MLA Citation Style for Databases

In-Text Citation

To cite this type of electronic publication, you should use a PDF version of an electronic article whenever possible so as to be able to cite by the author’s last name and page number. (The Works Cited entries for the sources cited in these examples of in-text citation are included at the end of this file.) When an article from a database does not have page numbers because it appears as HTML text, you may cite by author’s last name only. For example:

The words of verse 34 – “No longer shall they teach one another” – in Jeremiah 31 are significant because they contain, as David Rhymer explains, “[. . .] an astonishing leap of prophetic imagination, for it presents a direct challenge to the post-exilic culture in which the teaching of Torah becomes the dominant feature of Jewish religious life.”

OR

Jeremiah 31:34, which reads in part “No longer shall they teach one another,” – in Jeremiah 31 is significant because it contains “[. . .] an astonishing leap of prophetic imagination, for it presents a direct challenge to the post-exilic culture in which the teaching of Torah becomes the dominant feature of Jewish religious life” (Rhymer).

When citing an article from a database when the article is available as a PDF image of the print version of the periodical in which it originally appeared, cite by the author’s last name and the page number, even though you viewed an electronic version of the page, for example:

Jeremiah is explaining that upholding the Torah becomes less important once it has been written on one’s heart, for “[a]s a result of this inward inscription of God’s will, each of us will have direct access to God and personal understanding of the divine purpose. Instead of struggling to uphold some outward standard of conduct, the desire to serve God will arise within our own hearts” (Neff 102).

OR

Jeremiah is explaining that upholding the Torah becomes less important once it has been written on one’s heart. About the transformation of one’s actions based on love of God, Faye Neff explains, “As a result of this inward inscription of God’s will, each of us will have direct access to God and personal understanding of the divine purpose. Instead of struggling to uphold some outward standard of conduct, the desire to serve God will arise within our own hearts” (102).

Citing from the resources in the Oxford Biblical Studies Online database is more complex because some books that are a part of the database, such as The Oxford Bible Commentary, contain large sections, such as “The Commentary on Jeremiah,” that also contains subsections which would allow for more accurate citation. In order to be more specific in your citations, LIM asks that you cite by the subsection name in both your in-text and Works Cited entries, for example:

It’s important to understand Jeremiah 31:31-34 in context because “[a]mong Christians, the new covenant passage is perhaps the most well-known and misread of Jeremianic texts. [. . . because

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When] the book of Jeremiah speaks of the new covenant [. . .] it is referring to renewed relationship between Israel and YHWH” and not the “new covenant in Jesus (“New Covenant”).

Works Cited Entry for Articles from Databases

CORE ELEMENTS: To create entries of articles for the list of Works Cited, writers now follow a universal set of MLA formatting guidelines that can be applied to any source, in any field, using nine core elements common to most sources. An entry should include as many of these elements as are available for the source, in the order listed below and punctuated as shown. (Not every source will contain every element. The final element is followed by a period.)

1. Author.
2. Title of source.
3. Title of container,
4. Other contributors,
5. Version,
6. Number,
7. Publisher,
8. Publication date,
9. Location.

Author(s). Title of source. Title of container, Other contributors, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication Date, Location.

Note: Due to the password protected nature of databases, LIM does not require URLs when citing articles accessed through library databases.

Some examples are:


Citing from the NIB CD-Rom

Works Cited Entry

For the Works Cited entry, you cite the author (if given), the section of the NIB you are citing, and the publication information (please note that the title of the commentary would be italicized:

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According to The New Interpreter’s Bible, the book of Amos contains 3 major and 2 minor themes (Last name).

If the author is not given: According to The New Interpreter’s Bible, the book of Amos contains 3 major and 2 minor themes (“Distinctive”).

The book of Amos contains 3 major and 2 minor themes (Last name).

If the author is not given: The book of Amos contains 3 major and 2 minor themes (“Distinctive”).