From Eloquent Science: A Practical Guide to Becoming a Better Writer, Speaker, and

Atmospheric Scientist, 2009 by David M. Schultz

**NOTE to 12.410 students**: This excerpt from David Schultz’s book explains the two main formats for citations and references. In Astronomy, the first—the “author-date” or “Harvard” system—is the one you should use. I include the other for comparison purposes only.

Excerpted from David M. Schultz, Eloquent Science: A Practical Guide to Becoming a Better Writer, Speaker, and Atmospheric Scientist, America Meteorological Society, Boston, MA, 2009.

12.2 HOW TO CITE THE LITERATURE

There are two principal formats for citations and references in common use today. The first is the author–date system or Harvard reference system, which is the format used by the AMS and this book. Sources are cited in the text by author name and year, and are listed alphabetically in the reference list. The second is the citation-order system, or the Vancouver reference system, where sources are numbered based on their order of citation in the manuscript. A hybrid of these two systems is the author–number system, also called the alphabet–number system, which resembles the citation-order system in that sources are cited by number in the text, but resembles the author–date system in that sources are listed alphabetically in the reference list. The author–date and the citation-order systems are illustrated next.

The author–date system is as follows:

Blocking has also been shown to play a role in the modulation of the intensity of the Southern Hemisphere split jet (e.g., Trenberth and Mo 1985; Mo et al. 1987; Trenberth 1986, 1991). An early study by van Loon (1956) demonstrated that blocking in the Southern Hemisphere winter was favored in the southwest Pacific Ocean and to the southeast of Australia. More recent studies (e.g., Marques and Rao 1999; Renwick and Revell 1999) have confirmed the earlier findings and have established that the area near South America is an important secondary blocking region in winter and spring.

Marques, R. F., and V. B. Rao, 1999: A diagnosis of a long-lasting blocking event over the southeast Pacific Ocean. Mon. Wea. Rev., 127, 1761–1776.

Mo, K. C., J. Pfaendtner, and E. Kalnay, 1987: A GCM study on the maintenance of the June 1982 blocking in the Southern Hemisphere. J. Atmos. Sci., 44, 1123–1142.

Renwick, J. A., and M. J. Revell, 1999: Blocking over the South Pacific and Rossby wave propagation. Mon. Wea. Rev., 127, 2233–2247.

Trenberth, K. E., 1986: An assessment of the impact of transient eddies on the zonal flow during a blocking episode using Eliassen–Palm flux diagnostics. J. Atmos. Sci., 43, 2070–2087.

Trenberth, K. E., 1991: Storm tracks in the Southern Hemisphere. J. Atmos. Sci., 48, 2159–2178.

Trenberth, K. E., and K. C. Mo, 1985: Blocking in the Southern Hemisphere. Mon. Wea. Rev., 113, 3–21.

van Loon, H., 1956: Blocking action in the Southern Hemisphere. Notos, 5, 171–177.

The citation-order system looks like this:

Blocking has also been shown to play a role in the modulation of the intensity of the Southern Hemisphere split jet.1,2,3,4 An early study 5 demonstrated that blocking in the Southern Hemisphere winter was favored in the southwest Pacific Ocean and to the southeast of Australia. More recent studies 6,7 have confirmed the earlier findings and have established that the area near South America is an important secondary blocking region in winter and spring.

1. Trenberth, K. E., and K. C. Mo, 1985: Blocking in the Southern Hemisphere. Mon. Wea. Rev., 113, 3–21.

2. Trenberth, K. E., 1986: An assessment of the impact of transient eddies on the zonal flow during a blocking episode using Eliassen–Palm flux diagnostics. J. Atmos. Sci., 43, 2070–2087.

3. Mo, K. C., J. Pfaendtner, and E. Kalnay, 1987: A GCM study on the maintenance of the June 1982 blocking in the Southern Hemisphere. J. Atmos. Sci., 44, 1123–1142.

4. Trenberth, K. E., 1991: Storm tracks in the Southern Hemisphere. J. Atmos. Sci., 48, 2159–2178.

5. van Loon, H., 1956: Blocking action in the Southern Hemisphere. Notos, 5, 171–177.

6. Marques, R. F., and V. B. Rao, 1999: A diagnosis of a long-lasting blocking event over the southeast Pacific Ocean. Mon. Wea. Rev., 127, 1761–1776.

7. Renwick, J. A., and M. J. Revell, 1999: Blocking over the South Pacific and Rossby wave propagation. Mon. Wea. Rev., 127, 2233–2247.

The author–date system is most advantageous to authors and editors, who do not need to renumber reference lists every time a change is made to the manuscript. Numbered systems are most advantageous to the environment by reducing article length by replacing names and years by numbers. Some readers say that articles using the numbered systems are easier to read, as they are not cluttered by citations, while other readers are annoyed by having to refer to the reference list frequently to know which number corresponds to which cited source. Because each journal adheres to its own style and expects authors to follow its style, identifying the target journal locks you into a referencing system for your manuscript.