The 'proof' in historical argument depends upon reference to sources. As you pursue your reading in our course, you will notice that most books and articles by professional historians contain numerous references. Your essays for us will have to demonstrate the same technique. We have prepared this Guide to aid you in the use and presentation of source material.

Please note that the Harvard system (in-text references) is not an acceptable referencing style for History essays.

Part I: How and when to cite your sources.

Please begin by reading the following 'mini-essay' and studying its footnotes and bibliography.

The question of the social foundations of socialism has generated historical debate since at least the beginning of the twentieth century, when socialism itself became the most dynamic ideological force in Europe. During recent years, this debate has evoked increasing interest in the role of peasants and artisans in the development of nineteenth-century socialist politics, particularly during the rise of socialism in France.¹ Indeed, it has been asserted that 'the first great wave of socialist militancy depended upon farmers and self-employed skilled workers.'² Certainly the socialist movement in southern France in the 1890s appears to have evolved from the peasantry, who provided at least sixty percent of its electoral support.³ Unfortunately, many of the most important aspects of this phenomenon remain unexplored.⁴ The evidence, however, contradicts Marx's assertion that 'the proletariat alone is the really revolutionary class.'⁵

Notes


4. This insufficiency is particularly characteristic of research on the relationship between the new socialist politics and the older republican tradition.

* This writing guide is the work of a number of UWA historians, including Rob Stuart, Marianne Hicks, Andrea Gaynor and Mark Edele.

**Bibliography**


There are five footnotes for a single paragraph in this example, which has been rather artificially constructed for illustrative purposes. This density of referencing may occasionally be appropriate in your essays, but would normally be too much of a good thing. It would be a rare paragraph of an essay, however, which would not require at least one citation of a source.

It is best to use a word processor's automatic footnote facility to create footnotes (ask your tutor if you don't know how to use it), though they can also be created manually. Reference numbers should be superscript (as in the example above), and it is usually best to place them at the end of the relevant sentence or paragraph. The notes to which the numbers refer may be placed at the bottom of the page (footnotes) or at the end of the essay (endnotes). We prefer footnotes, but you will not be penalised for using endnotes instead. Number your notes consecutively (notes 1 to 43 throughout your essay, **not** notes 1 to 3 on p. 1, 1 to 5 on p. 2, 1 to 4 on p. 3 and so on). Historians usually use notes rather than in-text referencing styles (such as Harvard), because they allow for the inclusion of more detail, which is particularly useful when citing unpublished sources such as archival documents.

You should notice that the first sentence of the 'mini-essay' does not have a reference. Generally accepted factual material does not require a citation to support it: we don't need a source to reassure us that Hitler is a controversial figure or that World War I broke out in 1914.

Note 1 in the example above is a 'bibliographical note' referring to a body of literature. A statement such as 'there has been an increasing amount of interest' or 'some historians have suggested' would normally require such a reference. This note also illustrates formats for references to the three major varieties of sources: a book (Moss), a journal article (Johnson), and a contribution to an edited collection (Sewell). When citing a contribution to an edited collection, you must always cite both the contribution itself (in this case W. Sewell, 'Property, Labor and the Emergence of Socialism in France') and the collection in which it appeared (here J. Merriman (ed.), *Consciousness and Class Experience in Nineteenth-Century Europe*, New York, Holmes & Meier Publishers, 1979). You will also see that where you wish to cite more than one source in a footnote, you should separate them with semi-colons.

Quotations must always have a reference, as in note 2. Where you are referencing a quotation or specific idea, you must give the page number/s on which this quote or idea appears (rather than the entire page range for the article or chapter). This note also shows you how to refer to a work which has already been referred to in a preceding note. You must
give the author's last name and shortened version of the title, as well as the necessary page reference, but should not mention any other bibliographical information. In the past it was common to use the latin terms op. cit. or ibid. (so that the reference would have read: Moss, op. cit., p.47.), but these latinisms are falling out of favour, and we suggest you use the short title format instead. Statistics must always be referenced, as with note 3.

Not all notes include a citation. Some may develop a point which is worth mentioning, but which is too peripheral to be included in the body of the essay, as with note 4. You can overuse this form, since there is a narrow range between including material in such a note which would best be omitted altogether or, alternatively, should have been included in the body of the essay.

Note 5 shows how you should cite material which was itself cited in one of your sources. It would be unacceptable in this case to simply cite Johnson, and it would be dishonest to simply cite the Manifesto, since you had not consulted this source in the original. You will notice that this reference to Johnson is another short title citation, since this source was used in note 1.

Finally, every history essay must include a bibliography listing all the sources used. These must be alphabetised by author’s surname, and should use the same format as that employed for the first citation of a work in the notes, apart from the convention of placing the author's last name first. Note that in your bibliography, you must provide the full page range for journal articles and chapters in edited books.

The above examples of referencing do not exhaust the problems which arise in citing sources and compiling bibliographies. Please consult your tutor if you have any questions.

Part 2: A guide to citation style

During your time at university, you should become familiar with a range of different citation styles. In our history units, we ask you to use Oxford style, which is widely used in published works, and relatively straightforward.

Examples of how to cite a book, a journal article, and a contribution to an edited collection appear above. You should note carefully the order in which information about the book appears, and the use of commas, quotation marks and italics.

What if you need to cite another kind of source? There are conventions for citing all kinds of source materials, and we include some of the most common ones here. If you need to cite sources that we don’t cover here (such as a CD-ROM), visit the Library’s guide to citing sources at: http://www.library.uwa.edu.au/guides/citingsources/ and click on the link to ‘Oxford Style’/

Citing books
Give: Author, Title, Place, Publisher, Year, page/s.
(Remember, in a bibliography this work would appear as follows: Kershaw, Ian, Hitler 1889-1936: Hubris, London, Allen Lane, 1998.)

Citing journal articles
Author, ‘Title of article’, Title of Journal, volume, (issue number, if there is one), year, page/s.
Citing articles in an edited collection
Author, ‘Title of chapter’, in Editor/s (ed. or eds), Title of Edited Collection, Place, Publisher, Year, Page number/s.

Citing Online Sources
A vast variety of sources are available on the web, although these need to be approached critically - there is a lot of rubbish out there! When citing online sources, the same principles apply as for print sources: you should start with the author, then the title of the document, the title of the complete work, the location, the date of publication and the date on which you accessed the material (as online documents may change or disappear at any time). Examples:


If a journal or newspaper is available both in hard copy and as an electronic copy through an electronic database such as Jstor, and it is available in PDF format (with page numbers), quote it as if you quoted from the hard copy. If there are no page numbers (for example, if the article is in html format), you must quote the URL (web address).

Citing Audio-Visual Sources
List the title of the work, special credits (eg. the director), the place of production/recording/transmission, the publisher/studio, the date, and the format (in brackets). This information is usually available via library catalogues. 

Citing Newspaper and Magazine Articles (usually as primary sources)
Give the author’s name (if known), title of article (if known), title of the newspaper (omit ‘The’), date, and page number.

Citing Oral Histories
Give the interviewee’s name, the interviewer’s name, date of interview, location of tape (with a reference number, if it is in a library)