MLA 8th ed.

What Has Changed?

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August 18, 2016
Ordre du jour

MLA Guide in Context

Changes from 7th to 8th ed.

Quiz
MLA (i.e. Modern Language Association) Guide in Context

1951  First MLA guide published (31 pages, geared to scholars)

1977  First MLA guide geared to students published (163 pages)

1984  Handbook (undergrads) vs. Style Manual (grads and scholars)

MLA 8th edition

Compared to 7th ed (292 pages), the 8th ed (146 pages) is more concise

Focus on the purpose of documentation rather than formats of documents

Documentation as a conversation between writers, readers and sources
Different conversations = Different kinds of documentation
E.g. giving a credit vs comparing different editions of a source

Emphasis on document traits shared by most works, regardless of medium

Emphasis on a consistent structure, discoverability of sources
What’s Different about MLA 8th ed.?

- **Pseudonyms, Pen Names etc.**
  
  Now treated like regular names, but you might still wish to include the author’s full name in brackets.
  
  @uOttawaBiblio. “Come for Pokemon, stay for the books! + #pokemongo.” Twitter, 22 July 2016, 10:02 a.m., twitter.com/uOttawaBiblio/status/756534945745600512.

- **Container**
  
  The larger whole within which the source is contained (book ⇔ chapter, series ⇔ episode, journal ⇔ article etc.). A source may have more than one container (e.g. e-book platform, streaming service, blog aggregator, institutional repository etc.)
  
  Containers are italicized and followed by a comma.
  
  It is recommended that you indicate all the containers in order to make it easy for your readers to locate your sources. Include DOIs, URLs or permalinks (without http[s]) as well as abbreviations such as vol., no., if applicable.


- **Abbreviations & URLs**
MLA 8th ed.: Optional Elements

**Date of Original Publication**

If you wish to include the date of original publication for a re-published source, add it right after its title.

**City of Publication**

If there are (1) considerable/interesting differences between documents released by publishers with international offices or (2) you are citing a less known publisher, you might wish to include the city of publication.


**Date of Access**

Indicating the date of access for digital resources can be useful when you are citing a source that is frequently updated or for which no other publication date is listed.

**Any Other Facts**

Is your source a part of a multivolume publication or monographic series? A transcript or an address? Was it published previously in a different format (e.g. an article re-published as a book chapter)?

You might wish to include this information if it is of significance.
The list of sources in your paper should be titled “Bibliography”

False!
It is recommended that you title it Works Cited. In case you wish to include the sources that you did not cite, but still used while writing your paper, title the list Works Consulted.
Your citation should always feature the name of the creator(s) in the first place

False!

When a source is published by an entity that is also its author (e.g. corporations, associations etc.), omit the author and start your citation with the title of the source. *MLA Handbook*. 8th ed., Modern Language Association, 2016.

If you are analyzing a translated work and your focus is on translation, list the name(s) of translator(s) first. *Seidensticker, Edward G., translator. The Tale of Genji. By Murasaki Shikibu, Knopf, 1976.*

If you are writing about film or theatre, and are concentrating on a specific role in production/performance, list the name(s) of the individuals who were instrumental in the first place (e.g. actors, scriptwriters etc.). If you are not focusing on a particular role, simply omit the author, and start with the title. *Jones, January, performer. Mad Men. Lions Gate Television, 2007-2015.*
Cite the punctuation or capitalization as it was found in the source’s title

False!
You should cite the titles in full (as they were found in the source) while standardizing capitalization/punctuation.

Capitalize the first and the last word, and all principal words (excl. articles, prepositions, coordinating conjunctions, to in infinitives). Use a colon and a space to separate a title and a subtitle, if the title is not followed by a question mark or an exclamation point.

No need to provide translations for the titles of non-English language sources

True and False!

If your readers do not understand the language of your source(s), it would be helpful to provide a translation for the title(s).
For in-text citations, use a parenthesis when you introduce the source(s).
For the “Works Cited” list, use square brackets right after the original title.

Except for periodicals, publisher’s name should always be indicated

**False!**

You don’t need to include a publisher’s name for a self-published work or web site whose title is identical to its publisher. Also, omit the publisher for web sites or archives (i.e. containers) that are hosting a source that they did not produce (e.g. *JSTOR, YouTube, ProQuest, WordPress.com*, institutional depositories etc.).
Some sources can be cited in a shortened form in your Works Cited list

True!

If you are citing two or more sources from a collection of texts, create an entry for the collection and cross-reference the individual sources to it.

Looking for more information?
The MLA Style Center
https://style.mla.org/

✓ Practice templates
✓ Lessons and articles on plagiarism
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And…