Vancouver referencing a brief guide

The Vancouver style of referencing is a numeric system. Each reference is given a number as it first appears in the text. This number becomes the unique identifier for that reference, and so, if it is cited again later in the text, it will have retain its number. The number is either given in square brackets [1] or superscript ¹.

In the Reference List at the end of your assignment, you should list items in numerical order based upon the numbers allocated in the text.

This should be labelled References.

Ensure you use consistent spacing, indenting, punctuation and emphasis (bold, italic, etc).

Book

Authors


Place of Publication

Publisher

Year of publication

Editions

Type of Medium

Availability

Date of Citation

e-Book

Authors


Editions

Type of Medium

Availability

Date of Citation

Edited Book

Authors

Editors


Place of Publication

Publisher

Year of publication

Editions
Things to Remember

Books: take your information from the title page and the back of the title page, not the cover.

Journal articles: take your information from the first page of the article.

Cite a PDF as a print article, even if you read it online. Cite an article as an online article only if you read it online (e.g. as a web page or similar).

Things to Remember - Punctuation

Citation numbers are placed outside full-stops and commas, but inside colons and semicolons.

Do not leave a space between the last word or punctuation mark that precedes the reference number.

Capitalise the first word in the title of a book or article.

Capitalise proper nouns, initialisms and acronyms.

Things to Remember - Authors

If no personal author is identifiable, use the name of the organisation responsible for the source.

Multiple authors: if there are up to six authors they should all be listed, but if there are more than six then list the first six authors followed by ‘et al’.

Things to Remember – Journal Titles

Official Vancouver rules:

Abbreviate significant words in a journal title and omit other words, such as articles, conjunctions, and prepositions.

Capitalize all remaining title words, including abbreviations.

The Journal of Biocommunication becomes J Biocommun

The Journal of the National Cancer Institute becomes J Natl Cancer Inst

Things to Remember – Place and Publisher

Where more than place is given, prefer the UK location if given; otherwise use the first place mentioned.

If the place of publication is not given but you can reasonably infer the location, enter the place in square brackets e.g. [Cardiff]. Otherwise use [place unknown]. Similarly, if the publisher cannot be found or inferred use [publisher unknown].

Find out more ... This is a brief guide to help you with the basics of Vancouver referencing. Much more information is available in our full guide http://bit.ly/1ITO9DS.

If you need help with referencing get in touch via library@swansea.ac.uk or ask at the Library Information Point.