotes also include the page number – e.g. (Holl et al. 2002: 12)
- If the author is the subject of the sentence then the name is not in parentheses and the year is.

*Ex.:* Holl and Howarth (2000) report that restoration costs are often underestimated.

### Format for citing references

- You need to present all the information that a reader would need to find the reference themselves.
- There are many different formats for bibliographic citations. You are welcome to use any format you like as long as you are consistent and provide all relevant information. Below is a suggested format.

#### *Peer-reviewed journal article*

Cubiña, A. and T. M. Aide. 2001. The effect of distance from forest edge on seed rain and soil seed bank in a tropical pasture. *Biotropica* 33:260-267.

#### *Book*

Gauch, H. G. Jr. 1982. *Multivariate analysis in community ecology*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

#### *Book chapter*

Bradshaw, A. D. 1987. Restoration: an acid test for ecology. Pages 23-29 in W. R. I. Jordan, M. Gilpin, and J. D. Aber (eds) *Restoration Ecology*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

#### *Edited book*

Pennington, T. D. and E. C. M. Fernandes (eds). 1998. *The genus Inga*. Continental Printing, Belgium.

#### *Newspaper article*

Knox, R. 1997. Please don't dial and drive, study suggests. *Boston Globe*, 13 February 1997: A1, A17.

#### *Web pages*

Save Lake Davis Task Force.<sup>1</sup> 2000.<sup>2</sup> Managing northern pike at Lake Davis: a plan for Y2000. Retrieved January 5, 2004<sup>3</sup> from the California Department of Fish and Game web site <[www.dfg.ca.gov/northernpike/mgpike.htm](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/northernpike/mgpike.htm)>.

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<sup>1</sup>If there is no author you can list a document as anonymous, but, in general, if there is no author listed with a document then the credibility of the web site should be considered. If possible, find a more reliable reference.

<sup>2</sup>If there is no date indicating when the web page was posted then put n.d. where the date should go. But, be careful that the information is not outdated.

<sup>3</sup>It is standard practice to include the access date for web pages since they may change.