

APA-style citation:

Pretor-Pinney, G. (2006) *The cloudspotter's guide: The science, history, and culture of clouds*.
New York, NY : Perigee (Penguin Publishing Group)

IEEE-style citation:

[1] G. Pretor-Pinney, *The Cloudspotter's Guide: The Science, History, and Culture of Clouds*.
New York, NY: Perigee (Penguin Publishing Group), 2006.

There are quite a few different citation styles in use across various fields and disciplines today. Plagiarism.org [1] lists no fewer than nine distinct forms, each with its own area of specialty. All of them tend to include the same set of information – author and editor names, publishers, dates and locations of publication, etc. – but each calls for that information to be listed in a slightly different way. This allows styles to place greater emphasis on individual data, according to the priorities of the field or discipline which uses it.

For example, the American Psychiatric Association (APA) style, typically preferred in the social sciences, advances the publication date of the source ahead of all other information save the author's name. According to the Yale Center for Teaching and Learning, this “allows a reader to see quickly how the research you're writing about has evolved over time [2].” Yale contrasts this with Modern Language Association (MLA) style, which brings a citation's page number to the fore, which “allows scholars to track down easily the exact sentences you're analyzing [2].”

I must confess, I was a bit surprised that IEEE style, preferred in a quickly-evolving field like electronic and computer technology, does not follow the APA's example of emphasizing publication date; the general goal of their reference style, per their citation guide [3], is to “allow the reader to identify the information source at a glance.”

References

- [1] Plagiarism.org, "Citation Styles," *plagiarism.org*, May 17. 2017. [Online]
Available: <https://www.plagiarism.org/article/citation-styles>, accessed Sept. 16, 2018.
- [2] Yale Center for Teaching & Learning, "Why Are there Different Citation Styles?" *Yale University*. [Online] Available: <https://ctl.yale.edu/writing/using-sources/why-are-there-different-citation-styles>, accessed Sept 16, 2018
- [3] IEEE, "IEEE Citation Reference", *Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers*. [Online]
Available: <https://ieee-dataport.org/sites/default/files/analysis/27/IEEE%20Citation%20Guidelines.pdf>, accessed Sept. 16, 2018.