Citing an Article (Online) or from a Database
two different situations

An extensive article is available from Indiana University. (27 April 2004)"Citing Sources in MLA Style." Indiana University Writing Tutorial Services. (Online) URL:


I realize the article is MLA style but since there is so little standardization and few procedures set forth for any citations of on-line sources -- these examples can suffice for APA style as well - IMHO. It is the concept of including enough information that the site can be retrieved in the future that is important.

CITING ON-LINE SOURCES --

Citing an article from an online source (meaning it is on a website that is not ruled by a subscription or sign-in procedure) is different from citing an article that you retrieve from a paid subscription database.

For those articles that are from a true online source -- such as from http://www.chriscrutcher.com see the citation examples on this page -- both of those pages are "online."

Articles that were printed in print editions of journals and are now accessible from paid subscription databases are another entity. To find out how to cite those resources go to the main library page -- a link from http://www.uwstout.edu/. Find the link "citing sources" and then go to the link for APA citations from UW-Stout databases.

This example -- Author's Last Name, First Initial. (Publication year). Article title. Journal Title, Volume (Issue Number if journal is paginated per issue), Pages. Retrieved month day, year, from Database Name.

Thus,

This article -- Redemptive Reading. By: Pierce, Jennifer Burek. American Libraries, Dec 2007, Vol. 38 Issue 11, p68-68, 1p; (AN 27870988)

Would correctly be cited (see magazine example) as:

Use the examples from this page for those articles/pages from a site that you can access on the open web.

Use examples from the University page for those articles that are accessed through protected pages.

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**THE EXAMPLES**

I have been unable to find definitive examples and "rules" for citing on-line sources in APA style. Standards do not seem to be well established.

The following includes examples as I interpret the citation models for print items -- as applied to on-line sources (it should be noted that electronic sources such as CDs, Videos and so forth are pretty well defined by standard style manuals.)

*World Wide Web Full-Text Sources*

Every web site must be cited with information that provides information about the authorship, the article's title, name of periodical (or source site) and date of the article's "publication" as well as the date that you accessed the information. Most periodicals on the Web use issue dates, volume numbers and issue numbers. It is sometimes difficult to determine these, but it is always wise to look for them. If pages or paragraphs are numbered, include this information. Add the date you accessed the information, and the URL, encased in angle brackets.)

For example an article about Beverly Cleary on the WWW would be cited as follows:


*Online Encyclopedia Article*

Many online encyclopedias provide guidance on how to cite their sources. Adapt this information to APA citation style, which should include the electronic publication information, as well as the version number and
publication date, if relevant. Many online encyclopedias provide citation information at the end of their articles which can be adapted to APA form:

"William Clinton"
*World Book Online.*
<http://search.worldbookonline.com/topic?eu=11502>

For example your actual citation might read:


**CITING WORLD WIDE WEB SITES**

It is very difficult to provide just one example to show how to cite a website as there are so many variants in terms of types of websites. But if you remember the purpose of any citation you will know that there must be more information given than just the URL which is akin to telling someone that a "science book is on the third shelf in the library" with no information about the title of the book or the author's name; or anything other than the topic.

The first thing you must determine is that the website you are about to cite is a site that has credibility -- for example a school webpage which has reports written by second graders about President William Clinton is not a source that I would expect you to cite in a scholarly paper about Clinton. Unless of course you are providing it as an example for some point you are making in regard to second graders doing research. So once you determine that a site is a credible source worthy of being cited you should proceed to gather the information necessary to cite the resource.

A citation must ALWAYS include the title of the site. If the page does not have a title (it should appear on the top bar of your browser window-- and if it doesn't that might be clue that the site itself is created by non-professionals or uncredible authors). If however, you determine that the site is credible but that the site developer just overlooked keying in a title for the page you may use the title on the body of the page or a description such as [Home Page]. The descriptor or the title you glean from the page itself should be put in brackets [ ] to show that the title is not an "official" title. The name of the author should come before the title, if you can ascertain the author of the site/page. If not begin the entry with the page title. Other information to include in the citation should include the name of the author
or editor; date of electronic publication or latest update; the name of the institution or organization associated with the site; and the citation should end with the notation (Online) with the URL in angled brackets. And finally the date of the access.

Examples:
