CITATION GUIDE: THE AUSTRALIAN GUIDE TO LEGAL CITATION (AGLC)

Use this sheet to help you:

- Follow the Australian Guide to Legal Citation (AGLC) referencing conventions
- Cite online sources using the AGLC style
Why cite?

It is imperative to acknowledge the sources of material that you have consulted when undertaking a piece of assessment for law subjects. Not only does this enable a subsequent reader to follow or verify facts with ease, but it may also avert plagiarism (see also Plagiarism helpsheet).

Often acknowledgement or citations are listed in footnotes, endnotes of a bibliography, and generally include information about primary and/or secondary material.

Broadly speaking, the following is a list of some common items of information that is required to prepare a citation:

- Title
- Author
- Book or Journal name
- Page numbers
- Publication information (including year, publisher and/or editor/s)
- URL details (if source is accessed via the internet), including date accessed

Types of sources: primary and secondary sources

Legal information sources are divided into two distinct categories.

Primary sources are the laws created by Parliament (i.e. Legislature) and the Courts:
- Statute Law (legislation)
- Case Law (common law)

Secondary sources provide explanations or descriptions of primary sources, and comprise:
- Books, Digests, Encyclopedias
- Journal articles, reports, commentary written by practitioners, academics and reform bodies.

Keep in mind that a number of source types exist which fall within either of the above mentioned categories. This helpsheet provides examples of some of the more common types of sources that students encounter when undertaking legal research.
Primary Sources

Cases

See AGLC Rule 2

Reported Judgments

Students should aim to cite from authorised law reports if available. For example, the Commonwealth Law Reports (CLR), Federal Court Reports (FCR) and Victorian Reports (VR), etc.

Broadly speaking, a reported case is a case that has been published in a law report series (this may be in print, online or both).

How do I cite?

- Law reports with sequential volume numbering

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part names</th>
<th>(Year)</th>
<th>Volume number</th>
<th>Law report abbreviation</th>
<th>First page</th>
<th>Cited page and/or [paragraph number]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>


- Law reports with sequence organised by year rather than volume

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party names</th>
<th>[Year]</th>
<th>Volume number</th>
<th>Law report abbreviation</th>
<th>First page</th>
<th>Cited page and/or [paragraph number]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>


Other examples:
*Commissioner of Taxation v Kirk* [1900] AC 588.

Unreported Judgments

A case is unreported if it’s not published in a law report series.

How do I cite?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party names</th>
<th>[Year]</th>
<th>Court Abbreviation</th>
<th>Sequential judgement number</th>
<th>(Full date)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Statutes

See AGLC Rule 3.1

Acts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Short title</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>(Jurisdiction)</th>
<th>Pinpoint reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Example: Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (Cth) s 4B.

Bills

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Short title</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>(Jurisdiction)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>


Treaties

See AGLC Rule 7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treaty title</th>
<th>Parites names</th>
<th>Date opened for signature or signed</th>
<th>Treaty series</th>
<th>Date of entry into force</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>


Secondary Sources

Books

See AGLC Rule 5 and Rule 1.14.2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>(Publisher, edition, year of publication)</th>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Paragraph or chapter reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Footnotes: First name, Last name

Bibliography: Last name, First name
**Authored book**

Example (1 author): Williams, George, Human Rights Under the Australian Constitution (Oxford University Press, 1999).


**Edited book**


**Chapter in an edited book**


**Journal articles**

See AGLC Rule 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>(Year)</th>
<th>Volume</th>
<th>Journal</th>
<th>First page number of the article</th>
<th>Cited page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Journal article with continuous voluming – use round brackets for the year**


**Journal article with no continuous voluming – use square brackets for the year**


If paragraph numbers are available, these may be referred to and enclosed in square brackets.

**Journal article only available on the internet (no print equivalent)**


Internet sources

See AGLC Rule 6.15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>(Full date of last update)</th>
<th>Website name &lt;URL&gt;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

A Document published on the internet


Tip! Be careful when citing material from the internet, as a lot of it is unreliable for academic purposes. Students can often weaken the quality of their work through heavy reliance on online material.

Law reform agency reports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of law reform commission</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Report/discussion paper number</th>
<th>(Year)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>


Legal encyclopaedias

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Title of encyclopedia</th>
<th>(at full date of last update)</th>
<th>Title number Name of title</th>
<th>'Chapter number Name of chapter'</th>
<th>[Paragraph number]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>


Footnotes

- See AGLC Rule 1.1 – 1.4
- Use footnotes for citations; not endnotes.
- Do not use ‘id’, ‘op cit’, ‘supra’, or ‘infra’.
- Use ‘ibid’ (meaning ‘the same’) if the source and pinpoint reference in the immediately preceding footnote is the same source and pinpoint being cited in the current footnote.
- If the source being cited has been cited in an earlier footnote, but not in the footnote immediately preceding, then use the author’s surname and ‘above’ to refer to that previous citation (e.g. Hinchliffe above n 2).
• When referring to a subsequent footnote, use ‘below’.
• Put a full stop at the end of each footnote.

**Bibliographies**

• See Australian Guide to Legal Citation (3rd ed., 2010), Rule 1.16
• This usually appears at the end of a piece of work (e.g. assignment) to outline the references used or relied on to produce that work, whether cited in the footnotes or not.
• Where a bibliography is used, group or class items in alphabetical order under the following subheadings:

  A. Articles / Books / Reports
  B. Cases
  C. Legislation
  D. Treaties
  E. Other