There is no definitive ‘Harvard’ or Author-date system of referencing; there are as many variations as institutions that use this referencing system. Here is one version. The important thing is to be consistent with layout, punctuation etc. Please check with your lecturers/discipline in case they have their own version.

Use this guide in conjunction with the Harvard (Author-Date) style: Electronic and Audio-Visual materials.

WHAT is referencing?

When doing an assignment, details about the sources of information (references) used need to be provided.

There are two parts to referencing an assignment:

1. within-text referencing: brief details of sources of information used are written within the body of the assignment
2. list of works cited (also called Bibliography, Reference list): details of sources of information used, which appear at the end of the assignment.

1. Within the text of the assignment, brief details are given about the sources of information used. Basic format: (Surname of the author followed by year of publication and page number. Note that some lecturers prefer to leave out page numbers).

Here is an example of referencing within the text:

“As was inevitable in such circumstances, a whole set of other inequalities were perpetuated by apartheid even if they were not legally enshrined” (Robertson 2004, 20).

OR

Robertson (2004, 20) indicates that the effects of apartheid on South African society were all encompassing; from employment to education, health and poverty.

2. The List of works cited or bibliography at the end of the assignment provides full details about all the sources of information used and is written in alphabetical order by surnames. (Where an author is not obvious, use the title).

Here is an example of references in a list of works cited:


WHY is referencing important?
• to acknowledge the work or words of others
• to avoid plagiarism (using someone else’s ideas as if they were your own). Plagiarism is a serious offence
• to indicate the range of sources used for an assignment; how up-to-date the sources are and whether relevant material was used
• to enable others to trace the sources listed in order to find further information.

More is preferable to less! The bottom line: when you are paraphrasing, summarising, quoting or copying from anywhere, you must indicate where this information came from

EXAMPLES OF HOW DETAILED CITATIONS FOR DIFFERENT SOURCES SHOULD BE WRITTEN FOR A LIST OF WORKS CITED

Certain basic details must be given and they must be written down in a particular way

A) BOOKS - including dictionaries and encyclopedias

Basic format:
Surname(s) of author(s) or editor(s), Initials. Year of publication. Title of book. Edition (only when edition is other than the 1st). Use abbreviation ed. City (of publication): Name of publisher.

- Titles of books are in italics with minimum capitalization
- If more than one place of publication or more than one publisher is given in the book, choose the first. Place is always a city not a country. This information can be found in the Library’s iLink catalogue or on the back of the title page of the book. If no city of publication is given, put [S.l.]
- If no publisher is given, put [s.n.]
- If no year of publication is given, put [n.d.] in place of the year
- Place a full stop at the end of the reference.

Examples:
Books by up to three authors

Books by more than three authors (details of first author then … et al.)

Chapters in books where different authors are responsible for the chapters (details of chapter first then details of book in which chapter appears and inclusive page numbers of the chapter. In such books, the overall ‘author’ of the book is known as the editor. Put ‘ed’: short for editor after his/her name/s. The title of the book is in italics).

Chapter or entry in a multi-volume book such as an encyclopedia

Whole books that are edited or compiled

Corporate bodies as authors - companies, institutions, organizations, etc.

No author: Start your reference with the title

Reports and financial statements of companies
Conference papers – published (similar to a chapter in a book)
Put in the full title, date and place of the conference. At the end of the reference put in the pages for the paper.


Conference papers, speeches, posters – unpublished
Add to the author, date and title details, information about the occasion at which the paper, speech, poster was presented.

Hoskins, R. 2007. ICTs as an information and library management tool. Keynote address delivered at the 5th ELITS KZN [Education Library Information Technology Services KwaZulu-Natal] Provincial Conference held in Port Shepstone, 08-10 August.

B) PERIODICALS: JOURNALS, MAGAZINES AND NEWSPAPERS
- Because all issues of a periodical have the same title, the volume, issue and page numbers are vital in order to identify the exact location of an article (if they are provided) Volume number is written before the issue/part number (if there is one)
- The details of the article are written down first, the details of the journal in which the article appears come last
- If there is no author, begin with the title
- Titles of periodicals are in italics and each proper word of the journal title starts with a capital letter
- Publisher details are not required for periodical references
- For newspapers, use the day and month instead of volume and part number.

Basic format:
Surname(s), initial(s) of author/s. Year. Title of article. Title of the Periodical volume number (issue or part number): inclusive page numbers. If there is no author, start with the title.

Examples:
Journal or magazine articles

Newspaper articles


C) UNPUBLISHED SOURCES – INCLUDING THESIS, LECTURE NOTES, INTERVIEWS AND PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS

(i) Theses and dissertations
- After the thesis title, add ‘unpublished thesis’ and the type of degree
- Abbreviations may be used for the names of academic degrees, eg. PhD. etc.
- If it is helpful, add a department or school after the name of the institution.

Basic format:
Surname(s), initial(s) of the author. Year. Title of the item. Type of item and degree. Institution, Name of Department, Division, Centre, Unit, etc.

Example:
(ii) Lecture notes
After the title of the notes, add the course code, name and ‘unpublished lecture notes’ at end.


(iii) Interviews and personal communications such as conversations
Information about unpublished interviews and personal communications such as conversations are usually given in the text only. Letters may be cited in the text only, or entered in the List of works cited.

Basic format:
Surname(s), initial(s) and status of person interviewed. Year. Details of time, place and interviewer.

Examples:
Ackerman, R.D, Chairman of Pick ‘n Pay Holdings Ltd. 1990. Interviewed by the author in Pietermaritzburg, 7th April.

D) GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

Commissions of inquiry and government committees
Chairperson of the commission or committee is the author.

Example:

Reports of government departments

Statutes and acts of parliament (South Africa)
Arranged alphabetically in a separate list.

Basic format:
Name of country. Name of act Number of act, Year.

Example:

White papers

E) LAW REPORTS (Cases) (South Africa)

• Arranged alphabetically in a separate list.
• The names of the parties involved are italicized.
• No punctuation is necessary apart from a full stop at the end.

Basic format:
Party v Party Year (Volume number) Abbreviation of country’s law reports page number (Court division).

Example:
Smith v Hughes 1996 (4) SA 340 (O).

Some useful, comprehensive, online guides to variations of the Harvard referencing system can be found at:
• Anglia Ruskin University: http://libweb.anglia.ac.uk/referencing/harvard.htm
• University of Exeter: http://education.exeter.ac.uk/dll/studyskills/harvard_referencing.htm
• University of Limerick: http://www3.ul.ie/~library/pdf/citeitright.pdf