Citing References In Your Thesis Or Dissertation

Creating the reference section of your thesis or dissertation can be a difficult process, especially if you don't know which format to follow. Here, we provide a help and pointers that can be followed for the Nutritional Sciences Graduate Program. The purpose of citing sources is to give credit to the author for any ideas or quotations that you use, and to enable your reader to locate the sources.

The following format should be used.

Last name Initials all authors. Title. Journal Year; Volume (Number): Pg – Pg.

Here is an example:


- This format is consistent with JN, AJCN etc.
- Do not use prefixes when listing your citations in the reference section (e.g. "Jr.", "Sr.", etc.).
- Alphabetize all citations in the reference section. When alphabetizing your citations, disregard apostrophes or spaces. For example, "D'Homme" would come before "Domsy" and after "De La Hoya".
- Cite single authors before multiple ones. For example, you may have cites "Jones, 1999" and "Jones et al. 1999" in your text. In the reference section, "Jones, 1999" would be listed before "Jones et al. 1999".
- Use of software programs such as Reference Manager or EndNote recommended.

NRD 8/11/09