SBL Citation Quick Guide

This guide is based on The SBL Handbook of Style 2nd Ed. It is intended to be a quick reference guide only. For a comprehensive list of examples, and abbreviations please consult the official handbook available in the Library (PN 147 S26 2014).

The following abbreviations are used in the citation guide:

- **N** = Footnote: this is used in your footnote the first time you cite a work.
- **SN** = Short note: Follow this example if you have already cited the source previously in your paper.
- **B** = Bibliography: Follow this example for creating your bibliography.

## Citation Examples

### Primary Sources

When citing the bible you do not need to create a footnote or bibliography entry. You cite the bible passage in parentheses within the body of the paper. i.e.: 

“In Mark and Luke the “voice from heaven” speaks in second person, while in Matthew the voice speaks in the third person (Matt 3:17; Mark 1:22; Luke 3:22).”

You can use parentheses for common non-biblical primary sources, but these do need an entry in the bibliography. i.e.: 

In text:

“Josephus argues that the cessation of the sacrifice for foreigners was one of the main reasons for the start of the Roman war (Josephus, War 2:408-410).”

Bibliography:

Books

Examples

Books with one author


Books with 2 or 3 authors


SN = Hanson and Oakman, *Palestine*, 42.


Books with more than 3 authors


Ebook – If an ebook is identical to a print edition, you can cite it as you would a print book and “it is not necessary to indicate the format consulted” (Rule 6.2.25).

A translated book


**Multivolume Work** (When citing the whole run of a multivolume work you must put the range of years over which all volumes were published; in addition you must add the volume and page from which your citation comes in your footnote in the form of `volume:page`)


**Edited book** (Editors follow the same rules as authors; see examples for 1, 2-3, and more than 3 authors above.)


**Single Chapter or essay within an edited book**


**A work in a series**


A Commentary in a Series


**Articles**

Print Journal Article (you do not need to include the journal issue number unless the journal does not have consecutive pagination within a volume)


SN = 43 Goff, “Ben Sira,” 650.


Magazine Article (with non-consecutive pagination within the volume)


Online Journal Article (for online journals add the DOI or URL of the article at the end of your citation)


SN = 43 Goff, “Ben Sira,” 650.


**Article in a Dictionary or Encyclopedia**

Other Sources

An Unpublished Thesis or Dissertation
SN = 47 Ouellette, “Driving Out,” 44.

Webpage
SN = 9 “The One Hundred Most Important Cuneiform Objects.”
B = “The One Hundred Most Important Cuneiform Objects.” cdliwiki.
    http://cdli.ox.ac.uk/wiki/doku.php?id=the_one_hundred_most_important_cuneiform_objects.

Blog Post
SN = 9 Le Donn, "Jesus and Militancy."

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