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Tedious Work, Trivial Details? A Fresh Look at Bibliographic Citation

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I hate formatting bibliographies.

Why are there so many different bibliographic styles?

Referencing electronic sources is so complicated.

What was wrong with the old footnote systems?

Applying concepts of rhetorical theory to source acknowledgment allows us to develop rational explanations for many of the differences between APA and MLA styles (see inset for examples). In fact, the research I'll present in this workshop suggests that both of these styles reflect the distinctive values and assumptions of their sponsoring communities.

This workshop will show how—and, more importantly, why—MLA and APA styles are different, with discussion centering on 4 questions:

- How are bibliographic references formatted?
- How are sources treated in the text?
- What sources are valued?
- What are the purposes of documentation?

Understanding the rhetorical dimensions of divergent approaches to source management can help librarians, whether as authors writing for publication or professionals seeking to teach information literacy.

MLA Style	APA Style
<p>Cox, John, and Laura Cox. <u>Scholarly Publishing Practice: Academic Journal Publishers' Policies and Practices in Online Publishing</u>. 2nd ed. Worthing, West Sussex, UK: Assn. of Learned and Professional Soc. Pubs., 2006.</p>	<p>Cox, J., & Cox, L. (2006). <i>Scholarly publishing practice: Academic journal publishers' policies and practices in online publishing</i> (2nd ed.). Worthing, West Sussex, UK: Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers.</p>
<p>Josselson, Ruthellen, and Amia Lieblich. "Fettering the Mind in the Name of 'Science.'" <u>American Psychologist</u> June 1996: 651-52. <u>PsycARTICLES</u>. EBSCO. Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA. 22 Sep. 2006 <http://search.ebscohost.com/>.</p>	<p>Josselson, R., & Lieblich, A. (1996, June). Fettering the mind in the name of "science." <i>American Psychologist</i>, 51, 651-652. Retrieved September 22, 2006, from PsycARTICLES database.</p>
<p>Tenopir, Carol. Telephone interview. 2 May 2007.</p>	<p>Personal communications are not included in APA reference lists.</p>
<p>"ATLA Serials: Fifty Years of Fifty Journals." <u>Religion and Technology Center</u>. 13 May 1999. 10 sects. 26 Apr. 2007 <http://www.reltech.org/ATLAS-proposal.html>.</p>	<p><i>ATLA Serials: Fifty years of fifty journals</i>. (1999, May 13). Retrieved April 26, 2007, from http://www.reltech.org/ATLAS-proposal.html</p>

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