

Harvard and APA Systems

Two widely adopted forms of referencing, well established in the natural sciences and quite widespread in the social sciences and education, are the Harvard and APA (American Psychological Association) systems.

The Harvard system was developed at Harvard University in the 1930s; it was an adaptation and simplification of referencing conventions in the *Chicago Manual of Style*, first published by the University of Chicago Press in 1906. Characteristic of the Harvard system is the use of author and date as the form of referring to sources in text (see Chapter 9) with authors' works listed alphabetically in a separate list of references. The vastly simplified system, in comparison with the previously almost universal academic practice of footnotes that used Latin abbreviations (op.cit., loc.cit. and ibid.), spread to many academic disciplines. Each edition of the *Australian Style Manual* has given increasing space to the Harvard or author-date system of referencing.

The APA system is a variation of the author-date system presented by the American Psychological Association as a guide to publication. This system also dates from the 1930s and 1940s, and has been promoted through the APA's *Publication Manual*.

Minor and subtle differences exist between the Harvard and APA systems and writers often adopt a mixture of the two. Table 12.1 illustrates some of these differences.

Table 12.1 Differences between the Harvard and APA (American Psychological Association) systems of referencing

Harvard System	APA System
Anderson, J and Poole, M (1993) <i>Thesis and Assignment Writing</i> , 2nd ed, John Wiley and Sons, Brisbane	Anderson, J., & Poole, M. (1993). <i>Thesis and assignment writing</i> (2nd ed.). Brisbane: John Wiley & Sons.
no punctuation after initials or date	full stops after initials and dates; for multiple authors, comma separates authors
names joined by <i>and</i>	names joined by &
book and journal names in title case*	book names in sentence case [†] journal names in title case

Continued

Harvard System	APA System
commas separate publishing elements	period after title or edition colon after place of publication
edition without brackets or punctuation	edition with brackets and periods
publisher followed by place of publication	place of publication followed by publisher

* Title case uses capitals for the first letters of key words.

† Sentence case uses capitals for the first letter of the first word and for proper nouns.

Author-date System

The Harvard and APA systems have in common the author followed by the date, and it is this author-date system of referencing that now is followed in a majority of disciplines, though commonly there is a mixture of the two systems. A practice adopted by many university departments, supported in part by the *Australian Style Manual*, and followed in this book is to use:

- full stops after initials and date
- *and* to link authors, without a preceding comma where there are just two authors (it seems unnecessary to advocate the use of *and* in textual references and & in a list of references, and the practice in this book is, therefore, to use *and* in both cases)
- no parentheses around date
- title case for book and periodical names
- edition number in brackets
- publisher followed by place of publication (joined by comma)
- normal punctuation rules for abbreviations (see *Abbreviations, Spacing and Capitalisation* in this chapter)

e.g.

Anderson, J. and Poole, M. 1993. *Thesis and Assignment Writing* (2nd ed.). John Wiley and Sons, Brisbane.