AN INTRODUCTION TO THE IEEE REFERENCING STYLE FOR STUDENTS – Updated September 2025



Introduction

Computer Science and Electronic Engineering related subjects generally use the IEEE referencing style. When using IEEE citations, the citations should be numbered accordingly to the order in which they appear in the text and inside the punctuation.

The 3 main features of IEEE citation style are

- 1. First name/Initial Surname
- 2. Title of chapter, conference paper or article in quotation marks ("")
- 3. Title of book or Journal in italics

In text example: Thus it is sometimes convenient to see a function as a group of ordered pairs [1].

This citation would appear in the References as follows:

References

[1] L. J. Gerstein, Discrete Mathematics and Algebraic Structures, NY, USA: W.H. Freeman and Company, 1987.

- Each number in the text corresponds to a reference at the end of the report so it is understood which source was used to which area of the report.
- Every IEEE reference corresponds to an IEEE citation in the report.
- This citation in the report is displayed as a number written in square brackets and this enables the reader to see the full reference in the bibliography, numbered at the end of each report.
- When displaying months with more than four letters in the bibliography use the first 3 letters of the months.
- Use et al. when 6 or more names are given.
- In every reference the initial of the name of the editor or author is used and precedes the surname.
- References may not have all the information included. Only include relevant information.
- The combining of references is forbidden. There is only 1 reference for each number.

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Citing a Book

Format: [Reference No] Author(s)' Initial. Surname, Book title, Edition. Location: Publisher, year.

Example: [1] L. J. Gerstein, *Discrete Mathematics and Algebraic Structures*, NY, USA: W.H. Freeman and Company, 1987.

Citing an eBook

Format: [Reference No] Author(s)' Initial. Surname, Book title, (edition). Location: publisher, year. [Online]. Available: URL

Example: [2] C. MacGillivray, 3D for the web, MA, USA: Focal Press, 2005. [Online]. Available: https://www.ebookcentral.com

Citing an Electronic Journal

Format: [Reference No] Author(s)' Initial. Surname, "Article Title," Journal title, Month. Year. Accessed: Month Day, Year. [Online]. Available: URL

Example: [3] M. Amati and R. Rurali, "Surface physics of semiconducting nanowires," *Progress in Surface Science*. Dec. 2016. Accessed: Apr 16, 2016. [Online].

Available: http://Sciencedirect.com.mtu.idm.olc.org/science? ob

Citing a Web Page

Format: [Reference No] Author(s)' Initial. Surname, "Title of webpage," Title of website, month day, year of website. date accessed. [Online]. Available: URL

Example: [4] Health and Safety Authority "Workplace Transport," Mar 7, 2016. Accessed: Apr. 24, 2016. [Online]. Available: https://www.hsa.ie/eng/vehicles at Workplace Transport Safety/

GenAl text in-text citation

Example: OpenAI ChatGPT was prompted "What are the key human factors in designing a hearing aid" are great skill and dedication and attention to detail [5].



GenAl image in-text citation



Fig 1. Canva was prompted to "Create a dragon at the foot of a mountain" Al generated image, [6].

GenAl text Reference list entry

Format: [Reference No] Author initial. Surname, "prompt," Date. unpublished.

Example: [5] OpenAl's ChatGPT, response to prompt "What are the key human factors in designing a hearing aid," Apr. 25, 2025. unpublished.

GenAl Image Reference list entry

Format: [Reference No] Author initial. Surname, "prompt," private communication, Date.

Example: [6] Canva, response to prompt "Create a dragon at the foot of a mountain," private communication, Apr. 3, 2025.

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Sample Reference List

- [1] L. J. Gerstein, Discrete Mathematics and Algebraic Structures, NY, USA: W.H. Freeman and Company, 1987.
- [2] C. MacGillivray, 3D for the web, MA, USA: Focal Press, 2005. [Online]. Available: https://www.ebookcentral.com
- [3] M. Amati and R. Rurali, "Surface physics of semiconducting nanowires," *Progress in Surface Science*. Dec. 2016. Accessed Apr. 16, 2016. [Online]. Available: https://Sciencedirect.com.mtu.idm.olc.org/science? ob
- [4] Health and Safety Authority "Workplace Transport." Mar 7, 2016, Accessed: Apr. 24, 2016, [Online], Available: https://www.hsa.ie/eng/yehicles at Workplace Transport Safety/
- [5] What are the key human factors in designing a hearing aid. OpenAl's ChatGPT, private communication, Apr. 6, 2025.
- [6] Create a dragon at the foot of a mountain. Canva, private communication, Apr. 3, 2025.

Note: These rules regarding citations and Bibliographic references are to be used as a guide only, for a full list of complete rules the student should contact their lecturer or Department.