



Citing printed sources

This advice applies specifically to Professor Cain's modules.

STS is an interdisciplinary domain, combining subjects with quite different traditions for citation. STS has no single approved approach to serve as a house style. In general, STS expects students to use one consistent style within any single piece of work. That style must be clear, explicit, and meaningful. In every instance, it must allow an examiner to locate efficiently and specifically material referred to. As a recommendation, students should use a style frequently used in the literature relevant to their research project. Most journals have style guides in their notes to contributors. Students should discuss options with their supervisors, and they should keep in mind that efficient citation is one element in the criteria for assessment.

Professor Cain recommends the author-date style, with citations placed within the text. Footnotes or endnotes are reserved for supplemental discourse. The author-date style codes as (Author Date: relevant page numbers). Place the citation directly into the text, not in footnotes or endnotes. One key benefit of this style is its compactness: it saves words. For example,

“Cain (1993: 2-3) claims the Society organiser was Al Romer. This is contradicted by his own online discussions of the subject (Cain 2015). This has nothing to do with discussions of Cook’s death (Obeyesekere 1995) or Kew Gardens (Brockway 1979; Desmond 1994). In fact, I see three problems with his basic approach. First, ...”

Compile the full list of references in a bibliography at the end of your document. Reserve footnotes and endnotes for discussions that relate to your point (such as a qualification) but distract from the natural flow of your writing.

If a source is printed as well as available online, cite the printed version because that is permanent. For other needs, use your best judgment or consult your tutor. An ideal source on referencing style is the *Chicago Manual of Style*, any edition. This is what professionals use.

Bibliography for quote above

- Brockway, Lucile. 1979. *Science and Colonial Expansion: the Role of the British Royal Botanic Gardens*. New York: Academic Press. [use this style for a book]
- Cain, Joe. 2015. “Staff ... Dr Joe Cain,” Department of Science and Technology Studies, University College London (version: Sep 2015) URL: <www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/cain/index.htm>. Visited: 07 September 2015. [use this style for a Web site – see Cain’s guidelines for citing Web sites.]
- Desmond, Ray. 1994. “The Transformation of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew,” in *Sir Joseph Banks: A Global Perspective*. Edited by Ernst Rex and E. R. Banks. Kew: Royal Botanic Gardens Press. Pp. 105-115. [use this style for an article in an edited book]
- Obeyesekere, Gananath. 1995. “Re-Weaving the Argument: A Response to Parker,” *Oceania* 65: 268-273. [use this style for a journal article]