We are beginning to see references to online sources in manuscripts submitted to *Wood and Fiber Science*. With the exponentially increasing array of information sources on the Internet and rapidly expanding use of electronic communication, we expect such citations to become commonplace within a few years. We have adopted standards for citations from print media such as articles, books, and chapters and state these on the inside back cover of each issue. We must now move to standardize citations from electronic media as well.

I have found several references to such standards on the Internet. One standard that seems to fit our situation well is that presented at the following URL: http://www.columbia.edu/cu/cup/cgos/idxbasic.html.

The author, Janice K. Walker at the University of South Florida, has given us permission to reproduce this information in our journal. Based on standard citations described at this URL location, we have included the basic component as a guide on our “Information for Authors” page. The examples that follow illustrate standardized citations for various types of electronic sources.

I propose that we examine carefully how citing electronic media can best fit our journal’s needs and move toward adopting some type of referencing procedures. Please note the author’s presupposition that change will be the order of the day in such a rapidly evolving medium. We will try to keep you aware of such changes and urge your occasional checking of the URL if you are dealing with on-line sources in your writing.

**CITING ON-LINE SOURCES**

*Robert L. Youngs*

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**COLUMBIA ONLINE STYLE: MLA-STYLE CITATIONS OF ELECTRONIC SOURCES**

*(Endorsed by the Alliance for Computers & Writing)*

The basic component of the reference citation is simple:1

Author’s Lastname, Author’s F irstname. “Title of Document.” Title of Complete Work (if applicable). Version or File Number, if applicable. Document date or date of last revision (if different from access date). Protocol and address, access path or directories (date of access).

Below are specific examples, following this format. Please bear in mind, however, that, like the Internet itself, the information sources are in a constant state of flux and, therefore, this work will also need to change as the sites themselves proliferate and adapt to the new era of electronic print.

**FTP (File Transfer Protocol) Sites**

To cite files available for downloading via ftp, give the author’s name (if known), the full title of the paper in quotation marks, the document data if known and if different from the date accessed, and the address of the ftp site

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1 Margins and line breaks on examples have been forced to simulate hanging indents in print, while trying to preserve margins for various sized browser windows. For a complete discussion of citation formats for both humanities styles and author-date styles, including in-text citations and specific examples, see the Columbia guide to Online Style by Janice R. Walker and Todd Taylor (in press).

For more information on finding and using electronic sources, see the Longman English Pages.

For information on citing sources in the text using parenthetic notations, see http://www.cas.usf.edu/english/walker/parenthetic.html
along with the full path to follow to find the paper, and the date of access.


WWW Sites (World Wide Web)  
(Available Via Lynx, Netscape, Other Web Browsers)  
To cite files available for viewing/downloading via the World wide Web, give the author’s name (if known), the full title of the work in quotation marks, the title of the complete work if applicable in italics, the document date if known and if different from the date accessed, the full http address, and the date of visit.


Telnet Sites  
(Sites and Files Available Via the Telnet Protocol)  
List the author’s name or alias (if known), the title of the work (if shown) in quotation marks, the title of the full work if applicable in italics, the document date if known and if different from the date accessed, and the complete telnet address, along with directions to access the publication, along with the date of visit.


Synchronous Communications  
(MOOs, MUDs, IRC, etc.)  
Give the name of the speaker(s) and type of communication (i.e., Personal Interview), the address if applicable and the date in parentheses.


Gopher Sites  
(Information Available Via Gopher Search Protocols)  
For information found using gopher search protocols, list the author’s name (if known), the title of the paper in quotation marks, the date of publication if known and if different from the date accessed, any print publication information, and the gopher search path followed to access the information, including the date that the file was accessed.


Email, Listserv, and Newslist Citations  
Give the author’s name or alias (if known), the subject line from the posting in quotation marks, the date of the message if different from the date accessed, and the address of the listserv or newslist, along with the date of access in parentheses. For personal email lists, omit the email address.


List the author’s name, last name first, followed by the title of the article in quotation marks and the title of the publication in italics, any version or edition numbers, series name, if applicable, and the publication information if available.