CITING ELECTRONIC RESOURCES:
STARTING POINTS FOR LEGAL RESEARCHERS

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.

I. Legal Citation Guides on the Web
II. Legal Citation Guides in Print: *The Bluebook* & Beyond
III. Style Manuals and Style Sheets for Citing Electronic Sources
IV. Guides to Citing U.S. Government Documents

I. Legal Citation Guides on the Web

Peter Martin, *Introduction to Basic Legal Citation*
http://www.law.cornell.edu/citation/

Note: It is unclear whether this site is using the 19th ed. of *The Bluebook*.

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

New York State Unified Court System, *Official Reports Style Manual*
http://www.courts.state.ny.us/reporter/New_Styman.htm

Note: Site last updated in 2009.

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.”

II. Legal Citation Guides in Print: The Bluebook & Beyond

*The Bluebook; a Uniform System of Citation (19th Edition)*
Reserves, Reference KF 245 .B58

Significant changes in the 19th edition *The Bluebook*:

See Rule 10: Cases
- Rule 10.8.3 now includes details for citations to audio recordings of court proceedings.

See Rule 16: Periodical Materials
- Rule 16.6 now contains provisions for citation to wire services.

See Rule 18: The Internet, Electronic Media and Other Nonprint Resources
- Rule 18 now allows increased citation to internet sources. For example, the rules now provide guidance on how to cite an internet source that does not attribute an author, how to cite online audio/video recordings and podcasts, how to cite to blogs, and how to timestamp internet documents.

See also Pace Law Library website offers a helpful chart with a list of changes in the 19th ed. of *The Bluebook*: [http://law.pace.edu/library/bluebook_changes.pdf](http://law.pace.edu/library/bluebook_changes.pdf)

*ALWD Citation Manual: A Professional System of Citation*
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

*AALL Universal Citation Guide*
Reference KF245 .U54

- 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

See also version 2.1 (published in 2000) available online at: [http://www.aallnet.org/committee/citation/ucg/index.html](http://www.aallnet.org/committee/citation/ucg/index.html)
III. Style Manuals and Style Sheets for Citing Electronic Sources

See the complete Chicago style guidelines at:

The Chicago Manual of Style
Reference Z253 .U69

Electronic Reference Formats Recommended by the American Psychological Association
http://www.apastyle.org/elecref.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

Using MLA Style to Cite Internet Sources
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
Bird Library Reference PN147 .G444 2008

IV. Citing Online Government Documents

Reference Z7164.G7 C48
Bird-Maps & Govt Info Reference Desk J9.5 .G37 2002

- 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.memphis.edu/govpub/citweb.php

- 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.knowledgecenter.unr.edu/subjects/guides/government/cite.html

- Sample citations

Citing Records in the National Archives of the United States
National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

Additional suggestions:
Candace Elliott Person, Citation of Legal and Non-legal Electronic Database Information
http://www.michbar.org/publications/citation.cfm

- Note: Based on the 16th ed. of *The Bluebook*
- 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/II/training/citation/citing.htm

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

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.

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

- Last updated Apr. 2009
- Not strictly a citation guide, but the complete GPO Printer’s style book


- Journal article on the citation of Wikipedia and the best practices for when and how to cite Wikipedia.