

VIII. Documentation

1. Documenting your Research

As you write your paper, you will need information from other writers and/or researchers to support your thesis statement, argument, or point of view. You will need to use quotes from other researchers, paraphrase others' works, or both to support your ideas and findings. When you incorporate others' ideas and/or materials into your paper, you will need to give credit to the original author. You accomplish this by citing the authors' works in your papers. Failure to provide credit for another's work is known as *plagiarism*. Always provide complete and accurate citations in your paper so that persons reading your research may locate the data contained in the citation quickly and easily. In addition, there are a variety of citation formats that you may choose from. The one you choose, however, will depend on the discipline you are working with. The following styles are the most common:

- **Social Sciences:** *APA* (American Psychological Association)
- **Humanities:** *MLA* (Modern Language Association)
- **History:** *Chicago Manual of Style*
- **Medicine:** American Medical Association

If you are unsure which citation format you should be using, always check with your instructor to determine what citation format he/she prefers.

2. Style Manuals

The following style manuals are located in the library:

American Psychological Association. *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. 5th ed. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. 2001. *Ref. BF76.7 .P83 2001*

Gibaldi, Joseph, ed. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 5th ed. New York: Modern Language Association. Modern Language Association of America. 1999. *Ref. LB2369 .G53 1999*

Iverson, Cheryl, ed. *American Medical Association Manual of Style*. 9th ed. Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins. 1998. *Ref. R119 .A533 1998*

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 6th ed. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. 1996. (Based on the Chicago Manual of Style) *Ref. LB2369 .T8 1996*