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Publication Date in an APA Reference

We know that an APA formatted reference contains the following parts in this order:

Author. (Publication date). **Title.** **Publication information.**

Let's take a closer look at the **publication date** part.

Format:

Publication dates are placed in parentheses after the author and followed by a period.

Journal Articles and Books:

If you are citing a journal article or book, use the year of publication.

Example of a journal article:

Maddrell, J. (2014). Service-learning instructional design considerations. *Journal of Computing in Higher Education*, 26(3), 213-226.
doi: 10.1007/s12528-014-9085-y

Example of a book:

Lieberman, D. E. (2013). *The story of the human body: Evolution, health, and disease*. New York, NY: Pantheon.

Magazines, Newsletters, and Newspapers:

If you are citing from a magazine, newsletter, or newspaper, give the **exact date** of publication using the format **(year, month)** or **(year, month day)** depending on how it appears in the publication.

For an explanation of how a journal and a magazine differ, see the video titled *Differentiating Between Types of Sources*.

Example of a magazine article:

Renzulli, K. A. (2016, December). The challenge:
Agreeing on the perfect retirement locale.
Money, 45(11), 40-41.

Example of a newsletter article:

Curry, L. (2017, January). How to help a grieving employee. *Medical Office Manager, XXXI(1)*, 2-4.

Example of a newspaper article:

Wolcott, R. J. (2017, January 29). Shoppers make final trip to co-op store. *Lansing State Journal*, p. 2A.

Websites:

If you are citing from a website that is updated frequently, such as a blog, online message forum, or social media, then provide a **specific date (year, month day)**.

Example of a blog post:

Allen, E. (2017, January 11). World War I: Understanding the war at sea through maps [Blog post]. Retrieved from <http://blogs.loc.gov/loc/2017/01/world-war-i-understanding-the-war-at-sea-through-maps/>

Example of a social media post:

Library of Congress. (2017, February 9). Come to DC & see our latest exhibition on the music of baseball. Or check it out online [Facebook status update]. Retrieved from <https://www.facebook.com/libraryofcongress/>

If the website is not frequently updated, then only the **year** is used.

Example:

Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2016). *About BLS*. Retrieved from <https://www.bls.gov/bls/infohome.htm>

No Publication Date Available:

If no publication date can be found, use **n.d.** (short for no date).

Example:

United States Copyright Office. **(n.d.)**. *Frequently asked questions about copyright*. Retrieved from <https://www.copyright.gov/help/faq/index.html>

In Press:

If an article has been accepted for publication but has not actually been published yet, use **(in press)** in place of the date.

Example:

Briscoe, R. (in press). Egocentric spatial representation in action and perception. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*. Retrieved from <http://cogprints.org/5780/1/ECSRAP.F07.pdf>

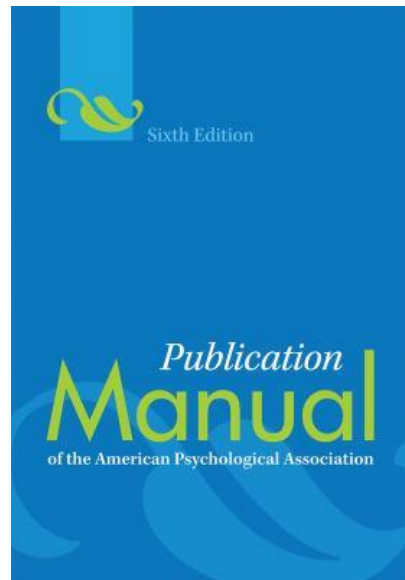
Estimated Publication Dates:

If a publication date can be reasonably estimated but the exact date is unknown, put **ca.** (short for the Latin *circa* meaning “near”) before the date and replace the parentheses with brackets.

Example:

Peale, R. (Painter). [ca. 1815]. *Richardson Stuart*
[Oil painting on canvas]. Retrieved from
<http://www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb/Collection/art-object-page.34133.html>

For more information on formatting your references using APA style, check out the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*.



Thank you for watching!

If you have questions, please contact us:

<http://libanswers.davenport.edu> Text: 616-504-1696





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