

Citation Builders

Citation builders are helpful tools that assist you in formatting your reference page citations.

- Exercise caution. Recognize that citations are auto-generated and often have errors.
- Verify that the citation builder is using the current version of APA.
- Carefully input information. Citation builders rely on user input to produce the citation.
- Fix errors by using the *APA Manual* or [library handout](#).

Many library databases have a built-in citation tool. Here's an example:

The screenshot shows a web interface titled "Citation Format". At the top, there is a note: "NOTE: Review the instructions at EBSCO Connect and make any necessary corrections before using. Pay special attention to personal names, capitalization, and dates. Always consult your library resources for the exact formatting and punctuation guidelines." Below this, there are two main options for citation styles: "APA (American Psychological Assoc.)" and "Chicago/Turabian: Author-Date". The APA option is selected, and its corresponding citation is displayed: "Sands, M., & Aunger, R. (2020). Determinants of hand hygiene compliance among nurses in US hospitals: A formative research study. *PLoS ONE*, 15(4), 1–29. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0230573". The Chicago/Turabian option shows a different citation format. At the bottom, there is a yellow bar with the text "Export to Bibliographic Management Software (EndNote, ProCite, Reference Manager, RefWorks, BibTeX, etc.) ». On the right side, there is a vertical menu with various actions: "Google Drive", "Add to folder", "Print", "E-mail", "Save", "Cite" (highlighted with a red box), "Export", "Create Note", and "Permalink".

There are many free, web-based citation builders of varying quality. Some enable you to enter a URL, DOI, or other identifying information to automatically generate a citation. Others require manual entry.

zoterobib

The screenshot shows the zoterobib search interface. It features a large search bar with the placeholder text "Enter a URL, ISBN, DOI, PMID, arXiv ID, or title". To the right of the search bar is a blue button labeled "Cite". Below the search bar, there is a smaller button labeled "Manual Entry". Both the search bar and the "Cite" button are highlighted with a red box.

Select the correct type of material when manually entering information:

The image shows a form with a dropdown menu for 'Item Type' that is open. The dropdown list contains the following options: Patent, Podcast, Presentation, Radio Broadcast, Report, Statute, TV Broadcast, Thesis, Video Recording, and Web Page. The 'Report' option is currently selected and highlighted. The 'Item Type' label and the dropdown box are highlighted with a red rectangle. Other form fields include Title, Author, Series, Series Number, Volume, # of Volumes, Edition, Place, Publisher, Date, Original Date, and # of Pages.

Complete the form as accurately and completely as possible. You may not need to enter text in every field, or the information may not be provided by the source.

The image shows a completed form with the following information:

- Item Type: Web Page
- Title: Hand Hygiene Guidance
- Author: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Website Title: (empty)
- Website Type: (empty)
- Publisher: (empty)
- Date: January 30, 2020
- Short Title: (empty)
- URL: <https://www.cdc.gov/handhygiene/providers/guideline.html>
- Accessed: (empty)
- Language: (empty)

Put citations in alphabetical order, and correct errors before turning in your paper.

References

Sands, M., & Aunger, R. (2020). Determinants of hand hygiene compliance among nurses in US hospitals:

A formative research study. *PLoS ONE*, 15(4), 1–29. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0230573>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020, January 30). *Hand Hygiene Guidance*.

<https://www.cdc.gov/handhygiene/providers/guideline.html>

Capitalization errors are common with citation builders.

Final Copy:

References

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020, January 30). *Hand hygiene guidance*.

<https://www.cdc.gov/handhygiene/providers/guideline.html>

Sands, M., & Aunger, R. (2020). Determinants of hand hygiene compliance among nurses in US hospitals:

A formative research study. *PLoS ONE*, 15(4), 1–29. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0230573>