

Instructions for Authors – Reference Style

General Guidelines

The journal follows a modified Harvard author–date citation style. Authors are required to ensure that all references cited in the text appear in the reference list and vice versa. Accuracy and completeness of all references are the responsibility of the authors.

In-text Citations

- Cite references by author surname and year: (Derraik, 2002) or Derraik (2002).
- For two authors: (Chae and An, 2018).
- For three or more authors: (Fred-Ahmadu et al., 2020).
- Multiple citations are separated by semicolons: (Lei et al., 2018; Prata et al., 2019; Bhuyan, 2022).

Reference List

- The reference list should be placed at the end of the manuscript under the heading References.
- List all references in alphabetical order by the first author’s surname.
- Multiple works by the same first author are listed in chronological order (earliest first).
- When there are multiple works by the same author(s) in the same year, distinguish them by adding lowercase letters (a, b, c) after the year (e.g., 2024a, 2024b).
- Use italics for journal titles and do not italicize article titles.
- Use sentence case for article and book chapter titles (only the first word and proper nouns capitalized).
- Provide DOIs for all online publications whenever available, formatted as complete URLs ([https://doi.org/...](https://doi.org/)).

Formatting Examples

1. Journal Articles

Author(s), Year. Title of article. Journal Title, Volume, page range. [https://doi.org/...](https://doi.org/)

Example:

Abidli, S., Toumi, H., Lahbib, Y., Trigui El Menif, N., 2017. The first evaluation of microplastics in sediments from the complex lagoon-channel of Bizerte (Northern Tunisia). *Water, Air and Soil Pollution*, 228, 1–10. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11270-017-3439-9>

2. Books or Edited Volumes

Author(s)/Editor(s), Year. Book Title. Publisher, Place of publication.

[https://doi.org/...](https://doi.org/)

Example:

Rochman, C.M., 2015. The complex mixture, fate and toxicity of chemicals associated with plastic debris in the marine environment. In: Bergmann, M., Gutow, L., Klages, M. (eds) Marine Anthropogenic Litter. Springer, Cham.
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-16510-3_5

3. Book Chapters or Conference Proceedings

Author(s), Year. Title of paper. In: Editor(s) (eds.), Book/Proceedings Title. Publisher, Place, page numbers. <https://doi.org/...>

Example:

Chen, S., Lou, S., Yang, Z., Liu, S., 2024. Characteristics of organic carbon distributions in tidal wetland of the Yangtze River Estuary. In: International Conference on Offshore Mechanics and Arctic Engineering (Vol. 87783, p. V001T01A052). American Society of Mechanical Engineers.
<https://doi.org/10.1115/OMAE2024-126253>

4. Reports and Government Publications

Institution/Author(s), Year. Title of Report. Publisher/Institution, Place of publication.

Example:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1998. Method 9050A: Electrical conductivity measurement. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

5. Theses and Dissertations

Author, Year. Title of Thesis. Degree level, Institution, Location.

Example:

Badejo, O.T., Olaleye, J.B., Alademomi, A.S., 2014. Tidal characteristics and sounding datum variation in Lagos state. University of Lagos.
<https://ir.unilag.edu.ng/handle/123456789/5360>

6. Online or Web Sources

Author(s)/Organization, Year. Title of document or page. Website name. URL [Accessed date].

Example:

Porta, R., 2021. Anthropocene, the plastic age and future perspectives. FEBS Open Bio, 11, 948–953. <https://doi.org/10.1002/2211-5463.13122> [accessed on October 26, 2025]

Additional Formatting Rules

- Include all authors' names (do not use "et al." in the reference list).
- Use en dashes (–) for page ranges.
- Use commas between author names and periods after initials.
- Include a comma after the year and before the title.
- Do not abbreviate journal titles; use the full journal name.
- For non-English references, provide the original title and an English translation in brackets, if available.