



# CITING ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

## H. DOUGLAS BARCLAY LAW LIBRARY

**Check the Library’s “Location Guide” and the online catalog for the current location of sources mentioned in this pathfinder.**

### **Purpose:**

This pathfinder directs legal researchers to citation guides and lists of examples helpful in the construction of electronic legal citations. It includes references to standard and alternative legal citation guides, widely adapted guides to electronic citation employed in other disciplines, and sources for citing United States Government documents.

### **Outline:**

#### **I. LEGAL CITATION GUIDES ON THE WEB**

#### **II. LEGAL CITATION GUIDES IN PRINT: BLUEBOOK & BEYOND**

#### **III. STYLE MANUALS AND STYLE SHEETS FOR CITING ELECTRONIC SOURCES**

#### **IV. GUIDES TO CITING U.S. GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS**

### **LEGAL CITATION GUIDES ON THE WEB**

Peter Martin, **Basic Legal Citation (Legal Information Institute, 2003)**  
<http://www.law.cornell.edu/citation/>

*See:* 2:100 How to cite electronic sources  
3:100 Examples: Citations: Electronic Sources

New York State Unified Court System, **Official Reports Style Manual, 2002 ed.**

*See:* 1.5 Electronic Sources in General

- “Issued by the Law Reporting Bureau with the approval of the Court of Appeals as a guide for New York judges and their staffs in the preparation of opinions for publication in the Official Reports. It also prescribes the style applied by the Law Reporting Bureau in editing the opinions for publication in the Reports.”

## LEGAL CITATION GUIDES IN PRINT: BLUEBOOK & BEYOND

### **Bluebook; A Uniform System of Citation, 17th ed.**

Reserves, Reference KF 245 .B58 2000

*See:* Chapter 18 Electronic Media and Other Nonprint Resources:

*Note: The ABA and law librarians are struggling with issues surrounding standardized formats for citation of electronic resources. The direction of reform has been toward universal citation standards which are vendor-neutral, (i.e., citations without reference to vendors such as Lexis or Westlaw) and medium-neutral, (i.e., citations that do not reference a specific medium, such as a print reporter). The following alternative legal citation sources reflect these reform efforts.*

### **ALWD Citation Manual: A Professional System of Citation, 2d. ed. (2002)**

Reference KF 245 .A45

*See:* Part 4 Electronic Sources

- An alternative to the Bluebook prepared by the Association of Legal Writing Directors
- Provides more explicit guidance on citing electronic sources from Westlaw/Lexis, the Internet, email and CD-ROM
- Good coverage of citation forms for speeches, addresses, oral presentations and multimedia

### **Universal Citation Guide**

Reference KF 245 .U58 1999

- An alternative to the Bluebook prepared by the American Association of Law Librarians Committee on Citation Formats
- Promulgates a method for creating universal citations for both print & electronic media based on the intrinsic text rather than the format
- Note: Universal citation standards have not been adopted by NY

## STYLE MANUALS AND STYLE SHEETS FOR CITING ELECTRONIC SOURCES

*Note: Although the **Bluebook** does have a rule for citing Internet resources (see above), it has not adequately addressed citation of electronic sources. In addition to the efforts of the ABA and others to develop a universal citation standard, other disciplines have*

*taken the lead in developing standardized citation formats for electronic government documents and other Internet sources. These formats may be adapted to **Bluebook** style.*

### **Citing Electronic Documentation: Chicago Style Manual**

University of Minnesota Department of Rhetoric

<http://www.rhetoric.umn.edu/Student/Graduate/%7Emstewart/citations/chicago/index.htm>

- One of the predominant academic styles
- Examples from the web , email, electronic journals, CD-ROM

*see also the complete Chicago style guidelines at:*

**The Chicago manual of style, 15th ed. (2003)**

Reference Z253 .U69 2003

### **Electronic Reference Formats Recommended by the American Psychological Association**

<http://www.apastyle.org/eleceref.html>

- Focuses on citation forms used extensively by the psychology community, but also been widely adapted by the social sciences
- The APA style of citing legal materials is based on The Bluebook
- Helpful background discussion about the nature of electronic media and URLs
- Detailed examples, with explanations, for electronic source materials

### **International Standards Organization, Excerpts from ISO 690-2 - Information and documentation -- Bibliographic references – Part 2: Electronic documents or parts thereof**

<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/iso/tc46sc9/standard/690-2e.htm>

- The International Standards Organization has recommended a standard for a uniform system of citing electronic documents

### **Using MLA Style to Cite Internet Sources**

*from: Online! A Reference Guide to Using Internet Sources,*

Bedford/St.Martins, c.2003

<http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/online/cite5.html>

- MLA guidelines have traditionally been employed in the humanities, but have been widely adopted by other disciplines lacking in explicit electronic citation standards
- Numerous examples, with descriptive text, for a variety of electronic resources
- Thorough review of Internet citation forms

*see also a complete discussion on MLA Style Guidelines at:*

**MLA style manual and guide to scholarly publishing, 2nd ed. (1998)**  
Bird Library Reference PN147 .G444 1998

### **CITING ONLINE GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS**

Debora Cheney, **The Complete Guide to Citing Government Information Resources : A Manual for Social Science & Business Research, Rev. ed. (1993)**  
Bird-Maps & Govt Info Reference Desk J9.5 .G23 1993

- By far the most detailed manual for citing government documents
- The format is based on ANSI bibliographic standards

Uncle Sam - **BRIEF GUIDE TO CITING GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS**  
Government Publications Department  
Regional Depository Library, The University of Memphis  
<http://www.lib.memphis.edu/govpubs//citeweb.htm#elec>

- Examples are based on the Chicago Style Manual standard bibliographic format

**Citing Government Information Sources**  
**Using MLA (Modern Language Association) Style**  
(University of Nevada, Reno)  
<http://www.library.unr.edu/depts/bgic/guides/government/cite.html>

- Sample citations

**Citing Records in the National Archives of the United States**  
**National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)**  
[http://www.archives.gov/publications/general\\_information\\_leaflets/17.html](http://www.archives.gov/publications/general_information_leaflets/17.html)

#### **Additional suggestions:**

Candace Elliott Person, **Citation of Legal and Non-legal Electronic Database Information**  
<http://www.michbar.org/publications/citation.htm>

- An article including suggestions for creating citations to electronic information

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions,  
**Library & Information Science: Citation Guides for Electronic Documents**  
<http://www.ifla.org/I/training/citation/citing.htm>

- A list of links to citation manuals and guides, several not listed elsewhere in this pathfinder

Andrew Harnack & Eugene Kleppinger, **Online! A Reference Guide to Using Internet Sources**, Bedford/St.Martin's Press, c.2003

<http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/online/>

- Internet Sources
- Provides comparative examples of MLA, APA & Chicago citation formats

**Style Sheets for Citing Internet & Electronic Resources:  
Humanities (MLA & Chicago), Scientific (APA & CBE), and History (Turabian)**

UC Berkeley - Teaching Library Internet Workshops

<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Style.html>

- A tutorial on citing a extensive variety of electronic resources, including email, listservs, e-newsletters, synchronous communication sites, software programs and video games!

**U.S. Government Printing Office Style Manual (via GPO Access)**

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/stylemanual/browse.html>

- Not strictly a citation guide, but the complete GPO Printer's style book