MTP 1
Citing the Literature of Medicine and the Health Sciences

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Witwatersrand Health Sciences Library (WHSL)
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Where to Find the Content of This Lecture

- WHSL Citing the Medical Literature
  - http://libguides.wits.ac.za/whsl-citingmedlit
What is a Citation?

- A **citation** is also called a **reference**
- **Citations** tell your readers that certain material you have used in your work came from another source. It also gives readers the information necessary to find that source again, including:
  - the name/s of the author/s
  - the title of the work
  - the name and location of the company that published the source
  - the date your copy was published
  - the page numbers of the material you used
Why do You Need to Cite?

- Giving credit to the original author by **citing sources** is **the only way** to use other people's work **without plagiarising**
What is Plagiarism?

- Plagiarism is a form of copying
  - Copying is cheating
- The penalties for plagiarism at Wits are extremely harsh
- Students have been suspended, their exam results have been withheld, or they have not been allowed to proceed to the following year of study
- Do NOT plagiarise!
Quick Guide on Avoiding Plagiarism

- **ALWAYS** acknowledge your source/s (include the reference/citation)
- **Paraphrase** (use your own words)
- **Avoid copying and pasting** from electronic material
- If you use the exact words, enclose them in "quotation marks" (inverted commas)
- **Do not quote long passages** of text, even if you have used inverted commas
Doesn't Citing Sources make your Work Seem Less Original?

- Citing sources actually helps readers distinguish your own ideas from those of your sources.
- This emphasises the originality of your own work.
When Do You Need to Cite?

- Whenever you **borrow words or ideas**, you need to acknowledge their source

- The following situations **always** require a citation
  - when you use quotes (inverted commas)
  - when you paraphrase
  - when you use an idea that someone else has already expressed
  - when you make specific reference to the work of another author
  - when someone else's work has been critical in developing your own ideas

  From [http://www.plagiarism.org/](http://www.plagiarism.org/)
Other Reasons to Cite the Literature

- Citations helpful to anyone who wants to find out more about your ideas and where they came from
- Correct citation will keep you from being accused of using incorrect information, and if you make a good argument as to why you think these ideas are bad, you may get higher marks for your work
- Citing sources shows the amount of research you've done
- Citing good sources strengthens your work by lending outside support to your ideas
Which Citation Styles? Why these Styles?

- Wits Faculty of Health Sciences uses two styles:
  - **Vancouver**
    - MBBCh
  - **Harvard**
    - BHSc; BPharm
  - Acculturation – learning aspects of a new “culture” which will enable you to survive in that new culture
    - Begin to use a “common language” (jargon) for your discipline
Apprentices or Health Scientists in Training

Rembrandt van Rijn: The Anatomy Lesson of Dr Nicolaes Tulp, 1632
Apprentices

- System of apprenticeship in the health sciences
  - Learn from the “master”
- Fostered professionalism
  - Barbers - Surgeons
  - Apothecaries - Pharmacists
- Apothecaries and Physicians not differentiated until end of 18th Century
- “See one; Do one; Teach one”
Why do we Need a Common Language for Citations?

- Part of the language of the Health Sciences
- Integrated health science teams required to treat patients
- Need a common language to communicate effectively
The Language of the Health Sciences

- Prescription “shorthand”: Rx
- Medical terminology: Latin and Greek origins of words
  - Otorhinolaryngology = study of the ears, nose and throat
    - oto = ear
    - rhino = nose
    - laryng = throat
    - ology = study of
Referring to the Evidence in the Literature

- Evidence based practice (EBP)
- Evidence for treatment is found in the health sciences literature
- Citations are used to refer to particular evidence in the literature
- Citations set out in a particular style part of the common language shared by all health scientists
Elements of a Journal Article

Citation

Web (Internet) Sites

This is an entry page to websites with Malaria content relevant to the Southern African Context.

See Travelers Guide to Malaria in South Africa
Last updated May 2010

This site is designed for use by the general public as well as health workers. This site does not collect any personal information of users, does not use cookies and does not display advertising. The content is not influenced by sponsors.

Maintained by the Malaria Research Programme of the Medical Research Council.
Harvard & Vancouver

- No difference in the actual citation
- Difference in the way in which the citation is incorporated into the text
- Difference in the way the list of references at the end of the text is organised
  - Harvard: Alphabetical
  - Vancouver: Numerical
In the study of paediatrics, short cases are often the most difficult obstacle for registrars to overcome. Guides which limit the case presentations to short one-page overviews can be extremely helpful for preparation for Board examinations (Glaser, McIntyre & Battin, 2000).
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Harvard vs Vancouver In the Reference List

Harvard (Alphabetical)


Vancouver (Numerical)


Consistency is Key

- Punctuation is important
- Precision is important
- Same style (consistency) throughout important
- Font is important (eg. always use *italics* for journal titles)
- *In*: is underlined (shows work taken from a secondary source)
- Acknowledgement of the sources you use is extremely important
Paraphrasing

- When using your own words:
  - KISS (Keep It Short and Simple)
  - Writing academic English
    - Write down the concepts (main ideas) from the passage you wish to paraphrase
    - Then write a new sentence explaining these concepts using your own words
In Summary

- WHSL Citing the Medical Literature
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Why should you cite sources?

Giving credit to the original author by citing sources is the only way to use other people’s work without plagiarising. Other reasons to cite sources include:

- citations are extremely helpful to anyone who wants to find out more about your ideas and where they came from
- not all sources are good or correct - your own ideas may often be more accurate or interesting
- proper citation will keep you from being accused of using incorrect information, and if you make a good argument as to why you think these ideas are bad, you may get higher marks for your work
- citing sources strengthens your work by lending outside support to your ideas

Doesn’t citing sources make your work seem less original?