Law

Example Bibliography

OSCOLA uses minimal punctuation throughout and footnotes for in-text citations, your footnotes should be numbered in superscript. It is essential to check both your footnotes and your bibliography in your RefWorks output and then make any manual adjustments necessary to conform with OSCOLA guidelines. You will find more detailed guidance in the full OSCOLA documentation http://www.law.ox.ac.uk/publications/oscola.php.

There are some important distinctions between the way a reference appears in the footnote and then in your bibliography both for primary and secondary materials. For example, when citing primary legal material i.e. cases within the body of your text or in a footnote the party names must be italicized. But when you list these in your table of cases in the bibliography do not italicize the party names.

Secondary material (books, journals, case notes/commentaries, certain reports) should appear in a single list arranged alphabetically by author. Corporate bodies claiming responsibility for the content are treated like individual authors—when you can find no author your item will file alphabetically by title.

When citing secondary materials i.e. a book or journal in your footnotes the author’s name appears in natural order (first name last name) in the footnote. But in the bibliography the order is reversed and only the initial is used (last name initial). So for example if your first reference is to Hong Lin Yu’s arbitration text in the example bibliography shown below your first footnote will appear as 1. Hong-Lin Yu, Commercial arbitration: the Scottish and international perspectives (Dundee University Press 2010) 132. In this example your reference is to a specific page in the book but if your reference is to a general theme of the book or article there is no need to reference a specific page.

It is also important to use wherever possible the recognised abbreviations for law reports and periodicals. These are listed in full OSCOLA Guide, Appendix 4. If you need to cite a law report or journal that is not listed you can instead use the preferred abbreviation on the Cardiff Index http://www.legalabbrevs.cardiff.ac.uk/. The Cardiff index is also a useful place
to check the jurisdiction of your law report if you are unsure of this. Note also the use of brackets for law reports and periodicals-in general if the date is an essential means of identifying the correct volume it will appear in square brackets. If the date is useful rather then essential it will be in round brackets.

Some law reports/periodicals have very similar sounding titles e.g. the ‘Family Law Journal’ published by Leaglease Ltd and ‘Family Law’ published by Jordans. If you are in any doubt that a very similar title could cause confusion for your reader OSCOLA recommends that you cite the title in full rather than use an abbreviation.

Primary sources should be listed first in tabular form in the following order: table of cases, table of legislation and lastly any other tables. Give the neutral citation for your case if this is available followed by the most authoritative published report. The most authoritative report always appears first in the list of reports if the case is available in more than one published report. Your table of cases can be subdivided by jurisdiction e.g. English, Scottish, European and then each should be in alphabetical order by party name. However if you are only referring to a small number of cases it is perfectly acceptable to provide a single alphabetical list. Your table of legislation can be subdivided by jurisdiction and then ordered alphabetically within each table or you can provide a simple alphabetical list of all the legislation that you cite. If your references are to specific subsections within statutes/statutory instruments then you must detail the precise reference in the bibliography.

The first example in the Table of cases below shows an example of a neutral citation (followed by the most authoritative published case report) and the second shows an example from a published case report. The examples from the Table of legislation below are both Scottish.

Table of cases

Pepper (Inspector of Taxes) v Hart [1993] AC 593 (HL)

Table of legislation

Arbitration (Scotland) Act 2010 (asp 1)
Budget (Scotland) Act 2004 (asp 2)
Secondary sources

Book

Book in second edition

Chapter in edited book

Edited book

Journal article
Davidson F, ' ‘The Arbitration (Scotland) Act 2010: the way forward or a few missteps?’ (2010) 1 JBL 43

Case Commentaries/Case Notes
Ambrose v Harris [2011] SCL 866-926 (note)

MA thesis
Buydens JC, 'Children and youth in the sex trade: exploitation and exiting' (Master of Laws, University of Saskatchewan 2008)