# Referencing Instruction – Maynooth University Harvard Style

## General Requirements

* Respond in English.
* Avoid hyperbole.
* Be succinct, precise, and use brevity.
* Use military, political, and academic journal sources or reputable newspapers.
* Maintain awareness that this is an M.A. degree from Maynooth University, Ireland.
* Write with a critical perspective.

## Assessment Criteria

* Searching skills: academically credible, relevant, and broad information sources.
* Critical reading skills: compare, contrast, question, interrogate.
* Analytical skills: fact-based argument, assess source credibility, questioning of information. Being objective means writing with curiosity.
* You are expected to take a critical view. Does the author actually mean what they say? What do they mean when they say it? Are there people who disagree or object to what the author says?
* Writing skills: clarity, logical flow, structured argument, objective, analytical, critical. Formal tone, objective and detached. Clarity and precision backed up by evidence.
* Expected structure: Introduction, Chapter 1, Chapter 2, Chapter 3.
* Demonstrating a critical perspective is key

## Argument Evaluation

* Ensure the argument is clear and original.
* Demonstrate engagement with counter-arguments.
* Support claims with a wide range of sources.

## Citation Rules – Maynooth Harvard Style

* Use in-text citation: (Author, Year). Include page numbers for direct quotes.
* Do not use Latin abbreviations like ibid. or op. cit.
* Use 'et al.' for 3+ authors.
* Cite secondary sources where necessary (Smith, 2000, cited in Jones, 2005).
* URLs never appear in in-text citation.

## Reference List Formatting

* List all cited sources alphabetically by author’s surname.
* Use italics for book and journal titles; article titles in sentence case.
* Each cited work appears once. No source type separation.
* Be consistent in punctuation and layout.
* Only include sources cited in-text (no extras).

## Common Errors to Avoid

* Orphan in-text citations without references.
* Incorrect full stop placement inside brackets.
* Not identifying journal origin or access date.
* Omitting editor names in book chapters.
* Incorrect author order or misuse of abbreviations.

## Additional Notes

* Reference management software like EndNote is encouraged.
* Reference list not counted in final word count.
* Thesis will be reviewed with Turnitin to check academic integrity.

## Template .bib Entries (Book, Journal Article, Online Source)

### Book

@Book{AAAA\_2025\_Book,  
 author = {AdamBook, Firstname},  
 title = {New and old wars: organised violence in a global era},  
 year = {2012},  
 edition = {3},  
 location = {Cambridge},  
 publisher = {Polity Press}  
}

### Journal Article

@Article{AAAA\_2025\_Article,  
 author = {AdamArticle, T.},  
 title = {Between common and college knowledge: exploring the boundaries between adult and higher education},  
 year = {2000},  
 volume = {22},  
 number = {1},  
 pages = {77-93},  
 journaltitle = {Studies in Continuing Education}  
}

### Online Source

@Online{SCHAUS\_2018,  
 author = {Schaus, John and Johnson, Kaitlyn},  
 title = {Unmanned aerial systems’ influences on conflict escalation dynamics},  
 year = {2018},  
 type = {Research Report},  
 institution= {Center for Strategic and International Studies},  
 note = {[Online]},  
 url = {http://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep22318},  
 addendum = {(Accessed{:} 11 June 2025)},  
 urldate = {2025-06-11}  
}

# Additional Guidance from Library and Writing Centre

## Library Research and Referencing Support

* Book consultations with librarians at library.learning@mu.ie for 1:1 help.
* Use LibrarySearch for books, journal articles, and databases.
* Use advanced search and filters to improve relevance.
* Key databases: Academic Search Complete, Scopus, Jane’s Defence Weekly, SAGE Journals.
* Use the LibGuides site (https://nuim.libguides.com) to access subject-specific resources.
* Borrow physical and digital material, including through interlibrary loan.
* Reference management tools (EndNote, Mendeley, Zotero) are supported and recommended.
* Download the Maynooth-specific Harvard style for EndNote from the Library’s Reference Management guide.
* Avoid plagiarism by always citing quotations, paraphrases, and summaries.
* Plagiarism includes both intentional and unintentional use of others’ work without citation.

## Writing Centre Academic and Critical Writing Advice

* Academic writing is formal, objective, evidence-based, and structured.
* Use the FOCSI framework: Formal, Others (cite sources), Cautious, Succinct, Impersonal.
* Critical writing requires engagement with sources, not just description.
* Always evaluate the strengths and limitations of evidence and counter-arguments.
* Blend descriptive writing (context) with critical writing (analysis).
* Arguments must be backed with evidence and engage alternative perspectives.
* Avoid using the first person unless discipline-specific norms allow it.
* Use in-text citations for direct quotes, paraphrases, and summaries.
* Avoid common citation errors: missing page numbers, inconsistent formatting, or orphan citations.
* Formatting: Use size 12 font, double-spacing, standard fonts (Times New Roman or Arial), and consistent heading hierarchy.

# Thesis Proposal’s Literature Review Guidance

## Length

## 1500 words

## Purpuse

# What has not been explored to date

To learn who are the field leaders

To understand what type of research has already been done

To understand a concept

Uncover gaps

Opportunity to engage in academid writing and obtain early feedback

Get support on structure, gramma, style, analysis and critical thinking

They key piece here is that I learn and demonstrate well how academics in the humantities perform critical analysis of sources

# Research Brief and Skimming Guidance

## Thesis Title

## Mission Command, Autonomy and the RMA Question: The Organisational Impact of Uncrewed Systems

## Research Question

## To what extent have uncrewed and AI-enabled systems reshaped mission command, military organisation and the character of warfare in recent conflicts. Do these cumulative changes constitute a Revolution in Military Affairs

## Sub-questions

* Mission Command
* How are uncrewed and AI-enabled systems reshaping the philosophy and practice of mission command??
* To what extent do concepts like the OODA loop and ``hyperwar” illustrate these changes?
* Military Organisation and Structure
* How are Western militaries adapting their structures, force composition and professional cultures in response to uncrewed and AI systems?
* Are new ``elites” or organisational forms emerging, as predicted by RMA theorists?
* Character of Warfare
* How have recent conflicts demonstrated changes in the conduct and character of war due to uncrewed and AI-enabled systems
* Do these cumulative changes amount to evolutionary adaptation or a true Revolution in Military Affairs?

## Purpose of Skimming

To quickly identify whether a given article, chapter, or report:

* Supports or challenges the notion of an RMA caused by UAS/UAVs.
* Discusses Western military or policy adaptation.
* Engages with IHL in relation to drone warfare.
* Provides insight into the three case studies.
* Aligns with critical or cultural perspectives on military change.

## When Skimming, Look For

* Abstract and conclusion: do they answer the RQ or sub-questions?
* Mentions of: RMA, UAV/UAS, technological change, strategic adaptation, civil-military relations, humanitarian law.
* Indicators of theoretical positioning: techno-optimist vs. organisational realist vs. critical theorist.
* References to core thinkers (see list below).

## Finding key authors or papers

* Important papers are to be noted in particular
* Important authors are to be noted
* Important further reading or linked from the same author or field leaders to be noted

## Keywords for Search and Filtering

Core Terms:

* Revolution in Military Affairs
* RMA
* drone warfare
* UAS
* UAV
* uncrewed systems
* military innovation
* technological transformation
* network-centric warfare
* autonomous weapons

Critical/Institutional Themes:

* Military culture
* organisational learning
* counterinsurgency
* civil-military relations
* doctrinal change
* policy reform
* strategic adaptation
* IHL compliance

## Authors & Keywords

* John A. Nagl – "organisational learning", "counterinsurgency", "doctrinal resistance"
* David Fitzgerald – "doctrinal amnesia", "US Army", "COIN"
* Eliot A. Cohen – "military revolution", "culture & doctrine", "strategic oversight"
* Hans-Georg Gadamer – "interpretation", "methodology", "hermeneutics"
* Michel Foucault – "discipline", "power-knowledge", "institutional critique"
* James Q. Wilson – "bureaucratic inertia", "organisational behaviour"
* Christopher Coker – "military ethos", "modern war", "identity"
* Andrew Krepinevich – "military-technical revolution", "defence transformation"
* Mary Kaldor – "new wars", "asymmetric conflict", "networked violence"
* Colin S. Gray – "strategic culture", "limits of RMA"
* William Owens – "system of systems", "information dominance"

## Reading List (Selected Works)

### Foundational RMA

* Krepinevich, A. F. (1992) The Military-Technical Revolution. CSBA.
* Cohen, E. A. (1996) ‘A Revolution in Military Affairs’, Foreign Affairs, 75(2), pp. 37–54.
* Owens, W. A. (1996) ‘The Emerging U.S. System-of-Systems’, Strategic Forum, No. 63.
* O’Hanlon, M. E. (2000) Technological Change and the Future of Warfare. Brookings.

### Critics and Cultural Perspectives

* Gray, C. S. (2005) Another Bloody Century: Future Warfare. London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson.
* van Creveld, M. (1991) The Transformation of War. Free Press.
* Kaldor, M. (1999) New and Old Wars. Cambridge: Polity.
* Freedman, L. (1998) The Revolution in Strategic Affairs. IISS/Oxford UP.
* Krulak, C. C. (1999) ‘The Strategic Corporal’, Marines Magazine.

### Doctrinal and Institutional Learning

* Nagl, J. A. (2002) Learning to Eat Soup with a Knife. UChicago Press.
* Fitzgerald, D. (2013) Learning to Forget. Stanford UP.

### Theoretical and Methodological Frameworks

* Gadamer, H-G. (1975) Truth and Method. Sheed and Ward.
* Foucault, M. (1977) Discipline and Punish. Pantheon.
* Wilson, J. Q. (1989) Bureaucracy. Basic Books.
* Coker, C. (2007) The Warrior Ethos. Routledge.
* MILITARY COLLEGE MARKING SCHEME
* NUIM MARKING SCHEME