

Referencing in Academic (mathematical) Writing

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Today we will cover

Resources for your literature search

The Library and its website is your starting point.

- The [Mathematics Subject Guide](#) on the library's website
- [finding](#) and
- [evaluating](#) information sources

Referencing and *Cite Them Right Harvard*

- Key terminology
- Why and what you need to cite and reference
- Presenting citations in your work
- Some tips on using BibLaTeX

The purpose of referencing

Two of the main reasons are

- To give due credit to other authors for the use of their ideas.
- To allow your reader to investigate your work further by
 - checking your claimed sources,
 - finding out more about the ideas you refer to.

Referencing in different subjects/disciplines

- In the Arts and Humanities referencing can be a **big thing**
 - since the study can involve large archives of material,
 - the arguments can depend on lots of historical documents,
 - or depend significantly on different editions/versions of the same works,
 - ...
- In the Sciences
 - referencing is less of a significant issue in itself,
 - just deal with the two basic reasons above.

Referencing systems

There are many systems for referencing in use. They combine brief **citations** within the text which refer to full **bibliographic** information about the sources which appears in a list of references at the end of the text and/or in footnotes at the bottom of pages containing citations. As mathematics students, there are two main types of system you should be aware of.

- *Numeric* reference systems are quite common in mathematics and involve a numbered list of references (also sometimes called a **bibliography**) at the end of the text which are **cited** by number in the text.
 - In widespread use by many books and journals.
 - But numeric citations convey no information and require interrupting flow of reading if any information about author or age of work is required.
 - Reference lists not always sorted alphabetically by author surname.
- *Author Date* reference systems use **citations** consisting of author(s) surname(s) and publication year which refer to full **bibliographic** entries which are listed at the end of the text, sorted alphabetically by the (leading) author's surname.
 - Requires slightly more effort to implement than numeric systems
 - But citations now convey relevant information
 - Reduces need to interrupt flow of reading
 - Reference lists are always sorted alphabetically

In this article Terence Tao (2007) considers what good mathematics is. The article uses the *numeric* referncing style.

- Tao, T. (2007) ‘What is good mathematics?’, *Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society*, 44(4), pp. 623 - 634. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1090/S0273-0979-07-01168-8>

In this article Ling Qian (2006) writes about fluid flow with moving bodies, and uses an *author-date* style of referencing.

- Qian, L. (2006) ‘A free-surface capturing method for two fluid flows with moving bodies’, *Proceedings of the Royal Society A*, 462, pp. 21 - 42, Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1098/rspa.2005.1528>
 - a free PDF download available from [Research Gate here](#)

- You are required to use the author-date Harvard reference style, specifically the style outlined in *Cite Them Right Harvard* (see link below)
- Pay careful attention to the specific details re ordering, punctuation, use of italics etc and apply consistently.
- Thankfully, the *L^AT_EX* project report template we have provided (see Moodle area) already has the author-date Harvard style implemented.

Further help

- [Referencing and why it matters](#) on the Library website. Includes a link to the full *Cite them Right Harvard* referencing style.
- [LaTeX and BibTeX](#) – managing citations and references when writing with *L^AT_EX*.
- [Endnote](#) – software for managing citations and reference lists which integrates with Microsoft Word and other software – link to MMU library help.

- Many publication databases and catalogues will allow you to export references in a suitable format for various software systems, including BibTeX.
- Unfortunately the MMU library catalogue doesn't seem to provide this at the moment, but other sources do.
- Let's see an example using the Web of Science database, found on the [Mathematics Subject Guide](#).