IEEE: Explanation, Formatting, and Samples

Documenting Sources: IEEE Format

What is IEEE format?  
The IEEE documentation style is set out by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers; it is widely used in fields such as electrical and computer engineering.

What sources must be documented?  
In academic writing, you must cite sources for all borrowed information and ideas, including research findings, information, and ideas that you’ve put into your own words. Do not, however, document statements that present common knowledge or generally known facts. If in doubt, cite your source.

What does documentation of a source consist of?  
Complete IEEE documentation consists of two elements:

• a numbered citation in square brackets in the body of the paper at the point where you’ve incorporated information from a source, and

• an entry in your reference list giving complete publication information for the source.

Examples of in-text citations are shown below:

Accident rates are not affected by the synchronization of traffic lights [1], [5].

Several studies, for example [1], [3], [5], have established that the synchronization of traffic lights has no effect on accident rates.

According to the Parks and Recreation director for the City of Megalopolis, most cyclists would agree to pay extra taxes to support extension of bike paths in the city [6].

Failure to document sources may be considered a breach of professional ethics [12].

• The first source you cite in your paper should be numbered [1]; subsequent references to this source will also be numbered [1]. The second source cited should be numbered [2], and so on.

• When a citation ends a sentence, include the end punctuation after the closing parenthesis.

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1 This page is edited from an University of Calgary Effective Writing Program handout (04/04/02)  
Available: [www.ucalgary.ca/lib-old/subjects/ENGG/IEEE%20Citation%20Style%20Guide.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/lib-old/subjects/ENGG/IEEE%20Citation%20Style%20Guide.pdf)  
May 15, 2007. (This document updated to new IEEE version in October 2018)
Formatting an IEEE Reference List

- **Page heading:** On a new page, type References, centred at the top of the page, as shown in the example below.
- **What to include:** Include entries for all sources cited in your paper.
- **Order of entries:** Arrange entries in numerical order in an indented list, from 1 on, with 1 referring to the first source cited in the body of your paper, etc.
- **Line spacing:** Single-space entries, with an extra line between entries.
- **Authors’ names:** Use authors’ initials rather than full first names (initial/s first, followed by family name). If a source has more than six authors, cite the first author followed by *et al.* (meaning "and others").
- **Caps & italics:** Capitalize all key words in the titles of journals and books, but only the first key word in article titles. Italicize titles of newsletters, newspapers, magazines, books, and journals - but not of book chapters or articles in journals. Enclose article titles within quotation marks.
- **Page numbers:** Include inclusive page numbers for all articles.
Sample IEEE reference entries

Book (or brochure):

Journal article:

Technical report:

Article in a daily newspaper:

Conference presentation (unpublished):

Personal communication (interviews, e-mail):

Course lectures:

Online sources:


Online newspaper:

Online journals:
**REFERENCES**


