How to reference using the Royal Society of Chemistry style

This guide is designed to give you advice on how to format your bibliographic references, notes and footnotes using our house style.

Referencing your work clearly and accurately is incredibly important. Referencing acknowledges the work of others, and highlights the range and types of your cited material. Good referencing is an important part of a work's presentation, and can affect how others view it. Failing to reference clearly could have a negative impact on your work if people can't find the original material, or even be seen as plagiarism.

The Royal Society of Chemistry have a specific referencing style that we use across all our journals, as it ensures that all references are given accurately, clearly and with sufficient detail. Using our style in your own work will ensure that your references meet a professional standard, and that anyone evaluating your work will be able to see how you have used other people's work to develop your own. It's worth checking with your university department what referencing style they recommend and if they have specific guidelines they want you to follow.

> This guide is based on the advice that we offer to authors wishing to publish their research in our journals. Read our full guidelines for authors document.

Referencing in the text

Use superscript numbers to show when a statement in your text has an external reference source, for example Wittig.[3] Usually these should appear at the end of the sentence (after the punctuation), but can be after the relevant word or compound. The reference numbers should be cited in the correct numerical sequence through the text (including those in tables and figure captions, numbered according to where the table or figure is designated to appear).

> If a reference number is required after a word or phrase with a superscript number already the reference number can be given using text, for example Pd[4] (ref.11), or a space can be left between the two superscript numbers, for example Pd[4] [11], to avoid confusion.

If a statement has multiple references you should reference all of the citations in the text. If you have two citations, or if you have more than two and the numbers are not consecutive, use commas (with no spaces) between numbers, for example [12,13] or [12,14,15]. If there are more than two numbers and they are consecutive, use an en-dash to separate the first and last citation, for example [14–20].

The author(s) can be mentioned at their first citation in the text, but initials are not necessary. For papers with one or two authors simply state the name(s), and for papers with three or more authors you should use the first name followed by *et al. Et al.* is a Latin abbreviation for 'and other persons'.

- Smith and Jones used this method for the first time.[2]
- Plata *et al.* used HPLC to determine the carbohydrates present during a *Saccharomyces* fermentation.[7]

> Remember that any figures/images that you use from other papers should also be numerically cited within the figure caption. You will need to include these numbers as part of the numerical sequence you use through the text. For more information on using images go to the end of this document.

Listing your references

The references are listed at the end of the main body of the text along with any notes. They should be listed in numerical order, according to the order of citations in the text. If you use the same reference more than once the original citation number should still be used. The names and initials of all authors are always given in the reference list and must not be replaced by the phrase *et al.*

Journals

Journal articles should be cited in the form: A. Name, B. Name and C. Name, *Journal Title*, year, **volume**, page.

- T. J. Hebden, R. R. Schrock, M. K. Takase and P. Müller, *Chem. Commun.*, 2012, **48**, 1851–1853.

When page numbers are not yet known, articles should be cited by DOI (Digital Object Identifier).

- T. J. Hebden, R. R. Schrock, M. K. Takase and P. Müller, *Chem. Commun.*, 2012, DOI: 10.1039/C2CC17634C.

> The journal abbreviations used in Royal Society of Chemistry publications are found in the Chemical Abstracts Service Source Index (CASSI). If you cannot find a recognised abbreviation for a journal, and it is not obvious how the title should be abbreviated, cite the full journal title.

Books

Books should be cited in the form: A. Name, B. Name and C. Name, *Book Title*, Publisher, Publisher Location, year.

- S. T. Beckett, *Science of Chocolate*, Royal Society of Chemistry, Cambridge, 2000.

Book chapters

Book chapters should be citied in the form: A. Name, in *Book Title*, ed. Editor Name(s), Publisher, Publisher Location, edition, year, chapter, pages.

- J. Barker, in *Catalyst Deactivation*, ed. B. Delmon and C. Froment, Elsevier, Amsterdam, 2nd edn, 1987, vol. 1, ch. 4, pp. 253–255.

> The ‘ed.’ in the example above stands for ‘edited by’, that is, the editor(s) of the book. If there is more than one editor this remains ‘ed.’, if the book has no editors this can be left out.

Online resources (including databases, websites and wikis)

Online resources should be citied in the form: Name of resource, URL, (accessed date). Please note the most important information to include is the URL and the date accessed.

- The Merck Index Online, http://www.rsc.org/Merck-Index/monograph/mono1500000841, (accessed October 2013).

Theses

Theses should be citied in the form: A. Name, PhD thesis, University Name, year.

- A. D. Mount, PhD thesis, University of London, 1977.

Reference to unpublished material

You should not reference unpublished work without the permission of those who completed the work. For material accepted for publication, but not yet published cite in the form: A. Name, *Journal Title*, in press.

- A. R. Jones, Angew. Chem., in press.

For material submitted for publication, but not yet accepted cite in the form: A. Name, *Journal Title*, submitted.

- A. R. Jones, Angew. Chem., submitted.

For material that has yet to be submitted for publication cite in the form: A. Name, unpublished work.

- A. R. Jones, unpublished work.

Lectures, meetings and conferences
Lectures, meetings and conferences should be citied in the form: A. Name, presented in part at Conference Title, Place, Month, year.

- A. R. Jones, presented in part at the 28th Congress of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, Vancouver, August, 1981.

If you are referencing published conference proceedings, these should be cited like a book.

Preprint servers (eg arXiv)
- V. Krstic and M. Glerup, 2006, arXiv:cond-mat/0601513.

Patents
The name of the patentee must be given. Patents should be cited in the form: Br. Pat., 357 450, 1986. US Pat., 1 171 230, 1990.

Software
- T. Bellander, M. Lewne and B. Brunekreef, GAUSSIAN 3 (Revision B.05), Gaussian Inc., Pittsburgh, PA, 2003.

Using notes and footnotes
Notes are used to provide information that is not suitable for inclusion in the main body of the text. The information is still important in qualifying or amplifying the argument in the text, but is not normally included because it would disrupt the flow of the text – for example, additional experimental details.

> Information included as Notes (end-notes) should appear in the Notes/References section. Notes should be numbered using the same numbering system as the references.

Footnotes are referred to with the following symbols: †, ‡, §, ¶, ‖ etc. They refer to information such as authors' contributions, acknowledgements or references to the Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI). It's always worth checking if your university department allows footnotes or notes.

Important Information

Reference management
- *Endnote* users can format their references using our style files. These automatically format the data from your citation manager.
- Free reference management programmes are available. Check with your university what reference management software they recommend or have available for you to use.

Using images and copyright
Any images that are used should be numerically referenced in the figure caption. If your work is solely for your course, and will not be published publically, you don't need to obtain copyright permission.

If you are preparing an article to be published you will have to obtain copyright permission. The publisher/copyright owner of the inage will need to be contacted and asked for their process for receiving permission requests. Permission is acknowledged in the figure caption and some organisations will require the permission statement to be given exactly as they specify. An example permission statement would be: Reproduced with permission from ref. reference number. Copyright year, Publisher. Find more information on our copyright and permissions processes.

Links
- Our full guidelines for authors: http://rsc.li/author-guidelines
- Chemical Abstracts Service Source Index (CASSI): http://cassi.cas.org/
- Article templates that show how an article should be laid out: http://rsc.li/author-tools-services
- *Endnote* style files: http://rsc.li/1qvwWKA
- Information on copyright and permissions: http://rsc.li/licences-copyright-permissions