THE CITATION GUIDE FOR INTERNET SOURCES
IN HISTORY AND OTHER SCIENCES

Abstract: The question of the citation is of crucial importance during the historical research because only through the critical apparatus it is possible to check out the validity of the facts, arguments and finally author’s conclusions. This paper deals with the problem of citation in history and other sciences and its goal is to determine standards for citation from Internet.

Key words: historical research, science, Internet, citation, standards, styles.

About citation

The question of the citation is of crucial importance in the historical research because only through the critical apparatus it is possible to check out the facts and data, to which the author in his work is calling upon. 1 In historical and other sciences there is the commonly established standard for the citations from the printed works. However, this standard does not exist for digitized works or narrative sources which can be found on the Internet. Today, in the era of “historical information science” 2, this represents the serious problem – the problem of many different possibilities. The address, the data of the last update, the name of the author, the title of the work, and the year of the printed version, if there is one (and brackets are used in the different places or they don’t even exists), are quoted. Specific problem is also the pagination. Often, the author is calling upon the single line from somebody’s work or source; on the Internet page could be long like a book itself, article or the source. This problem causes numerous researchers not only from the field of history but also from closely related social sciences, to think that the data from the Internet could not be quoted properly. The solution of these citation problems demands both the research of the universal standards concerning the presentation in digital form, and World Wide coordination in defining these standards. 3

3 Aleksandra Fosikov, Nenad Milenović, Internet и дигитализација у историјском истраживању, Историјски часопис LI (2004) 187-203; Aleksandra Fosikov, Nenad Milenović,
Different styles

How to cite the Internet sources? became one of more important questions for new generation of researchers. The unification of the citation standards for the Internet resources is still in progress. At the moment development in that direction brings to our attention the existence of many diverse styles used not only in different sciences, but also in the same one (e. g. History). The most of them their authors presented and explained on the Internet pages sites while on other there are so-called Internet citation guides. Here are only mentioned some of them, the others are given in appendix. Beside those well-know, like APA (American Psychological Association) or MLA (Modern Language Association), there are also CBE, (Council of Biology Editors) Style for Documentation in Science and Mathematics, or some proposals styles like that by Maurice Crouse – Citing Electronic Information in History Papers. The importance of this question is clearly visible because it is the object of research in many books and articles whose authors try to explain existing styles, with many examples for their use and to propose the direction toward their unification. Some of the Internet pages also offer their users the option to practice some of these styles and to create reference from particular specifications.

It is important to say that all of them have more than one format for citing information from Internet depending of sort of sources which are citing in papers. These are: World Wide Web site, Email message, Web discussion forum posting, Listserv message, Newsgroup message, Real-time communication and Telnet, FTP, and Gopher.

11 Citing Net Sources > Overview - Key Ideas, net.TUTOR Home, The Ohio State University Libraries, http://gateway.lib.ohio-state.edu/tutor/les7/, 21.08.2005. (18.11.2005). This page have link to the Citation Machine, an online tool for creating both APA and MLA style citations. This tool can be used for citing both print and electronic sources. Citation Machine, by David Warlick, Landmark Project. http://citationmachine.net/ (18.11.2005).
sites. Except those groups, there are special formats for citing other electronic sources like CD or DVD media, tape or diskette (unchangeable databases).

**Recommendation for the citation of printing works in their digital format**

Our recommendation is that the citation of a web-page should consist of following elements: author's last name, first name and (or) Initial(s), title of the document (in italic), title of complete work [if applicable], version or file number [if applicable], the name of the Internet site, the date of update [if different from access date], protocol and address, access path or directories and date of access (citation), e.g.


The citation of printing version of the document in digital format should also contain: Edition, Issue designation (for serials), publisher, place and date of publication, Standard number (e.g., ISBN, ISSN), e.g.,


The problem, in both cases mentioned above, which still waits to be solved is the citation of a page number. These papers, mentioned above, are in *pdf* format, which is the best solution for the problem of pagination in citation from Internet. In the case that papers are not given in such format, e.g.,


the problem could be solve with using of print preview of given documents. In this case, except of the number of page or pages, it is important to mention the name and version of program, in which is document is edited (*Internet Explorer 6.0, Netscape 7.1*).\(^{11}\)

During the work on a paper, of course it is necessary to consult with the members of the redaction about the style. As we have already mentioned styles are very different and they depend on the policy of particular institution, more than styles used in the printed works.

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\(^{11}\) It should be mentioned that the number of the page cited in this way is not the same as the number of that page in printed version. This problem will not appear if the papers are given only in electronic form. Александра Фостиков, Ненад Миленовић, *Интернет и дигитализација у историјском истраживању*, Историјски часопис 51 (2004) 187–203.
Appendix:

I- Citation Styles:

3. MLA Style from the MLA (Modern Language Association of America) http://www.mla.org/, 11.09.2005. (20.11.2005). It is necessary to click on the link to MLA Style and go to the Frequently Asked Questions, (http://www.mla.org/style_faq) because the guidelines are the only ones available on the Internet that are authorized by the MLA.

II- Citation Guides:


11. *General Citation Considerations*, Humanities & Social Sciences Online, [http://www.h-net.org/about/citation/general.html](http://www.h-net.org/about/citation/general.html), (20.11.2005).

12. *Citation of electronic sources*, University of Botswana History Department, [http://www.thuto.org/ubh/web/cite.htm#contents](http://www.thuto.org/ubh/web/cite.htm#contents), (20.11.2005).


14. *Subject Resources for Writing & Citation Guides For Students & Faculty*, The University of British Columbia Library, [http://toby.library.ubc.ca/subjects/subpage1.cfm?id=790](http://toby.library.ubc.ca/subjects/subpage1.cfm?id=790), 08.11.2005. (20.11.2005).


18. Guide to Citation Style Guides, Journalism Resources by Karla Tonella, University of Iowa, [http://bailiwick.lib.uiowa.edu/journalism/cite.html](http://bailiwick.lib.uiowa.edu/journalism/cite.html), 10.06.2005. (20.11.2005).


21. *Introduction to Basic Legal Citation (LII 2003 ed.)* by Peter W. Martin, Legal Information Institute, Cornell University, [http://www.law.cornell.edu/citation/](http://www.law.cornell.edu/citation/), (20.11.2005).

22. *i-cite : Guide to Citing References*, Citing Electronic Resources, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom, [http://www.i-cite.bham.ac.uk/icite03.htm](http://www.i-cite.bham.ac.uk/icite03.htm), (20.11.2005).


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