VIII. Citing Your Sources

A. Documenting Your Research

When writing your paper, you will need information from other writers and/or researchers to support your thesis statement, argument, or point of view. In other words, 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 constitutes what 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:

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

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

B. Style Manuals

Examples of style manuals located in the library:

*Ref. LB2369.G53 1999*
