

MAINSTREAM REFERENCING STYLES IN RESEARCH WRITINGS

Phyobenthung

Head of Department, Department of Political Science, Fazl Ali College, Mokokchung.
(Affiliated to Nagaland University)

Received: June 26, 2018

Accepted: August 07, 2018

ABSTRACT

The article explored the three top notch referencing styles used by the top five publishing house. The selection of publishers is based on the ranking result produced by five ranking agencies and group, namely: SENSE, SPI, SCImago, City University of Hong Kong, and Zuccala and co. Following this process of selection, the study narrowed down to the three commonly applied referencing styles, viz: American Psychological Association, Chicago Manual of Style, and Harvard Style, used by these five publishers, viz: Cambridge, Columbia, Oxford, Harvard University Presses, and Routledge. The study found that there are no significant differences observed in the style of referencing by these three referencing styles. Rather, the variations among these referencing styles are mostly in the arrangement or sequencing of the authors name/surname, date, and punctuations. Although in the use of in-text citations and notes, it is found that these three styles have some significant variations, in citing electronic sources these styles have not laid down any one-size-fits-all rule due to the mostly unstable nature of locating the electronic source.

Keywords: Referencing styles, Publishers ranking, APA, Harvard style

Introduction

References are very important aspect of Academic writings. References in academic writing refer to citing the source of information. This is essential in order to properly acknowledge the work of an author or the originator of the idea, because failure to do so would amount to intellectual theft or plagiarism. It is also important because citing the source enable the readers to locate the material and examine the original intent of the author so that distortion of facts and ideas, if any, are detected.

In the absence of proper references there would be chaos in academic research writings as there will be many cases of infringement of intellectual property rights. Therefore proper references indicate the ethical standard of any research writing. The ethics of research writing dictates that one should not only be mindful of choosing the relevant sources from the pool of information available, but also the sources should be credible and reliable.

In referencing system, there are many styles depending on the institute, publisher, or association. In the past, following a particular referencing style consistently in research writing was not given so much importance. In fact many classical literatures available in the different fields are without following any particular style of citation/referencing. However, with the explosion of online materials it has become essential to follow certain style of referencing consistently so as to make it reader or research friendly.

In spite of the different styles of referencing available currently, the primary objective of all these styles contain two things: acknowledging the sources -such as bibliography, books, journal, magazine, newspaper, conferences and seminars, documentaries, recordings, social media etc.- and consistency in referencing format so as to avoid copyright infringement.

Objective

Locating the source of research material is an important aspect that adds to the authenticity of the research findings. It is the foundation of any intellectual or academic discourse. Therefore it is important that the ease of accessing these resource materials or arguments relied upon by any scientific research should be paramount. Only with easy access to resources referred by the researcher can promote scientific and scholarly debate and help furtherance of human knowledge.

The objective of this paper is to explore the mainstream referencing systems used by journals and publishers for locating the resource materials used by authors, popularly known as “referencing styles”. It will look at the major differences and similarities in the referencing style.

Although there are many other referencing styles used by different journals, publishers and institutes, the paper will study only the three major referencing systems used by top notch publishers, viz. Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS), American Psychological Association (APA), and Harvard Style. Through this the study seeks to show see whether a particular style is recommended for a discipline-specific referencing.

Research Design

The study has chosen the three top class publishers selected from various ranking agencies for ranking international publishing house. It has also taken into account the three major different streams, namely, Social sciences, Arts and humanities, and engineering. Though there are various sub-fields under this broad categorisation, and some sub-fields have may have certain distinctive referencing system, the study has followed the broad categorisation generally accepted in order to avoid diluting from the main focus.

As stated by the SENSE Ranking of Academic Publisher, determining the top class publisher at international level is problematic as there is no internationally acceptable system of ranking. Therefore each ranking agency devises its own methodology for ranking.

In the SENSE Ranking of Academic Publisher, the five top notch international publishers in order of merit are: Cambridge University Press, Columbia University Press, Harvard University Press, John's Hopkins University Press, and MIT Press Cambridge¹.

Similarly, the Spanish National Research Ranking is another widely accepted ranking agency for determining the publishers' ranking in the international level. The methodology used by this agency is different from the methodology used by SENSE Agency. In the 2014 Publishers Ranking, this agency has rated the top five publishers in order as follow: Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Routledge (Taylor and Francis), Springer (Nature's Publishing Group), and Elsevier².

Scimago Institution Ranking, which has ranked Journals and Country in field of scientific research and publications. Scimago has listed the following: In the Overall category of journal is the, *A Cancer Journal for Clinicians* published by Wiley-Blackwell ranked first; *Nature Reviews Genetics* published by Nature Publishing Group ranked second; *Quarterly Journal of Economics* published by Oxford University Press ranked sixth. Publishers in the overall and social sciences rankings are the Nature Publishing Group; MIT Press; John Wiley and Sons Inc.; Taylor and Francis; Cambridge University Press. In Arts and Humanities (Miscellaneous) category the following Publishers journals tops the rank: Cornell University Press; Oxford University Press; Frank Cass; Wiley-Blackwell; Sage. In the category of Engineering: Nature Publishing group publishes the three top journals followed by Wiley-Black; Elsevier BV.³

The City University of Kong Kong has also published rankings of the publishers as follow: Cambridge University Press, Columbia University Press, Harvard University Press, John's Hopkins University Press, and MIT Press Cambridge in their top 17 publishers (not necessarily in order).⁴

Finally, the study has also taken into account paper published by Zuccala, Guns and others (Zuccala, Guns et al. 2015) has listed Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Routledge (Taylor and Francis), Princeton University Press, and Palgrave Macmillan (now Nature's Publishing Group).⁵ Table 1 (Appendix-I) shows the publishers ranking by various ranking agencies.

In all these rankings Cambridge University Press is ranked a top by all the four rankings, followed by Columbia University Press, Oxford University Press, Routledge (Taylor and Francis), and Harvard University Press etc. See Table 1: Publishers ranking by various ranking agencies and group.

Table 1: Publishers ranking by various Ranking Agencies and group

| Sl. No | SENSE Ranking | SPI Ranking | SCImago Ranking | City University of Hong Kong Ranking | Zuccala, Guns & othres |
|--------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Cambridge University Press | Cambridge University Press | Wiley-Blackwell | Cambridge University Press | Cambridge University Press |
| 2 | Columbia University Press | Oxford University Press | Nature Publishing Group | Columbia University Press | Oxford University Press |
| 3 | Harvard University Press | Routledge (Taylor and Francis) | Oxford University Press | Harvard University Press | Routledge (Taylor and Francis) |
| 4 | John's Hopkins University Press | Springer (Nature's Publishing Group) | Taylor and Francis | John's Hopkins University Press | Princeton University Press |

| | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 5 | MIT Press Cambridge | Elsevier | Cambridge University Press | MIT Press Cambridge | Palgrave Macmillan |
|---|------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|

The study has chosen the top five publishers to see what referencing styles are used by these publishers. The selection was based on the top ranking provided by the above five ranking agencies and group. They are Cambridge University Press, Columbia University Press, Oxford University Press, Routledge (Taylor and Francis), and Harvard University Press. See below Table 2: Style of Referencing used by top publishers.

Table 2: Style of Referencing used by top publishers

| Publisher | Social Science | Scientific & Medial | Humanities |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Cambridge University Press ⁶ | Multiple Styles (APA, Modern Language Association (MLA), Harvard, CMOS) | Multiple Styles (APA, MLA, Harvard, CMOS) | Multiple Styles (APA, MLA, Harvard, CMOS) |
| Columbia University Press ⁷ | CMOS | CMOS | CMOS |
| Oxford University Press ⁸ | Harvard style | Vancouver | Both |
| Routledge (Taylor and Francis) ⁹ | APA | APA | APA |
| Harvard University Press ¹⁰ | Harvard style/CMOS | Harvard style/CMOS | Harvard style/CMOS |

The above table shows that the top five publishers use three mainstream referencing styles, namely, the CMOS, the APA style, and the Harvard Style. Therefore the study has selected only these three referencing styles for the purpose of this analysis. It is aware that there are other popular styles such as MLA followed by many publishers. Style of referencing also depends on the discipline specific. For instance, Vancouver Style of referencing is commonly used by the medicine and sciences. Law discipline also follows numbering format in their attempt to address the peculiar cases of citing court’s decision, statues, regulations, orders etc.

Findings

It is understood that there is no single referencing style followed by publishers, rather, all publishers follow at least two referencing for the convenience of different discipline. These two referencing styles can be broadly classified into Vancouver style and the others. In the Vancouver style numbered reference citation or author-number style is used. This is used mostly in scientific and medical text. Social sciences generally use author-date style. Humanities stream uses both number notes and author-date citation. Table 2 shows the referencing style used by the five publishers in the three different disciplines. From this table we find CMOS is used by Cambridge and Columbia University Presses. Even Harvard has recommended for CMOS in addition to Harvard style. APA is used by Routledge and Cambridge University Press; and Harvard is used by the Harvard, Oxford, and Cambridge University Presses. Therefore, he below (Table 3: Referencing Style of CMOS, APA, and Harvard) shows a comparative analysis of the three mainstream referencing styles.

Table 3: Referencing Style of CMOS, APA and Harvard

| Referencing Style | Books/ Journals | In-text/ Notes | Electronic/ Multimedia | Reference List |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| CMOS | Author, date and page number | Notes: footnote/ endnote | Citation link-URL/DOI with date of last accessed are provided | Sources referred and consulted are included |
| APA | Author-date in alphabetical order | In-text | Citation link-URL/DOI are provided | Only sources referred are included |
| Harvard Style | Author, date and page number | Use endnote and not footnote | Full citations including web address | No bibliography |

The CMOS has two citation styles: Bibliography style or notes-bibliography Style and Reference List Style or parenthetical citation-reference List Style. The former widely used in humanities and some social sciences, and the latter in most social sciences and in the natural and physical sciences.¹¹ In the Bibliography Style the source is cited in the form of number notes (footnote or endnote) by giving author, title and facts of publication, and page number. At the end of the paper, the list of sources is given in bibliography style which may include sources cited and consulted but not cited.¹² In the Reference Style-Parenthetical citation the source is cited in the text itself by giving author, date and page number in a parenthesis. The list of references at the end of the paper remains the same as in bibliography style.

In the APA style of referencing sources are cited in the text with the author and date, and alphabetical list of sources are provided in the references list. Unlike the CMOS only the source cited in the text appear in the reference list, which means only each entry in the reference list must be cited in the text.¹³ Meta-Analyses are integrated within the reference section and are not included as a separate appendix in the reference list. For citing sources, surname of the author/s and the year of publication are inserted in the text at the appropriate point. For example: Heywood (2004) argued that people are having as basic right to participate, 'or', Democracy is regarded as a friend of liberty (Heywood, 2004). In case of multiple authors, all the authors are cited the first time the reference occurs, in the subsequent citation only the surname of the first author followed by et al is used; only when the source has seven or more authors only the surname of the first author followed by et al is used.

Names of groups formed as authors are, such as corporations, associations, government agencies, and study groups, are normally spelled out the each time they appear, but only abbreviations are used in subsequent citations.¹⁴

When works have no identifiable authors or an anonymous author citation is given as Anonymous followed by date in the parenthesis. Page number is indicated in case of quotations. Personal communications such as e-mail, personal interviews, and telephone conversations are all cited in the text only and not included in the reference list. APA style recommends Standard American English rather than British English.

For Electronic source, as there is no permanent tracking of digital information, APA standard of referencing electronic sources recommends the same elements, in the same order as referencing in the fixed-media source and add as much electronic retrieval information as needed for others to locate the source cited. It is essential to provide the link by DOI, if not available then the URL¹⁵

Unlike the CMOS and APA Style, Harvard University Press (HUP) does not have a specific book manual published for authors. HUP has provided in their web portal Guidelines for preparing manuscripts, formatting notes, format for citations and reference lists.¹⁶ HUP has recommended for its authors CMOS. The variations from CMOS are that, Harvard format recommends for endnotes, instead of footnotes and endnotes recommended in the former style. Harvard also gives the option of arranging citations either in chronological or alphabetical order consistently (but in references only in alphabetical order); while in the CMOS only alphabetical order is recommended.

In the case CMOS and Harvard Style, in case of work by more than two authors, only the surname of the first author is used and et al is used instead for all the corresponding authors; while in the case of APA, up to seven authors name are mentioned compulsorily for the same work.

For citing electronic sources, both CMOS and Harvard Style are particular in using the date of last accessed. However in the case of APA style, there is no mention of providing the access date, rather the exact date of posting is insisted upon.

Conclusion

In any form of academic writings, citation and referencing styles are used consistently by all publishers. Though there are many different styles of citation and referencing, all styles primarily tries to indicate the name of the author, the title of the article or book, the year of publication, place and the name of the publisher. This makes it easier to locate the source for the readers and researchers interested in the similar work.

As for electronic resource materials, no referencing style has clear solution to this unstable nature of sources. There is no hard and fast rule recommended by any referencing styles, at least in this three referencing styles studied, for electronic sources, due to its flexibility, however it is found that all the style have recommended for authors to provide authentic and detail source including the DOI and URL.

The three styles of referencing studied here do have their share of differences, especially in the field formatting; at the same time it found that all the three styles have similar system for locating and acknowledging the sources- be it books, journal, magazine, newspapers, published and unpublished

materials, electronic sources etc. The purpose of referencing in modern academic writings shall be better off if the authors follows consistently and diligently any style of referencing recommended by the publishers.

References

1. City University of Hong Kong. Retrieved: August 15, 2018 from http://www.cityu.edu.hk/scm/pbpr_roa/PBPR%20Final%20Draft.pdf
2. Preparing and Formating Notes. Retrieved: August 12, 2018 from <http://www.hup.harvard.edu/resources/authors/pdf/hup-author-guidelines-notes.pdf>.
3. Reference Styles. Retrieved: August 19, 2018 from <https://global.oup.com/academic/authors/author-guidelines/reference-styles/?lang=en&cc=cn>
4. Resources and Authors. Retrieved: August 12, 2018 from <http://www.hup.harvard.edu/resources/authors/>
5. SPI Ranking 2014 published by Spanish National Publishers Ranking. Retrieved: August 12, 2018 from http://ilia.cchs.csic.es/SPI/prestigio_expertos_2014.php
6. Template for Cambridge University Press articles-Instant Formatting Template. Retrieved: August 14, 2018 from <https://typeset.io/formats/cambridge-university-press/template-for-cambridge-university-press-articles/c6470c96e7b705da1f59ccc4fbb362dc>
7. American Psychological Association (2013). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. 6th Edition. Washington: American Psychological Association
8. Columbia University Press 2014. Columbia University Press Guide for authors. Retrieved Retrieved: August 14, 2018 from <https://d2xzbm87hekj13.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/13170609/cup.authors.guide-2014.pdf>
9. SCImago, (n.d.). SJR — SCImago Journal & Country Rank [Portal]. Retrieved: August 14, 2018 from <http://www.scimagojr.com>
10. SENSE (Socio-Economic and Natural Science of the Environment) Ranking of Academic Publishers. Retrieved: August 12, 2018 from http://www.sense.nl/gfx_content/documents/ABCDE-indeling%20Scientific%20Publishers%20SENSE_approved_May_2009.pdf
11. Taylor and Francis Reference Style A. Retrieved: August 15, 2018 from https://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/authors/style/reference/tf_A.pdf
12. Turabian, Kate L. (2007). *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*. 7th Edition. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
13. Zuccala, A., Guns, R., Cornacchla, R., Bod, R., (2015). "Can we Rank Scholarly Book Publishers? A Bibliometric Experiment with the Field of History". *American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 66 (7), 1333-1347.

¹ SENSE Ranking of Academic Publishers is published by a SENSE Research School, which is a partnership involving nine Dutch universities and two institutes.

² Results SPI Rankings (Overall Ranking 2014)".

³ SCImago Journal and Country Rank is a research group from Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas (CSIC), University of Granada, Extremadura, Carlos III (Madrid) and Alcala de Henares. It has developed the ranking using Scopus ® database.

⁴ The City University of Hong Kong published this Ranking as their criteria for performance-based pay review.

⁵ The authors used Scopus history journals (2007-2011) and matching metadata from WorldCat® to derive their rankings.

⁶ Template for Cambridge University Press articles-Instant Formatting Template

⁷ Columbia University Press 2014.

⁸ Reference Styles

⁹ Taylor and Francis Reference Style A.

¹⁰ Preparing and Formating Notes. Interestingly, Harvard University Press has recommended Chicago Manual of Style questions not covered under their instructions. See Harvard University Press Guideline.

¹¹ Turabian 2007, 130

¹² Ibid. 131

¹³ Ibid. 174

¹⁴ Ibid 176.

¹⁵ Ibid 187, 209

¹⁶Resources and Authors.