LITERATURE REFERENCES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY IN STUDENT THESIS

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Bibliographic style for books and articles in a student thesis is a question of taste and tradition, and there are a lot of styles to choose among. Harvard, Chicago, MLA and Turabian are the most common in the humanistic disciplines, and they are found in several variations.

There is no rule telling that you have to use a specific style, f. ex. Harvard, in a student thesis. It is the needs and the consideration of what is best that decides which style to be chosen. But either you choose the Harvard or the Chicago style, you have to be unambiguous, accurate and consequent. The bibliographic information must without doubt refer to the correct publication, and the style you choose must be followed with accuracy and consequence.

The Harvard style is an easy style to use, and it has become common within humanistic science. A variant of this style is described here.

THE HARVARD STYLE IN GENERAL

These are the essential characteristics of the Harvard style:

- The bibliographic references are given within the text, not in footnotes. They are placed in parenthesis, and lists the authors surname, the publication year and the page(s) referred to. This is in contradiciton to the classic style, the so-called Chicago style, which is common in scientific literature. This style uses footnote numbers in the text, and short literature references in the footnotes at the page bottom.
- As a main rule, footnotes are not used in the Harvard style. And if they are used, it is for discourse only, never for bibliographic information.
- The thesis ends with a complete bibliography. The bibliography shall not reflect what is read during the work with the thesis; the purpose is to show all literature referred to in the thesis, no more no less. The bibliography is ordered alphabetically by author, and chronologically for two or more works by the same author. The main difference between the Harvard and Chicago style, is the placement of the publication year. In the Chicago style it is placed at the end of the reference; in the Harvard style it is placed immediately after the author name.

THE HARVARD STYLE IN TEXT AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

The examples below show the Harvard style:

- in the text.
- in the bibliography.
- how to give a detailed description of the different reference types.
Main characteristics of the bibliography:

- Form of the author name: Surname, first name by initials.
- Publication year is placed within parenthesis.
- The rest of the reference is left indented.
- The bibliography is sorted alphabetically by author, chronologically under the same author, and with letters for publications by the same author and with the same publication year.
- All book titles are written in italics. All article titles are written in regular style and with quotation marks. The titles of the journals or books where the articles are published are written in italics. For further details, see below.
THE DIFFERENT REFERENCE TYPES

Here is a detailed description of the bibliographic information for the most important reference types, such as books and articles in print and at the web. The examples here are all taken from the bibliography above. If you are in doubt, ask a teacher or a librarian.

Books

- Author name is written: Surname, initials of first name.
- If two or three authors: Dahl, N.A., J. Jervell og H. Moxnes.
- If more than three authors: Dahl, N. A. et al.
- The book title, both the main title and the subtitle is given in *italics*. The main title and the subtitle is separated with an *dot*, and the first letter of the subtitle is in uppercase. The title information ends with a dot.
- Place/city of publication and publisher end the bibliographic information. They are separated with colon and blank.
- Drop the number of pages of the book.
- Drop publisher information such as LTD.

Articles in books (Festschriften, anthologies, reports, multi-author works)

- Article title and evt. subtitle is written in regular style and placed between quotation marks.
- The book where the article is published is introduced with *In:* information.
- The book title is written in *italics*.
- If the book has an author, write the name in this way: N. A. Dahl:
- If the book has a publisher, write the name in this way: S. J. Stålsett (publ.):
- Series title and number are written within parenthesis, placed after the title, and before publication and publisher.
- Page information for the article ends the bibliographic information. Do not use the abbreviation p. or pp. for page.

Articles in printed journals
Moe, O. (1963) ”Til spørsmålet om den historiske Jesus”. In: Tidsskrift for teologi og kirke, 34, 129-135.

- Article title and evt. subtitle is written in regular style and placed between quotation marks.
- The journal where the article is published is introduced with *In:* information.
- The journal title is written in *italics*.
- The journal title is followed by volume information. Drop abbreviations like vol. and no. Give the volume number only.
- Number information is given only when the different numbers within a volume have separate pagination. It is written like this: 34, h. 2, 20-30.
- Page information for the article ends the bibliographic information. Do not use the abbreviation p. or pp. for page.
Articles in electronic journals

- If the digital article is a pdf of the printed version – and that is the most common – the information given is identical with those given for a printed article. And in fact, a pdf is a copy of the printed version.
- The web address must be given.
- The date for web access to the article must be given. It is placed within square brackets.

Articles in printed encyclopaedias

- Article title is written in regular style and placed between quotation marks.
- The encyclopaedia title is introduced with av In: -information.
- The encyclopaedia title is written in italics.
- Information on volume number where the article is published must be given, and placed after the title.
- Publication year is given for the exact volume number, not the whole encyclopaedia.
- Page information for the article ends the reference information. Do not use the abbreviation p. or pp. for page.

Articles in electronic encyclopaedias

- Article title is written in regular style and placed between quotation marks.
- The encyclopaedia title is introduced with av In: -information.
- The encyclopaedia title is written in italics.
- The web address must be given.
- The date for web access to the article is important, because articles are often updated. Date information is placed within square brackets.

Web pages

- Web pages differ from printed publications; they come and go and they change continuously. Neither do they follow the same strict rules for bibliographic descriptions as printed material, and it is often difficult to give an accurate bibliographic description.
- Give the title, or at least what seems to be the title of the web page. The title is written in italics.
- If the web page is linked to an institution, give the name of the institution.
- The web address must be given.
- The date for web access to the web page is important, because pages are often updated. Date information is placed within square brackets.