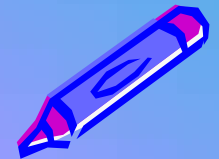




# Reference styles and common referencing errors...

B. Gitanjali



# Definition of a bibliographical reference

- ❖ A set of data or elements describing a document or part of a document and sufficiently precise and detailed to enable a potential reader to identify and locate it.





# Why cite references?

- ❖ It indicates the sources of your information, quotations and borrowed ideas.
- ❖ Avoids plagiarism
- ❖ The purpose is to describe your sources in an **accurate and consistent** manner and to indicate within the text of your paper where the particular sources were used.

*If I can see further it is because I have stood  
on the shoulders of giants*

*Sir Isaac Newton*

1. Sierles F, Hendrickx I, Circle S. Cheating in medical school. *J Med Educ* 1980; 55: 124-125.

2. Baldwin Jr DC, Daugherty SR, Rowley BD, Schwarz MD. Cheating in medical school: a survey of second-year students at 31 schools. *Acad Med* 1996; 71: 267-273.

3. Wagner Jr RF. Medical student academic misconduct: implications of recent case law and possible institutional responses. *Acad Med* 1993; 68: 887-889.

4. Anderson RE, Obenshain SS. Cheating by students: findings, reflections, and remedies. *Acad Med* 1994; 69: 323-332.

# Three major systems of citing references

- 📚 Vancouver System, Citation order, Citation-by-reference
- 📚 Harvard System (APA system), Author-Date, Name and Year
- 📚 Alphabet-Number System



# Vancouver System

- ❖ References are numbered and listed in the order in which they are cited in the text.
- ❖ Most common system at present.
- ❖ Gives more information than others.

e.g.

Cultural attitudes are known to influence compliance.<sup>1-3</sup>

## Which is correct?

Cultural attitudes are known to influence compliance<sup>1,3,5</sup>.

Cultural attitudes are known to influence compliance.<sup>1,3,5</sup>

## Harvard System

- ❖ References are cited in the text with the last name of the primary author and the year of publication.
- ❖ The reference list is arranged alphabetically by the author's names.

Previous studies by Marshall (1968), Smith *et al.*(1977) and Harvey (1983) have shown that cultural attitudes influence compliance.

Previous studies have shown that cultural attitudes influence compliance (Marshall 1968, Smith *et al.*1977 and Harvey 1983).

# Alphabet-Number System

- ❖ References are listed in alphabetical order according to the primary author's last name and cited by numbers in the text.

e.g.

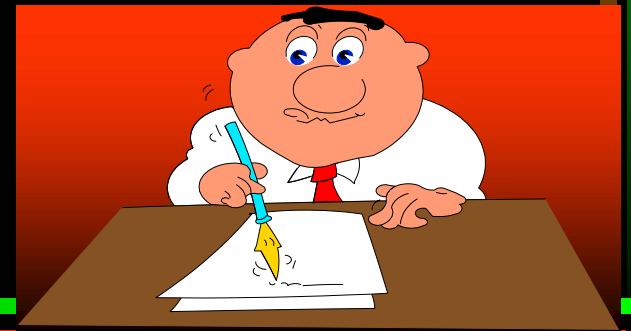
Cultural attitudes are known to influence compliance. (1-3)

# What kind of information needs a reference?

Do not give references for facts which are well known

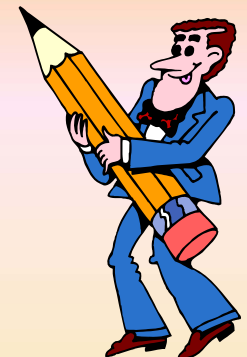
*Staph aureus* is a gram positive organism (no reference needed)

SARS is caused by a coronavirus (give reference)



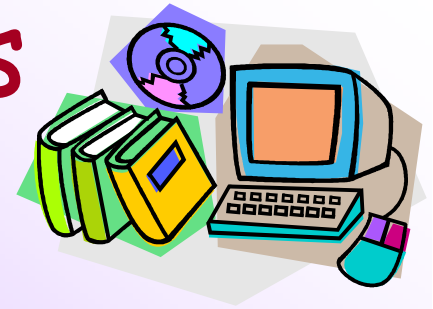
# References: Much ado about nothing?...

- ❖ Editors and referees infer that sloppy references may indicate sloppy work.
- ❖ Check, re-check and re-re-check
- ❖ Referencing indicates that you have read the background material, and are prepared to scientifically argue your work against a backdrop of what is already known on the subject.



# Referencing - some tips

Which sources can be used for referencing?



- ❖ Use text books, review articles, original papers from journals, electronic sources - any source which can be authenticated
- ❖ Preferably, do not use newspaper clippings, articles "in press"; personal communication
- ❖ Never cite a reference which you have not read
- ❖ Be consistent and accurate



## Referencing - common errors

Non-compliance has been observed in the treatment of a wide variety of diseases. Most of the studies reported that 30-50% of all patients failed to take their medications over a long period of time. Other types of poor compliance include errors in dosage, mistakes in timing or sequence or taking medications for the wrong reasons.<sup>1</sup>



## Referencing - common pitfalls contd...

*"Non-compliance has been observed in the treatment of a wide variety of diseases. Most of the studies reported that 30-50% of all patients failed to take their medications over a long period of time. Other types of poor compliance include errors in dosage, mistakes in timing or sequence or taking medications for the wrong reasons."*<sup>1</sup>

## Referencing - common pitfalls contd..

Non-compliance has been observed in the treatment of a wide variety of diseases.<sup>1</sup> Most of the studies reported that 30-50% of all patients failed to take their medications over a long period of time.<sup>2-4</sup> Other types of poor compliance include errors in dosage,<sup>5</sup> mistakes in timing or sequence<sup>3,5</sup> or taking medications for the wrong reasons.<sup>1,3</sup>

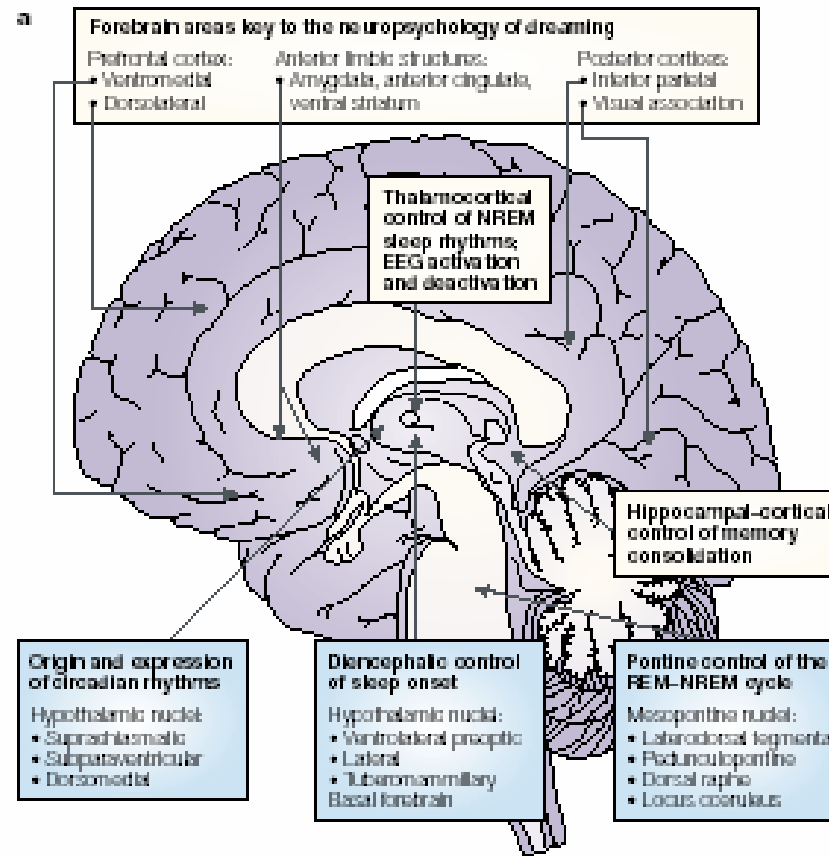


Figure 1. Brain regions of current interest to the neurobiology of sleep. (Figure reproduced with permission from: Pace-Schott EF, Hobson JA. *The neurobiology of sleep. Nature Reviews* 2002;3:697-723.)

# How many references?

- Check with the instructions to authors



Number of references is directly proportional to the year in which the thesis/dissertation is being submitted...*Gitanjali*



Hmm..let me add another 50 more and bring it up to a nice round number like 300..

Title : Risk of subsequent thromboembolism  
for patients with pre-eclampsia

Authors : Adam Cohn, Yasir Katib, Mark  
Walker, Jane Smith

Journal : British Medical Journal

Year 2003 Volume No: 326 Pages : 791-  
792.

Parkin DM, Clayton D, Black RJ. Childhood  
leukaemia in Europe after Chernobyl: five year  
follow-up. Br J Cancer 1996;73:1006-12.

# Vancouver format

Cohn A, Katib Y, Walker M, Smith J.  
Risk of subsequent thromboembolism  
for patients with pre-eclampsia.  
Br Med J 2003;326:791-2.

# Book

Essentials of Medical Pharmacology, 4<sup>th</sup> edition

KD Tripathi

Published by

Jaypee Brothers Medical Publishers (P) Ltd.

New Delhi 110 002

© 1999, K.D.Tripathi

4<sup>th</sup> edition 1999; Updated reprint 2001

*Personal author(s)*

Ringsven MK, Bond D. Gerontology and leadership skills for nurses. 2nd ed.

Albany (NY): Delmar Publishers; 1996.

## Vancouver format

Tripathi KD. Essentials of Medical Pharmacology. 4th ed. New Delhi: Jaypee Brothers Medical Publishers (P) Ltd; 1999.

- 19. *Chapter in a book*

(Note: Previous Vancouver style had a colon rather than a p before pagination.)

Phillips SJ, Whisnant JP. Hypertension and stroke. In: Laragh JH, Brenner BM, editors. Hypertension: pathophysiology, diagnosis, and management. 2nd ed. New York: Raven Press; 1995. p. 465-78.

# Article from the web

World Health Organization. *Summary on major findings in relation to coronavirus by members of the WHO multi-centre collaborative network on SARS aetiology and diagnosis*. Geneva: WHO, 4 April

2003. [www.who.int/csr/sars/findings/en](http://www.who.int/csr/sars/findings/en)  
(accessed 10Apr 2003).

# International Committee of Medical Journal Editors

[www.icmje.org](http://www.icmje.org)

- Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals: Writing and Editing for Biomedical Publication
- *Updated November 2003*



Thank you

