

iv – A Guide to Referencing

Before geography researchers carry out any fieldwork they will always read around the subject matter and make notes on what kind of research has already gone before them on that topic. When they write-up their overall findings, many will include a **Literature Review** or a summary of what they have read during this time and what it has told them about their area of research.

Plagiarism:

Using someone else's ideas or wording and making them appear to be your own.

In your Independent Investigation you may also decide to write a Literature Review; you might quote others who have studied your chosen topic. In order to avoid plagiarism, and to commend the work done by these researchers, it is important that you **reference** these writers – this means you acknowledge in writing from where exactly you have obtained certain bits of information.

In most formal research there is a standard method for referencing known as **Harvard Style Referencing** – and this is the method you should adopt for your Independent Investigation. This method, along with an accompanying **Bibliography**, allows the reader to find the exact source from which you found the idea.

Harvard Style Referencing

- Referencing to show credit for ideas

You may read about a particular idea in a book, journal article or on a website and wish to talk about this idea in your Independent Investigation write-up. This can be done in two ways; by quoting the surname of the author and the year the piece was written in brackets after you have spoken about the idea, or alternatively, by using this information within the flow of a sentence.

... and in some regions the need for food security may actually create justification for land grabbing (Nally, 2015).

or

Though as Nally (2015) explores, in some regions the need for food security may actually create justification for land grabbing.

If the article is written by more than one person, the latin 'et al.' (meaning 'and others') is used after the principal writer.

Despite European regulations for urban sustainability, cities like Sarajevo have actually developed unsustainably due to the urgent need to deal with vulnerable groups (such as homeless people) (Martin-Diaz et al., 2015).

or

Despite European regulations for urban sustainability, some cities have still developed in an unsustainable way. As found by Martin-Diaz et al. (2015), the urgent need to deal with vulnerable groups (such as homeless people) was given priority over sustainability targets.

- Referencing direct quotes

Whilst reading you may wish to directly quote from a book, journal article or website. This is usually done within the flow of a sentence, using quotation marks where necessary. However, it is worth noting that copying out long passages from an article or website, even when correctly referenced, is simply not good academic practice – in all cases you should aim to use your own words as far as possible, as few marks can be gained from simply copying out text.

...and as Nally points out

“food security supplies a moral sanction for land grabs (2015)”

or

The same cannot be said of all cities. In Sarajevo,

“the built environment of the city has moved in an increasingly unsustainable direction as a result of the need to deal with vulnerable groups in the population” (Martin-Diaz et al., 2015).

- Completing the referencing system by using a bibliography

At the end of your Independent Investigation you should include a bibliography showing the full reference for any sources of information you have used. These sources should be listed in alphabetical order by author surname.

For journal articles the following format is used:

Surname, Initial. (Year) Article title, Journal title, Issue number, Page numbers

Martin-Diaz, J. Nofre, J. Oliva, M. and Palma, P. (2015) Towards an unsustainable urban development in post-war Sarajevo, *Area*, 47:4, p376-385

Nally, D. (2015) Governing precarious lives: land grabs, geopolitics, and ‘food security’, *The Geographical Journal*, 181:4, p340-349

For books the following format is used:

Surname, Initial. (Year) Book title, Publisher, Place of publishing, Page numbers

Lovelock, J. (2000) Gaia: A New Look at Life on Earth, Oxford University Press, Oxford, p100-114

When using websites, it is not always easy to find the exact name of the person who has written the article. In these cases, an organisation name can be used.

Organisation name (Year) Website article title, Website address, Date website was accessed

Defra (2005) Climate Change: What is Climate Change?
www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/about/index.html, Accessed 1st May 2016

At the end of your Independent Investigation, it should be absolutely clear to the reader which ideas are from someone else and which ideas are your own. Good use of referencing is essential to authenticate your own work, and also essential to avoid accusations of plagiarism.