QUICK GUIDE: ACS CITATION STYLE

The ACS Style Guide, 3rd ed., is the standard citation style for chemistry. This Quick Guide includes the most common formats from that publication. Examples of publication types not included in the ACS Style Guide were created based on the most relevant examples available. If writing for publication you should also check the “guide to authors” for the journal to which you are submitting your manuscript.

BOOKS
Several factors, such as whether a book is in a series, is cited in its entirety or only in part, has different editions, etc. can cause variations in the citation format. These are some common formats.

Book with authors (pp 300-304)

Books with editors (citing the entire book; p 302)
Editors’ names can appear in either the author (first example) or the editor position (second example).


Chapter in an edited book (p 301)

Books in a series (p 306)
Books published in a series may be cited either as a book (first example) or as a journal (second example). If the latter is used, then the CASSI abbreviation for the series title should also be used.

Seeber, G.; Tiedemann, B. E. F.; Raymond, K. N. In Supramolecular Chirality; Crego-Calama, M., Reinhoudt, D. N., Eds.; Topics in Current Chemistry 265; Springer: Berlin, Germany, 2006; pp 147-183.


Organic Syntheses and Inorganic Syntheses (p 305)
Cumulative volumes of Organic Syntheses are cited as books (first example); annual volumes of Organic Syntheses and Inorganic Syntheses are often cited as journals (second example).


CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS AND ABSTRACTS
Print full paper (pp 307-308)

Print abstracts of papers (p 308)

Electronic abstracts of papers (p 323)

DATA SETS

Print (pp 314-315)
TRC Spectral Data – Ultraviolet; Texas A&M University: College Station, TX, Apr 30, 1966; No. 969 (4-Methyl-1-phenyl-3-tiapentane).

Data from web sites (based on pp 314-315, 320-321)

Commercial databases (p324)
Reaxys, version 1.0.5968; Elsevier Properties SA: Frankfurt, Germany, 2010; Reaxys RN 2154 (1,2-benzisoxazole).

SciFinder Scholar, version 2006; Chemical Abstracts Service: Columbus, OH, 2006; RN 50-78-2 (acetylsalicylic acid).

DISSERTATIONS AND THESES
Titles of dissertations and theses are optional in print but are required in electronic format.

Print (pp 309-310)


Electronic (p 321)
**ENCYCLOPEDIAS**

**Print (pp 305-306)**

**Electronic (p 320)**

**JOURNAL ARTICLES AND PREPRINTS**
Journal titles use CASSI abbreviations. Commonly used CASSI abbreviations are listed in the ACS Style Guide. Additional sources are in the Resource List at the end of this Quick Guide. Notes clarifying some aspect of the citation may be added at the end.

**Print articles (pp 291-296)**
Although nice, article titles from print journals are not normally included in the citation.


**Electronic articles (pp 318-319)**
The format for citing e-articles does include the article title.


**Early access articles (pp 318-319)**
http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?ob=PublicationURL&tockey=%23TOC%235289%2399999%23FLA%23&cdi=5289&pubType=J&view=c&auth=y&acct=C000014439&version=1&urlVersion=0&userid=209810&md5=5c2e57fa33f1d0d201397bddd2a3c4 (accessed Apr 3, 2007) (accepted manuscript, has not undergone final copyediting, typesetting, or proof review).

http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?ob=PublicationURL&tockey=%23TOC%235289%2399999%23FLA%23&cdi=5289&pubType=J&view=c&auth=y&acct=C000014439&version=1&urlVersion=0&userid=209810&md5=5c2e57fa33f1d0d201397bddd2a3c4 (accessed Apr 3, 2007); accepted manuscript, has not undergone final copyediting, typesetting, or proof review.
Preprint servers (p 319)

MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEETS
Relevant section in ACS Style Guide on p 315. International Chemical Safety Cards can also fit in this format,


PATENTS
Include a reference to Chemical Abstracts if possible.

Print (pp 310-311)

Electronic patent from government web site (based on pp 310-311, 320-321)

Electronic patent from non-government web site (based on pp 310-311, 320-321)

SCIFINDER SCHOLAR AND OTHER INDEXES
An author may need to cite an abstract from a source rather than the original document. When citing indexes like SciFinder Scholar or PubMed, the citation to the original publication follows the format for that type of publication (journal articles, patents, books, etc.) and is followed by the citation to the abstract.

Abstract from a print index (pp 298-299)

Abstract from electronic indexes (based on print format and pp 298-299, 318-319)


WEB SITES
Examples on pp 320-321 of the ACS Style Guide. Also see the “DATASETS” section of this Quick Guide.


NOTES

Journal abbreviations
Chemists use standard abbreviations for journal titles and the names of conference proceedings. These are published in CASSI, the Chemical Abstracts Service Source Index.

Personal names
Personal names often cause difficulties when preparing bibliographies or reference lists. Many western European names are arranged with the given name first and the family name last, so that in a bibliography the family name would come first, followed by a comma and then the given name (or initial).

Not all western European names follow this pattern, and names of authors from other parts of the world certainly do not. The Chicago Manual of Style has an excellent discussion of the rules for personal names (sections 8.5-8.20) and alphabetizing (sections 18.69-18.87).

RESOURCE LIST


This publication is available in alternative media on request.  
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