

Department of Health Library

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Citation FAQ

What is a citation?

"The record of an article, book, or other report that includes summary descriptive information e.g., authors, title ... source ...".

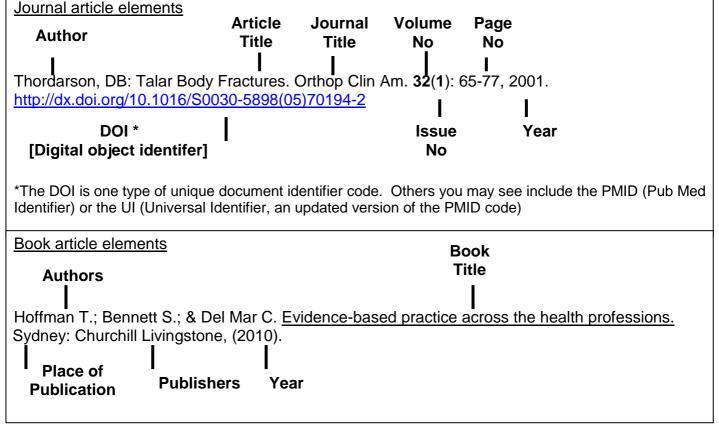
(http://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Bibliographic+citation)

What is a citation used for?

The citation contains all the necessary information elements to identify an article, book or report and lead others to it.

Elements of a citation

Elements of a typical journal article citation and a book citation are shown below, but there are many variations dependent upon both the type of source and reference style used.



Is all this detail really necessary?

The more information you provide, the faster the Library can find your item for you.

It is also good practice to record citation details of articles, websites and other items of interest that you come across, so that you are able to reference them in your own reports and research and retrieve the information. The citation details can also be used to create manual record entries in EndNote* [*EndNote is a type of reference management software. Contact the Library for further information]