Reference with MHRA: A guide for English Literature, Drama & Creative Writing students

MHRA is the required referencing style for students of English Literature, Creative Writing and Drama, Theatre & Acting at Oxford Brookes. This guide shows you how the MHRA style works and gives examples of the most common types of sources you may need to reference.

You'll find more examples and guidance in the online guide **Reference with MHRA** at: https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/resources-and-services/course-resource-help/english-literature-and-creative-writing/reference-with-mhra

Both guides are based on the official *MHRA Style Guide* (4th edition, 2024) published by the Modern Humanities Research Association which is freely available online at: https://www.mhra.org.uk/style/
A summary of changes to the MHRA Style in the 4th edition can be seen at: https://www.mhra.org.uk/style/changes.html

Need help? Contact your Librarian, Joanna Cooksey, email: jcooksey@brookes.ac.uk

In this guide:
1. MHRA basics
Creating footnotes and bibliographies; How to set out quotations

2. How to reference specific kinds of sources
Books and book chapters; literary texts; journal & newspaper articles; web pages; films, TV & radio

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1. MHRA basics

1. 1 Creating footnotes and bibliographies

When writing essays or dissertations you need to acknowledge all of the sources you've used through referencing. These sources could be literary texts, books or book chapters, journal articles, web pages, even works of art.

To reference sources in the MHRA style, you need to create a **Footnote** - this is a note placed at the foot of the page in Word which tells your reader which source you've used.
Create a footnote when you are providing a direct quotation AND where you're paraphrasing or summarising from the original text in your own words.

In addition, you need to create a **Bibliography** - this is a list of all the sources you have used, placed at the end of your essay.

Your bibliography can include additional sources that you've read during your research but not directly mentioned in your essay.

Key things to remember:

- Make sure you credit every source you use
- Check each of your footnote sources is mentioned in your bibliography
- You can list additional sources in your bibliography that don't have footnotes

Find out more from the online guide **Reference with MHRA** at:
https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/resources-and-services/course-resource-help/english-literature-and-creative-writing/reference-with-mhra

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1.2. How to set out quotations

Direct quotation from any source must be indicated as such and the exact reference given within a footnote.

Prose quotations

Short quotations are those of fewer than forty words of prose. These can be integrated into your text and should be enclosed in single quotation marks, for example:

Lynch emphasizes that 'In the culture about which Shakespeare wrote, hands were felt to have unique holy and sacramental powers'. [4]

Corresponding footnote:

[4] Kathryn L. Lynch, '"What Hands Are Here?" The Hand as Generative Symbol in *Macbeth*', *The Review of English Studies*, 39.153 (1988), pp. 29-38 (p.32).

Long quotations are defined as anything over forty words of prose. These should be separated from the rest of your text and should not be placed in quotation marks. Place the number for the note at the end of the quotation.

Prose quotations including the first line, can be indented, for example:

Bewell sums up Clare's view of language:

Ecolect is thus inseparably fused with idiolect in his poetry, and, in resisting John Taylor's efforts to rid his poetry of dialect and provincialisms, Clare was struggling for the continuance not just of a nature but also of the unique language in which that nature had long been experienced and understood [5]

Corresponding footnote:

[5] Alan Bewell, 'John Clare and the Ghosts of Natures Past', *Nineteenth-Century Literature*, 65.4 (2011), pp. 548-78 (p. 570), doi:10.1525/ncl.2011.65.4.548.

Poetry quotations

Short quotations are those of no more than two lines of verse. You can integrate these into your essay text. Put them in single quotation marks and if your quoted verse includes a line division, this should be marked with a spaced upright stroke (|), for example:

'I had seen birth and death | But had thought they were different', muses Eliot's Wise Man.

Long quotations are defined as anything over 2 lines of verse. These quotations should be separated from the rest of your essay text and should not be placed in quotation marks. If you wish to omit lines of verse, use an ellipsis - that is three dots in square brackets, like this [...] on a separate line. You should follow the lineation and indentation of the original. Never centre lines of poetry. For example:

Keats describes a desire to escape the pain of reality in *Ode to a Nightingale:*

O for a beaker full of the warm South,
   Full of the true, the blushful Hippocrene,
    With beaded bubbles winking at the brim,
      And purple-stained mouth;
  That I might drink, and leave the world unseen,
   And with thee fade away into the forest dim - [6]

Corresponding footnote:

[6] John Keats, 'Ode to a Nightingale', in *The Complete Poems,* ed. by John Barnard, 3rd edn (Penguin, 1988), pp. 346-48 (p. 346), ll. 15-20.

Play quotations

Short quotations are those of fewer than forty words of prose or two lines of verse. These may be run into the text of your essay, using single quotation marks.

Long quotations should be separated from the rest of your text and should not be placed in quotation marks. If you wish to omit lines from the play you're quoting, use an ellipsis - that is three dots in square brackets, like this [...] on a separate line. You should keep the original spelling and punctuation of the play you are quoting, and aim to reproduce the formatting of the text as it appears on the page. The speakers' names should be positioned to the left of the text.

For example:

MACBETH   Prithee peace:
I dare do all that may become a man,
Who dares more is none.

LADY MACBETH   What beast was't then
That made you break this enterprise to me?
When you durst do it, then you were a man;
And to be more than what you were, you would
Be so much more the man.

 (*Macbeth*, I.7.46–51) [7]

Corresponding footnote:

[7] William Shakespeare, *Macbeth,* ed. by Nicholas Brooke (Oxford University Press, 1990), i.7.46-51

Find out more from the online guide from the online guide **Reference with MHRA** at:
https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/resources-and-services/course-resource-help/english-literature-and-creative-writing/reference-with-mhra

2. How to reference specific kinds of sources

These general rules apply to all types of sources:

Author name
In the footnote reference, the author name should be first name followed by surname,
e.g. Virginia Woolf.
The bibliography needs to be arranged alphabetically by author surname, so always reverse the name of the first author in the bibliography reference, e.g. Woolf, Virginia.

Page numbers
Include page number(s) in footnote references only as you are citing a specific section of the book, in the form 'p.' for 'page' or 'pp.' for 'pages'.
In the bibliography you are citing the whole source.

Full stop
Put a full stop at the end of footnote references but not at the end of bibliography references.

Missing details
If the date is not given in the source, use: [n.d.] (= no date).

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2.1 How to reference a book

Book with 1 or more author(s)

Footnote format: Firstname Lastname, *Book Title* (Publisher, Year), p. x.

Footnote examples:

Janette Dillon, *The Cambridge Introduction to Early English Theatre* (Cambridge University Press, 2006), p. 34.

Mick Wallis and Simon Shepherd, *Studying Plays*, 3rd edn (Bloomsbury Academic, 2010), p. 78.

Bibliography format: reverse the first author name and omit the page cited and full stop.

Further help: see the online guide How to reference books and chapters

Edited book

Footnote format: *Book Title*, ed. by Firstname Lastname (Place of publication: Publisher, Year), p. x.

Footnote examples:

Romanticism: An Anthology, ed. by Duncan Wu, 3rd edn (Blackwell, 2005), p. 88.

The Norton Anthology of American Literature, Vol. B, 1820-1865, ed. by Nina Baym, Arnold Krupat and Robert S. Levine, 7th edn (W.W. Norton, 2007), p.60.

Bibliography format: reverse the first author name and omit the page cited and full stop.

Further help: see the online guide How to reference books and chapters

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Library eBook

This is a book available from the library as a print and eBook: *Technology, Literature and Culture*, by Alex Goody

You can reference the print or library eBook in the same way.

Footnote format: Firstname Lastname, *Book Title* (Publisher, Year), p. x.

Footnote example: Alex Goody, *Technology, Literature and Culture* (Polity Press, 2011), p. 109.

Bibliography format: reverse the first author name and omit the page cited and full stop.

Further help: see the online guide How to reference books and chapters

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eBook without page numbers

Footnote format: Firstname Lastname, *Book Title* (Publisher, Year), type of ebook, p. x.

Footnote example: Franz Kafka, *Metamorphosis and Other Stories*, trans. by Michael Hofmann (Penguin, 2007), Kindle ebook, p. 33.

If no page numbers are available:

Footnote format: Firstname Lastname, *Book Title* (Publisher, Year), type of ebook, ch. x.

Footnote example: Octavia Butler, *The Parable of the Sower* (Headline, 2019), Kindle ebook, ch. 4.

Bibliography format: reverse the first author name and omit the section cited and full stop.

Further help: see the online guide How to reference books and chapters

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eBook that's part of an online collection

Footnote format: Firstname Lastname, *Book Title* (Publisher, Year), p. x (if available) <URL> [accessed day month year].

Footnote examples: Aphra Behn, *The Fair Jilt, or, The History of Prince Tarquin and Miranda* (R. Holt, for Will. Canning, 1688)<https://data-historicaltexts-jisc-ac-uk.oxfordbrookes.idm.oclc.org/view?pubId=eebo-ocm13192465e> [accessed 9 April 2021].

Walter Pater, *The Renaissance: Studies in Art and Poetry* (Project Gutenberg, 2021)

<https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/2398/pg2398-images.html> [accessed 2 May 2024].

Bibliography format: reverse the first author name and omit the page cited and full stop.

Further help: see the online guide How to reference books and chapters

2.2 How to reference a book chapter

Chapter from an edited book
Footnote format: Firstname Lastname, 'Chapter Title', in *Book Title*, ed. by Firstname Lastname (Publisher, Year), pp. x-xx (p. x). **Footnote example**: Nathaniel Leach, 'Mary Shelley and the Godwinian Gothic: Matilda and Mandeville', in *Mary Shelley: Her Circle and Her Contemporaries*, ed. by L. Adam Mekler and Lucy Morrison (Cambridge Scholars, 2010), pp. 63-82 (p. 66). **Bibliography format**: reverse the first author name and omit the page cited and full stop. Further help: see the online guide How to reference books and chapters

Entries from online dictionaries and reference works
Definition from the OED **Footnote format**: Entry 'word definition', *Title of Resource* (Year) <URL> [accessed day month year]. **Footnote example**: Entry 'befuddled', *Oxford English Dictionary* (2023) <https://www.oed.com> [accessed 17 June 2024]. In the bibliography reference, reverse the author name and omit the full stop. **Reference book from Oxford Reference Online** **Footnote format**: Firstname Lastname, 'Entry Title', in *Book Title*, ed. by Firstname Lastname (Year) <URL> [accessed day month year]. **Footnote example**: Arthur Cotterell, 'Persephone', in *A Dictionary of World Mythology* (2003) <https://www-oxfordreference-com> [accessed 17 June 2024]. **Bibliography format**: reverse the first author name and omit the full stop. Further help: see the online guide How to reference books and chapters

3.1 How to reference a novel or short story

Novel with an author and editor / translator

Footnote format: Firstname Lastname, *Book Title*, ed. by Firstname Lastname (Publisher, Year), p. x.

Firstname Lastname, *Book Title*, trans. by Firstname Lastname (Publisher, Year), p. x.

Footnote examples:

Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, *Frankenstein, or, The Modern Prometheus*, ed. by Maurice Hindle, rev. edn (Penguin, 2003), pp. 62-63.

Franz Kafka, *Metamorphosis and Other Stories*, trans. by Michael Hofmann (Penguin, 2007), p. 33.

Bibliography format: reverse the first author name and omit the page cited and full stop.

Further help: see the online guide [How to reference literary texts](#)

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eBook version of a novel

eBook viewed on a personal device e.g. Kindle

Footnote format: Firstname Lastname, *Book Title* (Publisher, Year), type of ebook, p. x.
Footnote example: Franz Kafka, *Metamorphosis and Other Stories*, trans. by Michael Hofmann (Penguin, 2007), Kindle ebook, p. 33.

If no page numbers are available:

Footnote format: Firstname Lastname, *Book Title* (Publisher, Year), type of ebook, ch. x.

Footnote example: Octavia Butler, *The Parable of the Sower* (Headline, 2019), Kindle ebook, ch. 4.

Project Gutenberg eBook

Wilkie Collins, *The Woman in White* (Project Gutenberg, 20231), ch. XV <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/583> [accessed 2 May 2024].

Bibliography format: reverse the first author name and omit the section cited and full stop.

Further help: see the online guide [How to reference literary texts](#)

Introduction to a novel or other text

Footnote format: Firstname Lastname, 'Introduction', in Firstname Lastname, *Book Title*, ed. by Firstname Lastname (Publisher, Year), pp. x-xx (p. x).

Footnote example: Vincent Carretta, 'Introduction', in Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative and Other Writings*, ed. by Vincent Carretta (Penguin Books, 1995), pp. ix-xviii (p.

xvii).

Bibliography format: reverse the first author name and omit the page cited and full stop.

Further help: see the online guide How to reference literary texts

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Short story from a collection

Footnote format: Firstname Lastname, 'Story Title', in *Book Title*, ed. by Firstname Lastname (Publisher, Year), pp. x-xx (p. x).

Footnote example: Jean Lorrain, 'The Spectral Hand', in *Late Victorian Gothic Tales*, ed. by Roger Luckhurst (Oxford University Press, 2005), pp. 177-182 (p. 179).

Bibliography format: reverse the first author name and omit the page cited and full stop.

Further help: see the online guide How to reference literary texts

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3.2 How to reference a poem

Poem from a collection

Footnote format: Firstname Lastname of poet, 'Poem Title', in *Collection Title*, ed. by Firstname Lastname of editor (Publisher, Year), p. x OR pp. x-xx (p. x), ll. x-xx.

Footnote examples: Sylvia Plath, 'Daddy', in *Collected Poems*, ed. by Ted Hughes (Faber and Faber, 1981), pp. 222-24 (p. 222), ll. 2-4.

Sylvia Plath, 'Daddy', in *The Norton Anthology of Poetry*, ed. by Margaret Ferguson, Mary Jo Salter, and Jon Stallworthy, 5th edn (W. W. Norton, 2005), pp. 1840-42 (p.1840), ll. 2-4.

Bibliography format: reverse the first author name and omit the section cited and full stop.
If you want to reference the whole collection in the bibliography:

Plath, Sylvia, *Collected Poems*, ed. by Ted Hughes (Faber and Faber, 1981)

Further help: see the online guide How to reference literary texts

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Poem found online

Footnote format: Firstname Lastname of poet, 'Poem Title', *Website* (Year) <URL> [accessed day month year].

Footnote example: Kei Miller, 'Place Name: Oracabessa', *The Poetry Society* (2015) <https://poems.poetrysociety.org.uk/poets/kei-miller/> [accessed 3 June 2024].

If you want to reference an audio file:

Footnote format: Firstname Lastname of poet, 'Poem Title', *Website*, format (Year) <URL>

[accessed day month year].

Footnote example: Kei Miller, 'Some Definitions for Song', *The Poetry Archive*, audio recording (2009) <https://poetryarchive.org/poem/some-definitions-song/> [accessed 3 June 2024].

Bibliography format: reverse the first author name and omit the section cited and full stop.

Further help: see the online guide How to reference literary texts

3.2 How to reference a play

Single play

Footnote format: Firstname Lastname, *Play Title*, ed. by Firstname Lastname (Publisher, Year), Act. Scene. Line no. OR p. x.

Footnote example: William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, ed. by John Dover Wilson (Cambridge University Press, 2009), III. 4. 139-155.

Bibliography format: reverse the first author name and omit the section cited and full stop.

Further help: see the online guide How to reference literary texts

Play in a collection

Footnote format: Firstname Lastname, 'Play Title', in *Collection Title*, ed. by Firstname Lastname (Publisher, Year), Act. Scene. Line no.

Footnote example: Thomas Heywood, 'A Woman Killed with Kindness', in *Renaissance Drama: An Anthology of Plays and Entertainments*, 2nd edn, ed. by Arthur F. Kinney (Blackwell, 2005), VIII. 102-104.

If there is no author:

Footnote example: 'The Tragedy of Master Arden of Faversham', in *Renaissance Drama: An Anthology of Plays and Entertainments*, 2nd edn, ed. by Arthur F. Kinney (Blackwell, 2005), XIV. 223-225.

If the play has pages, rather than Acts and scenes:

Footnote format: Firstname Lastname, 'Play Title', in *Collection Title* (Publisher, Year), pp. x-xx (p. x).

Footnote example: Sarah Kane, 'Crave', in *Complete Plays* (Methuen Drama, 2001), pp. 153-202 (p. 165).

Bibliography format: reverse the first author name and omit the section cited and full stop.

Further help: see the online guide [How to reference literary texts](#)

4.1 How to reference a journal article

Journal article
Footnote format: Firstname Lastname, 'Article Title', *Journal Title*, Volume.Issue (Year), pp. x-xx (p. x), doi:.
Online article with no DOI: Firstname Lastname, 'Article Title', *Journal Title*, day month year (para x. of x) <URL> [accessed day month year] .
Footnote examples:
Britta Martens, 'Dramatic Monologue, Detective Fiction, and the Search for Meaning', *Nineteenth-Century Literature*, 66.2 (2011), pp. 195-218 (p. 203), doi:10.1525/ncl.2011.66.2.195.
Graham Saunders, '"Out Vile Jelly": Sarah Kane's *Blasted* and Shakespeare's *King Lear*', *New Theatre Quarterly*, 20.1 (2004), pp. 69-78 (p. 71), doi:10.1017/S0266464X03000344.
Emma Smith 'Why we need to remember how to forget', *The Conversation*, 1 February 2016 (para. 3 of 9) <https://theconversation.com/why-we-need-to-remember-how-to-forget-53526> [accessed 3 June 2024].
Bibliography format: reverse the first author name and omit the section cited and full stop.
Further help: see the online guide [How to reference articles and web pages](#)

4.2 How to reference a newspaper article

Newspaper article
Footnote format: Firstname Lastname, 'Article Title', *Newspaper Title*, day month year, section, p. x <URL> [accessed day month year].
Footnote examples:
Jackie Kay, 'Poetry…a Beautiful Renaissance: It's a wonderful time for poetry', *Guardian*, 29 January 2011, Saturday comment pages, p. 30 <https://global-factiva-com.oxfordbrookes.idm.oclc.org> [accessed 8 March 2021].
Bryan Hood, 'Interview: Ursula K Le Guin: 'I wish we could all live in a big house with unlocked doors'', *Guardian*, 18 October 2016, <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/oct/18/ursula-k-le-guin-interview-complete-orsinia> [accessed 8 April 2021].
If there is no author:

Footnote format: 'Article Title', *Newspaper Title*, day month year, section, p. x
<URL> [accessed day month year].

Footnote example: 'The Life of Charlotte Bronte', *The Times*, 25 April 1857, p. 9 <https://go-gale-com.oxfordbrookes.idm.oclc.org/> [accessed 8 April 2021].

Bibliography format: reverse the first author name and omit the section cited and full stop.

Further help: see the online guide <u>How to reference articles and web pages</u>

4.3 How to reference a web page

Web page

Footnote format:

Firstname Lastname, 'Title of Web page', Year <URL> [accessed day month year].

OR Firstname Lastname, 'Title of Web page', Title of Resource (Year) <URL> [accessed day month year].

Footnote example: Eric Lindstrom, ''Poetry is Not a Luxury': Audre Lorde and Shelleyan Poetics', Romantic Circles, 2021 <https://romantic-circles.org/praxis/publicfeeling/praxis.2021.publicfeeling.lindstrom.html> [accessed 3 June 2024].

If author is an organisation:

Office for National Statistics, 'Crime in England and Wales: year ending December 2023', 25 April 2024 <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingdecember2023> [accessed 3 June 2024].

Bibliography format: reverse the first author name and omit the section cited and full stop.

Further help: see the online guide <u>How to reference articles and web pages</u>

5.1 How to reference films, TV and radio

Film - viewed on BoB, on a streaming service, on DVD

Film viewed on BoB (Box of Broadcasts)

Footnote format: *Film Title*, dir. by Firstname Lastname, Channel Name, day month year, time of broadcast.

Footnote example: *Pride and Prejudice*, dir. by Joe Wright, ITV3, 29 April 2009, 21.00.
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Film viewed on a streaming service or on DVD

This guidance covers films viewed on services such as Netflix, Amazon or BBC iPlayer.

Footnote format: *Film Title*, dir. by Firstname Lastname (Distributor, Year of release).

Footnote examples:

Netflix original film: *The King*, dir. by David Michôd (Netflix, 2019).

Film viewed on DVD: *Pride and Prejudice*, dir. by Joe Wright (Universal Pictures, 2006).

Bibliography format: the format is the same except that you omit the full stop.

Further help: see the online guide [How to reference other sources](#)

TV or radio programme - viewed on BoB, on a streaming service, on DVD

Programme viewed on BoB (Box of Broadcasts)

Footnote format: 'Episode Title', *Programme/Series Title*, Channel Name, day month year, time of broadcast, timestamp minutes:seconds (if needed).

Footnote example: 'Snacking through Shakespeare', *Shakespeare's Restless World*, BBC Radio 4, 18 April 2012, 13.45.
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Programme viewed on a streaming service

This guidance covers programmes viewed on services such as Netflix, Amazon or BBC iPlayer.

Footnote format: 'Episode Title', *Programme/Series Title* (Distributor, dates of series), series number, episode number (Year).

Footnote example: 'Gloriana', *The Crown* (Netflix, 2016-2023), season 1, episode 10, (2016).

Bibliography format: the format is the same except that you omit the full stop.

Further help: see the online guide [How to reference other sources](#)

How to reference other sources

Check the online guide [Reference with MHRA: How to reference other sources](#) for guidance on referencing:
- Online videos and podcasts
- Lectures and performances
- Photos and art works

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mhraguide Joanna Cooksey August 2024