

HOW TO WRITE REFERENCES IN YOUR THESIS

Assistant professor Dr Haider Alsarhan

It is very well known the writing the references in the thesis is usually according to the Vancouver system of references. However, the Vancouver system itself has multiple styles and if the post-graduate student writes the reference by copying it from the online journals and pasting it to the theses; he/she will be a victim of wrong referencing as each journal have its style and already lists the references according to the Vancouver style that was selected by the journal editorials and even some journals depend on another system of referencing rather than Vancouver; so post-graduate students will have multiple styles or even multiple systems of referencing in one thesis which is usually wrong.

Types of Vancouver styles :

Vancouver

Vancouver (superscript)

Vancouver (superscript, only year in date, no issue numbers)

Vancouver (superscript, brackets, only year in date)

Vancouver - Imperial College London

Vancouver (French - Canada)

Vancouver (brackets)

Vancouver (brackets, only year in date, no issue numbers)

Vancouver (author-date)

Example of how the written reference will change dramatically depending on the style of Vancouver :

Vancouver

Das A, Mitra S, Hazra S, Sengupta A. Endoscopic epitympanic exploration in mucosal chronic otitis media: is canal wall up mastoidectomy really needed? *The Journal of Laryngology & Otology*. Cambridge University Press; 2021;135(1):39–44.

Vancouver (author-date)

Das A, Mitra S, Hazra S, Sengupta A. Endoscopic epitympanic exploration in mucosal chronic otitis media: is canal wall up mastoidectomy really needed? *The Journal of Laryngology & Otology*. Cambridge University Press; 2021;135(1):39–44.

Vancouver (brackets, no "et al.")

Das A, Mitra S, Hazra S, Sengupta A. Endoscopic epitympanic exploration in mucosal chronic otitis media: is canal wall up mastoidectomy really needed? *The Journal of Laryngology & Otology*. Cambridge University Press; 2021;135(1):39–44.

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Das A, Mitra S, Hazra S, Sengupta A. Endoscopic epitympanic exploration in mucosal chronic otitis media: is canal wall up mastoidectomy really needed? *The Journal of Laryngology & Otology* 2021;135:39–44.

Vancouver (brackets)

Das A, Mitra S, Hazra S, Sengupta A. Endoscopic epitympanic exploration in mucosal chronic otitis media: is canal wall up mastoidectomy really needed? *The Journal of Laryngology & Otology*. Cambridge University Press; 2021;135(1):39–44.

Vancouver (French - Canada)

Das A, Mitra S, Hazra S, Sengupta A. Endoscopic epitympanic exploration in mucosal chronic otitis media: is canal wall up mastoidectomy really needed? *The Journal of Laryngology & Otology*. Cambridge University Press; 2021;135(1):39–44.

Vancouver - Imperial College London

Das A, Mitra S, Hazra S, Sengupta A. Endoscopic epitympanic exploration in mucosal chronic otitis media: is canal wall up mastoidectomy really needed? The Journal of Laryngology & Otology. [Online] Cambridge University Press; 2021;135(1): 39–44. Available from: doi:10.1017/S0022215121000086

Vancouver (superscript, brackets, only year in date)

Das A, Mitra S, Hazra S, Sengupta A. Endoscopic epitympanic exploration in mucosal chronic otitis media: is canal wall up mastoidectomy really needed? The Journal of Laryngology & Otology 2021;135(1):39–44.

Vancouver (superscript, only year in date, no issue numbers)

Das A, Mitra S, Hazra S, Sengupta A. Endoscopic epitympanic exploration in mucosal chronic otitis media: is canal wall up mastoidectomy really needed? The Journal of Laryngology & Otology 2021;135:39–44.

Vancouver (superscript)

Das A, Mitra S, Hazra S, Sengupta A. Endoscopic epitympanic exploration in mucosal chronic otitis media: is canal wall up mastoidectomy really needed? The Journal of Laryngology & Otology. Cambridge University Press; 2021;135(1):39–44.

I recommend the last style “ Vancouver (superscript) ” as it is summarized, includes most of the information needed and is used by most of the well-known journals

TYPES OF CITATIONS :

- Journal Reference
- Book Reference (book or a chapter of a book)
- Internet Reference (website or accepted paper for publications)

Journal reference

- Authors (**use et al. after 6 authors, if there are more than six authors**, complete names should not be written.- **write last name and the first character of the first name – and middle name if present - followed by a dot, “et al” must be in italics**)
- Article title (**should be exact as existing**)
- Journal name (**should be in standard PubMed abbreviations**, full journal name should not be written – you can find journal name abbreviation by writing the journal full name in this link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nlmcatalog/journals/>)
- Year
- Volume
- Issue (between brackets)
- Page numbers (**445-447 to be written as 445-7**)

Example :

Haider Alsarhan,

Identification of early-stage Meniere’s disease as a cause of unilateral tinnitus,

Journal of Otology,

Volume 16,

Issue 2,

2021,

Pages 85-88,

ISSN 1672-2930,

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.joto.2020.11.001>.

(<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1672293020301094>)

To cite this article

- Authors : **Alsarhan H.**
- Article title : **Identification of early-stage Meniere’s disease as a cause of unilateral tinnitus**
- Journal name : **J Otol**
- Year : **2021**
- Volume : **16**
- Issue : **2**
- Page numbers : **85-8**

Accordingly when citing this manuscript in our references it will be :

Alsarhan H. Identification of early-stage Meniere’s disease as a cause of unilateral tinnitus. J Otol. 2021;16(2):85-8.

Notes:

1. The semicolon; after the year without any space
2. Colon : after volume no.(issue no.) without any space
3. Hyphen to separate the page no.
4. Full stop at the end of the reference.

Book Reference

- Editors (**use et al. after 6 authors, if there are more than six authors**, complete names should not be written.- **write last name and the first character of the first name – and middle name if present - followed by a dot, “*et al*” must be in italics**)
- book title (**should be exact as existing**)
- edition
- volume _ if present
- publisher name
- Year
- Page number (**445-447 to be written as p.445-7**)

Example

Jacobson G.P., Neil T.S. Balance Function Assessment and Management, second ed. Plural Publishing, Inc, 2016; p. 604.

Notes:

1. Semicolon ; after the year without any space
2. Hyphen to separate page no.
3. Full stop at the end of the reference.

Chapter of Book Reference

- Authors of the chapter (**use et al. after 6 authors, if there are more than six authors, complete names should not be written.- write last name and the first character of the first name – and middle name if present - followed by a dot, “et al” must be in italics**)
- Chapter title (**should be exact as existing**)
- In:
- Chief Editors
- book title (**should be exact as existing**)
- edition
- volume
- publisher name
- Year
- Page number (**445-447 to be written as p.445-7**)

Example

Van Rompaey, Vincent W.F.M. Meniere’s disease. In: Watkinson, J.C., Clarke, R.W. (Eds.), Scott Brown’s Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery, eighth ed., vol. 2. CRC Press, Taylor and Francis Group, 2018;p. 817-27.

Notes:

1. Semicolon ; after the year without any space
2. Hyphen to separate page no.
3. Full stop after the chapter name followed by In: then chief editors
4. Full stop at the end of the reference.

web site Reference : (I strongly discourage you to cite from websites *)

- Author / Organisation. (usually web sites are related to organizations rather than authors)
- Title site. (the main title of the website)
- **Internet.**
- Place of publication:
- Publisher;
- [updated year month date (last update of the website) ; cited year month date (the date you visited the website and performed your citation as an author)].
- Available from: URL.

Example

Cancer-Pain.org [Internet]. New York: Association of Cancer Online Resources, Inc.; c2000-01 [updated 2002 May 16; cited 2002 Jul 9]. Available from: <https://www.cancer-pain.org/>.

*I strongly discourage you to cite from a website as the sites may be related to a commercial or non-scientific organization or it may already showing up published materials that should be cited in the formal way (like researches or books)

Manuscript accepted for publication Reference : (better to be avoided^)

- Authors (**use et al. after 6 authors, if there are more than six authors**, complete names should not be written.- **write last name and the first character of the first name – and middle name if present - followed by a dot, “et al” must be in italics**)
- Article title (**should be exact as existing**)
- Journal name (**should be in standard PubMed abbreviations**, full journal name should not be written – you can find journal name abbreviation by writing the journal full name in this link : <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nlmcatalog/journals/>)
- ISSN number
- Link to the manuscript

Example:

To cite this newly accepted manuscript for publication :

Hui Yan Ong, Mimi Ezreena Esa, Jia Ji Ng, Shahawiah Abdul Wahab, Santhi Kalimuthu,

Kimura's disease with bilateral parotid involvement: a common presentation with an uncommon diagnosis,

Brazilian Journal of Otorhinolaryngology,

2021,

ISSN 1808-8694,

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bjorl.2021.03.011>.

(<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1808869421000707>)

Ong H. Y. , Esa M.E. , Ng J. J. , Wahab S. A. , Kalimuthu S. Kimura's disease with bilateral parotid involvement: a common presentation with an uncommon diagnosis. Braz J Otorhinolaryngol. 2021; ISSN 1808-8694, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bjorl.2021.03.011>.

^ better to be avoided as you may cite it correctly in your theses then after months when the reviewer comes across your theses and check this reference; he (she) may find it already published and it will be a negative point on your theses which is not due to a real mistake

Recommendations:

1. Use Vancouver system for referencing and use Vancouver superscript style
2. Better to avoid citation unpublished articles or thesis – as you will be confused of how to write a reference – like a journal article or a book or how ??
3. Better to avoid citation of a websites – see details above
4. Better to avoid citation of a manuscripts that are accepted for publication in a journal but not yet assigned to a specific volume or issue of that journal – see details above
5. Try to cite recent manuscripts not older than the last 10 years
6. Try to cite manuscripts published in a well-known international journals with high impact factor