

The D.B. Weldon Library - The University of Western Ontario

## Citing Government Publications: Brief Guide

### Elements in Citations

A bibliographic citation to a government publication is composed of the following elements and are in the format shown:

Issuing agency. Title: Sub-title, Personal author. Series. Place of publication: Publisher, Date of publication.

The letters in parenthesis in samples 1 and 2 (below) indicate the seven elements of the citation. Many citations will not include all seven elements. The elements are:

- A Issuing agency (corporate author)
- B Title
- C Personal author
- D Series
- E Place of publication
- F Publisher
- G Date of publication

### Bibliographic Format

Examples of specific sources in bibliographic format are shown below. Note that not all elements exist for every citation.

SAMPLE 1 (includes elements A, B, E, F, and G)

Canada. National Energy Board. Annual report 1986. Ottawa: Supply and Services Canada, 1986.

- A Canada. National Energy Board
- B Annual report 1986
- C
- D
- E Ottawa
- F Supply and Services Canada
- G 1986

SAMPLE 2 (includes elements A, B, C, D, E, F, and G)

Environment Canada. Parks. National Historic Parks and Sites. Urban domestic servants in 19th-Century Canada, by Claudette Lacelle. Studies in Archaeology, Architecture and History. Ottawa: Supply and Services Canada, 1987.

### Footnotes

The major differences when changing from bibliographic to footnote format are changes in punctuation. It is also necessary to include the page number. Look at Sample 3 below; it is an example of a footnote.

### SAMPLE 3

Public Archives of Canada, Federal Archives Division, Records of the Canadian Forestry Service (RG39), General Inventory Series (Ottawa: Public Archives, 1982), 3.

Commas replace the periods separating levels of the issuing agency and separating elements of the citation. The publishing information is placed within round brackets. There is no punctuation immediately before the brackets. At the end of the bracket place a comma and then the page number(s) followed by a period.

### Government Publications in Micro-format

Publishing information about the micro-publisher (micro-set and item number in the set if applicable) should be added after the publishing information of the original document. The name of the microform set and the item number of the document in the set then follows, enclosed in round brackets.

### SAMPLE 4

New Brunswick. Dept. of Labour. Consultation document on employment standards, 1986.  
Fredericton: Department of Labour, 1986. Toronto: Micromedia, 1986 (Microlog 86-06748).

### SAMPLE 5

United States. General Accounting Office. Trucking regulation: Price competition and market structure in the trucking industry: Report to congressional requestors. Washington, D.C.: General Accounting Office, [1987]. New Canaan, CT: Readex, 1989 (U.S. Government Publications (depository) 89-17707).

### Further Information

ask Reference Staff or see information guides Citing Government Publications (Detailed Guide) or Citing Sources: Electronic. on citing hearings and submissions see information guide Citing Royal Commissions, Commissions of Inquiry & Task Forces .

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