

The 4th Annual International Conference on Academic Integrity
Best Practices in Promoting and
Implementing Academic Integrity: Global and Regional Perspectives
Kazguu University
Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan
16 May 2019

Common Errors Found in APA Citation: Basis to Improve the Information Literacy Program

Presented by Joseph Yap, NU Library

Objectives

COMMON ERROR

Identification of the common errors committed by graduate students.

DETECTION

Assessing the competency of graduate students in adopting the APA citation style in referencing.

INFORMATION LITERACY

Improving of the Information Literacy Program of the Library.

Hello!

I am Joseph Yap

I am here because I want to share the results of my on-going study.

You can find me at my IG account:
@josephmyap



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1.

Background

In 2018, a group of librarian-researchers from NU started analyzing the reference lists of theses submitted in an open repository and found out numerous errors.



They said “mistakes in referencing may happen, but they can be avoided.”

How?

Yap, J.M., Groen, C., Kamilova, Y., Terzi, P., & Zvonareva, D. (2018). What went wrong? A five-school review of master's theses reference list. *Reference Librarian*. 59(4):225-234. doi:10.1080/02763877.2018.1503989.

Four components of a reference list

- ▷ Author
- ▷ Publication Date
- ▷ Title of Source
- ▷ Retrieval Information

Example

Telegenov, K., Tlegenov, Y., & Shintemirov, A. (2015). A low-cost open-source 3-D-printed three-finger gripper platform for research and educational purposes. *IEEE Access*, 3:638–647. <https://doi.org/10.1109/ACCESS.2015.2433937>

Author

Publication Date

Title of Source

Retrieval Information

“Qualitative
measure of impact,
influence, or
quality.”

Citation Analysis

The reference list is a symbol of the content of the intellectual work (Hellqvist, 2009). It builds the context of the research as interpreted by the researcher. Because referencing is a product of citations, this is part and parcel of citation analysis.

The data

20 master's theses which received a high evaluation and was uploaded in a public repository in 2018. The reference list was reviewed in 2019.

NAZARBAYEV UNIVERSITY REPOSITORY

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Nazarbayev University Repository is an institutional electronic archive for long term storage, accumulation and provision of long-term and reliable open access to scientific research results and intellectual products of the academic community of Nazarbayev University associated with them.

COMMUNITIES IN NUR

Select a community to browse its collections.

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- 06.Materials of forums, conferences and projects [814]
- 07.Kazakhstan national geographic society Corporate Fund [15]
- 08. NU Distinguished Visiting Speakers [19]
- 09.NU journals [46]

RECENTLY ADDED

Feminisms in Kazakhstan: On the intersection of global influences and local contexts
Udod, Xeniya (Nazarbayev University, School of Humanities and Social Sciences., 2018)
This thesis is an exploratory qualitative study into the recent revival of feminism which is now gaining its momentum in Kazakhstan, where several feminist unions and numerous individual activists publicly promote feminist ...

The Power of Content Management Systems: Tools and Solutions to Augment Your Information Literacy and Library Programs (Presentation)
Yap, Joseph; Mukundan, Ramina (National Library of Uzbekistan, 2019-04)
The paper provides an understanding of a proprietary content management system (CMS) that aims to help librarians in managing virtual reference services. Furthermore, the presentation covers the advantages of having a ...

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Rubin, Sergiy (68)
Insekov, Z. (59)
Bakkenov, Zhunabay (58)
Adamowicz, Ludwik (57)
Rojas-Solorzano, L. (56)
Knox, Colin (44)
Pellazo, Ricardo (36)
Beznosko, Dmitry (30)
Valagiannopoulos, Constantinos (27)
Zhang, Yongguang (27)
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Subject

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NATURAL SCIENCES (262)
TECHNOLOGY (181)
first research week (103)
HUMANITIES and RELIGION (68)
MEDICINE (53)
EXPO 2017 (52)
Designing Multi-Comfort House (51)
Kazakhstan (51)
SAINT-GOBAIN (51)
View More

Date Issued

2010 - 2019 (3038)
2020 - 2021 (12)

Results

Year	Number of graduates	Number of theses uploaded in the repository	Number of theses reviewed	Average number of references cited	Average number of errors found
2019	90	20	20	67.4	42.5

In 2019, the highest number of references used in a thesis is 145 with a 14% error in the reference list. The lowest number of references used in a thesis is 37 where all of them are considered mistakes which brings to a 100% error rate.

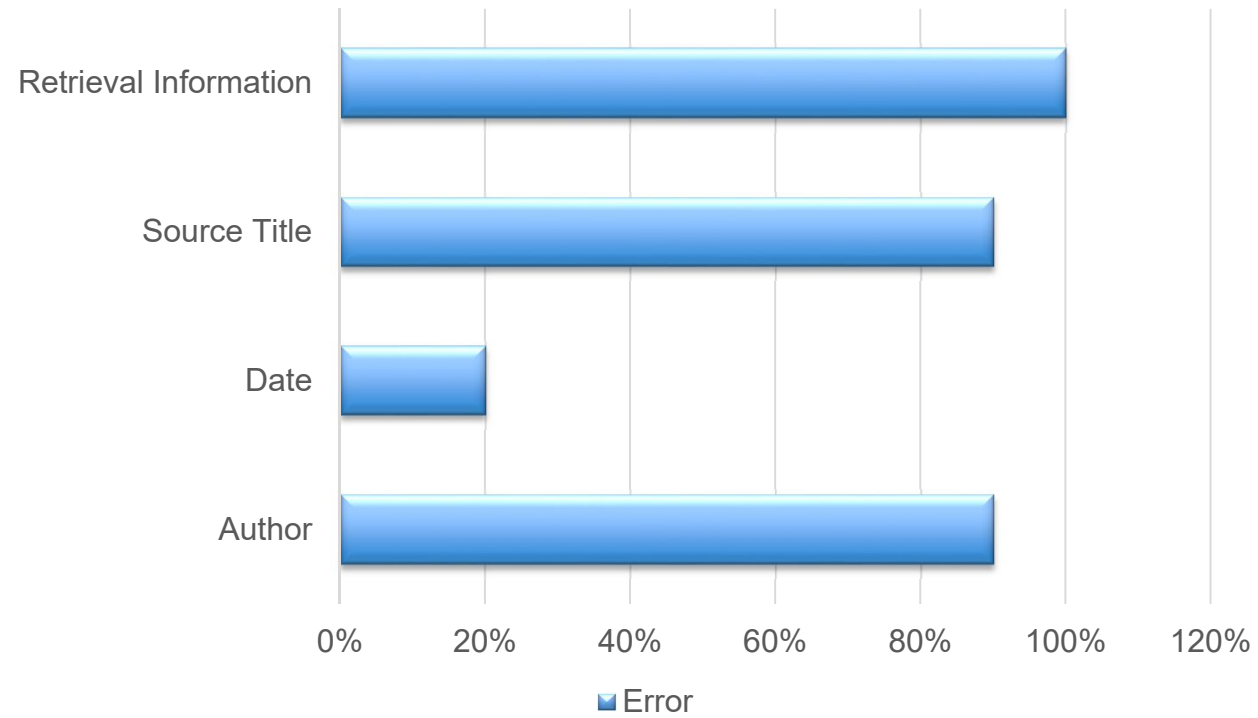
Thesis Number	Number of references used	Number of presumed errors from the reference list	% of error
1	55	52	95%
2	55	35	64%
3	76	49	64%
4	56	46	82%
5	145	21	14%
6	92	37	40%
7	111	46	41%
8	115	106	92%
9	62	27	44%
10	72	40	56%
11	75	49	65%
12	71	48	68%
13	64	64	100%
14	57	37	65%
15	45	18	40%
16	55	42	76%
17	81	26	32%
18	68	33	49%
19	40	37	93%
20	37	37	100%

Comparison between 2018 and 2019

Year	Number of graduates	Number of theses uploaded in the repository	Number of theses reviewed	Average number of references cited	Average number of errors found
2018 and below	224	36	18	56.17	31.22
2019	90	20	20	67.4	42.5

Percent of Increase	20%	36%
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Error



Common Errors (Author)

- ▷ Incomplete author details
- ▷ Names not inverted
- ▷ Corporate (group) author not spelled out (No abbreviations in the reference list)
- ▷ No need to mention the first names of the authors unless there are two different authors with the same surname and first name initials.
- ▷ Use of “and” and “&” for multiple authors

Darrell M. West and Joshua Bleiberg (2013) retrieved from

<https://www.brookings.edu/opinions/five-ways-teachers-can-use-technology-to-help-students/>

Denzin, Norman, Lincoln, Y. S. (2011). *The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research. The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research.*

MNE (Ministry of National Economy) (2016). Committee on Statistics. The dynamics of

HEIs. Retrieved from

http://www.stat.gov.kz/faces/wcnav_externalId/homeNumbersEducation?_adf.ctrl-state=1355d6ss71_70&_afLoop=21635085579857715

Common Errors (Publication Date)

- ▷ Incomplete publication date details for magazines and other source types
- ▷ Wrong placement of month and year for magazine / newsletter sources

Thiers, N. (June, 2017) Making Progress Possible: A Conversation with Michael Fullan.

Retrieved from <http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational->

[leadership/jun17/vol74/num09/Making-Progress-Possible@-A-Conversation-with-](http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/jun17/vol74/num09/Making-Progress-Possible@-A-Conversation-with-Michael-Fullan.aspx)

[Michael-Fullan.aspx](http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/jun17/vol74/num09/Making-Progress-Possible@-A-Conversation-with-Michael-Fullan.aspx)

Common Errors (Title)

- ▷ Forgot to italicize titles
- ▷ Forgot to name the title of the source
- ▷ Abbreviated or incomplete journal titles
- ▷ Journal titles are written in lowercase letters
- ▷ Incorrect use of uppercase and lowercase letters

Bloomberg, L. D., & Volpe, M. (2012). Completing your qualitative dissertation: A road map from beginning to end. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Wermke, W. & Salokangas, M. (2015). *Nordic Journal of Studies in Educational Policy*, 1(2), 1-6. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3402/nstep.v1.28841>

Hamilton, M. (1969). Diagnosis and rating of anxiety *Br J Psychiatry* 3(special issue), 76-79.

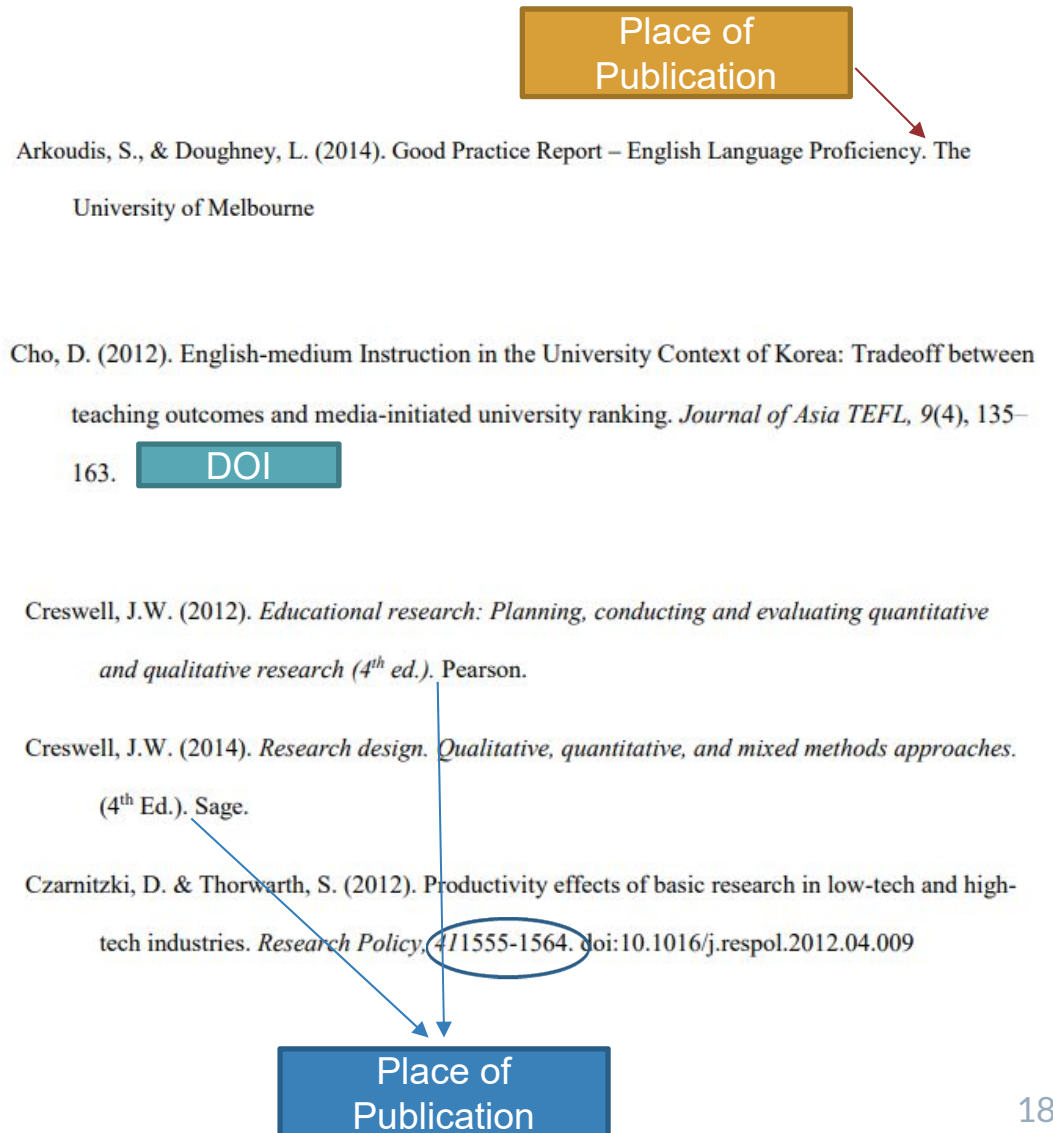
MacIntyre, P. D., & Gardner, R. C. 1994. The subtle effects of language anxiety on cognitive processing in the second language. *Language Learning*, 44, 283-305.

Most students commit this error in titles

Olaoye, A. A. (2013). The Role of Language in National Re-Branding: A Sociolinguistic Perspective, *Journal on English Language Teaching*, 3(3), 41-47

Common Errors (Retrieval Information)

- ▷ Missing place of publication
- ▷ No volume or issue number
- ▷ No doi
- ▷ Wrong permalinks or incomplete URL
- ▷ Date of retrieval unnecessary
- ▷ ISBN unnecessary
- ▷ Incomplete pagination
- ▷ Exclusion of “pp” to indicate page numbers for edited books



Conclusions

First

The number of errors that increased from 2018 to 2019 implies that there is a need to review the competencies of students when it comes to using APA for citation/referencing.

Second

Majority of the students neglect the citation format as they focus more on content of their work. These errors will affect not only their future as it is already digitally available like a footprint but also the image of the university.

Last

The errors suggest that there should be an intensive collaboration between the schools, the writing center, and the library.



Nazarbayev University Library / Nazarbayev University LibGuides / Information Literacy at NU / Information Literacy Program

Information Literacy at NU: Information Literacy Program

The Nazarbayev University Library Information Literacy Program (NU LILY) was launched in 2018 to achieve student success across all schools of the university.

Search this Guide Search

Library Sessions Information Literacy Program

Information literacy Program Library Orientation Module 1 - Searching for information
Module 2 - Evaluating information Module 3 - Citing sources Module 4 - Avoiding plagiarism

Learning Outcome

Search, collect, manage, refer and cite reliable information as evidence.

At the end of the discussion, the students are expected to:

- Be responsible authors/scholars;
- Be aware of the different and available citation tools (reference management software);
- Learn how to cite internet sources such as blogs, online videos and social media sites.

Sample Lesson Topics (but are not limited to the following):

- Discuss available citation formats (APA, Chicago, Harvard, etc.)
- Introduce citation management tools like Endnote, Mendeley and Zotero
- Practical application of these tools

Assessment

- Identifying parts of a reference list.

To request this module, email reference@nu.edu.kz

May 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Upcoming Events:						
Advanced PubMed Workshop						
Monday, May 20, 2019 3:00pm						

Updated: Apr 28, 2019 1:49 PM URL: <https://nu.kz.libguides.com/infoliteracy> Print Page

Subjects: Research Essentials, Skills and Tools Tags: information literacy

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Recommendations



- ▷ Strengthen the IL program by collaborating with the faculty members teaching research and literature review/literature search (research seminar/methods class).
- ▷ Collaborate with the Writing Center (ongoing discussion) on how to improve the citation and referencing / avoiding plagiarism.

- ▷ Improve the IL module on citation and referencing by adding more concrete examples.
- ▷ Creation of a LibGuide devoted for common errors in APA citation.

References

Azadeh, F., & Vaez, R. (2013). The accuracy of references in PhD theses: a case study. *Health Information & Libraries Journal*, (3), 232. DOI: 10.1111/hir.12026

Hellqvist, B. (2009). Referencing in the humanities and its implications for citation analysis. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science & Technology*, 61(2), 310–318.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/asi.21256>

Neville, C. (2008). The challenge of referencing. Retrieved from
<http://www.learnhigher.ac.uk/resources/files/Referencing/Challenge%20of%20referencing.doc>

Penders, B. (2018). Ten simple rules for responsible referencing. *PLoS Computational Biology*, 14(4), 1. DOI 10.1371/journal.pcbi.1006036

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doi:10.1080/02763877.2018.1503989



Questions?

Thank you for
your attention.



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