

# Library Notes

On the fast track to information ...



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## Bibliographic Citations

Properly citing sources for the *Works Cited* page of a research paper has always been one of the most difficult tasks for students. What information to include and how to properly format the citation can be a daunting task. Couple this with the Internet sources which have very “active” content that may disappear or change drastically without warning and you have a challenge for students and instructors.

The Internet is also responsible for another issue. In a July 2000 School Library Journal article, author Walter Minkel writes “we also live in a culture that encourages students to simply grab what they want from the Net without thinking about who it belongs to--look at the Napster controversy.” Minkel goes on to say that librarians and instructors must not only stress to students that they identify what information they used, but also cite it in the correct bibliographic manner.

While the Internet has caused problems with regard to citations, it has also spawned software that makes providing proper citations easier. A citation generator is software designed to create style-specific citations based on information that you provide.

On the Mott College Library’s webpage, under the “Students” section, is the heading “Citation Guides.” In this area you will find two “citation generators,” an online guide to using the Internet, and examples of MLA and APA citation formatting styles.

KnightCite Citation Service and Son of Citation Machine are the two citation generators. KnightCite is a product of Hekman Library at

Calvin College that drafts individual citations for a variety of print and electronic formats in MLA, APA, and Chicago style. Son of Citation Machine is another tool to generate individual citations in MLA, APA, Chicago and, soon, Turabian styles.

Users choose the style desired, MLA or APA, the type of resource used (book, journal article, online subscription service, etc.) and type the source information in the boxes, choose *submit* and the citation is created. Copy and paste the citation into a works cited page, alphabetize the citations, and the works cited page is complete.

Both of these web sites are just tools and may not create absolutely perfect citations. Students must read what they created and check with their instructor’s handouts or the style guides available in the library or online to make sure their work meets the assigned requirements.

## On the Wire

### Modern Language Association examples

[http://www.mcc.edu/7\\_library/lib\\_citation\\_guides\\_web.shtml](http://www.mcc.edu/7_library/lib_citation_guides_web.shtml)

### American Psychological Association examples

[http://www.mcc.edu/7\\_library/lib\\_citation\\_guidesWEB\\_APA.shtml](http://www.mcc.edu/7_library/lib_citation_guidesWEB_APA.shtml)

### Son of Citation Machine

<http://citationmachine.net/>

### KnightCite

<http://www.calvin.edu/library/knightcite/>