

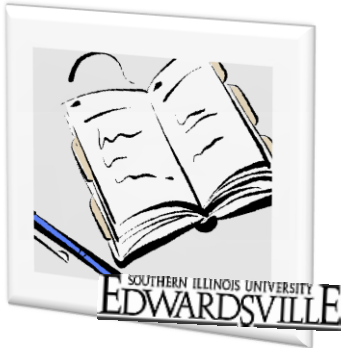
# Lovejoy Library

## Understanding & Interpreting Citations

### Citation Basics

*What is a Citation?*

A citation is a written reference to a specific work or portion of a work, such as a book, magazine or journal article, newspaper article, government report, etc. Citations help to identify documents in which the work can be found, according to its particular author, editor, organization, or identifying information.



**TIP**

*Indexes may include citations for government documents, newspaper articles, books, book reviews, magazine articles, and journal articles. To determine the appropriate format, examine all parts of a citation.*

### Basic Parts of a Citation


Source information can be written in various formats, but generally have four main parts:

**Author**  
**Title**  
**Source**  
**Publication Year**

### Citation Formats

**Journal:** Article title, author name, journal title, publication date, volume and/or issue number, page numbers

Sample:

[Mentoring College Students: A Critical Review of the Literature Between 1990 and 2007.](#)   
By: Crisp, Gloria; Cruz, Irene. Research in Higher Education, Sep2009, Vol. 50 Issue 6, p525-545, 21p.  
(AN 41885824)

**Book:** Title, author, place of publication, publisher, year of publication

Sample:

**Title:** Bridge of sighs / Richard Russo.  
**Author:** [Russo, Richard, 1949-](#)  
**Published:** New York : Alfred A. Knopf, 2007

**Newspaper:** Article title, author, title of publication, date of publication, page number

Sample:

[Charisma? To Her, It's Overrated.](#)   
By: BRYANT, ADAM. New York Times, 7/5/2009, p2, 0p

For additional assistance contact Lydia Jackson, Instruction Librarian ([ljacks@siue.edu](mailto:ljacks@siue.edu) or 618-650-2604).