WHAT’S NEW IN APA 7th?

APA 7th is an improvement on APA 6th. For one thing, the American Psychological Association has finally acknowledged that students as well as more senior scholars use APA, and that they and their instructors have needs that are quite distinct from those of authors preparing manuscripts for publication.

FORMATTING

Running Heads
Student papers are no longer required to have running heads, so the header contains only the page number.

Titles and Section Heads
Titles and sections heads (e.g., References) are now bolded.

Headings
All levels of headings are now bolded, and level three is left aligned. Levels three and five are italicized.

Fonts
There is far more leeway with respect to the fonts, so long as the same font is used throughout the paper:

Options include: a sans serif font such as 11-point Calibri, 11-point Arial, or 10-point Lucinda Sans Unicode, or a serif font such as 12-point Times New Roman, 11-point Georgia or normal (10-point) Computer Modern. (APA Manual, 7th Edition, p.

It is not entirely clear whether this is intended to be an exhaustive list or whether users are being asked to exercise their own judgement as to whether any particular font is sufficiently similar to one of those listed so as to be acceptable in APA style. For this reason, it is recommended that you check with your instructor before using a font not listed above.

Single Space after Period
APA now requires only a single space after a period.

Singular “They”
APA now recommends using singular “they” in place of the more cumbersome “he or she.”

CITATIONS

Online vs. Print Sources
Whether a source has been accessed in print or online now matters a lot less, particularly for sources accessed in print of through the Library’s databases.

DOIs are now consistently given as URLs – e.g., https://doi.org/10.1186/1479-5868-9-118

Retrieval dates are no longer necessary unless the source is designed to change over time with no archival copies kept (so Wikipedia does not require a retrieval statement because it is archived).
APA no longer requires that users falsely state that they have retrieved online journal articles the journal’s homepage even when this is not the case. Instead, most journal articles are referenced exactly the same way regardless of how they have been accessed: if there is no DOI, then the entry ends with the page numbers.


The name of the publisher is included only if the book doesn’t have a DOI – and even then the place of publication is omitted.


The titles of webpages are now italicized, except for blog posts, which are now treated as articles with the name of the blog standing in for the periodical title. Confusingly, articles on news websites such as the BBC are treated not as articles but as webpages. Go figure.

