

McEwan Lab

Best Practice



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Checking your Literature Cited Page

Overview

Proper citation of literature is a fundamental task of writing a manuscript for a Thesis, Dissertation or scientific publication. In another Best Practice document I outline the use of Mendeley as a reference management tool. That program will generate a literature cited page for your manuscript! This makes things much easier. However, the Mendeley library itself has errors that are propagated into the Literature Cited page. Later in the process you will need to de-couple from Mendeley and finalize your references. This means checking to be sure they are complete and formatted consistently. Journal copy editors have some responsibility in getting your format correct once your article is accepted and prior to publication; however, it is important that the manuscript be edited carefully prior to submission. If a reviewer turns to the references and finds something missing, or a very messy formatting situation, they may take a negative view of the work. You do not want this though popping up in a reviewer's mind: *"If the authors are sloppy and irresponsible with their references, maybe they are sloppy and irresponsible with the data collection too....hmmmm."*

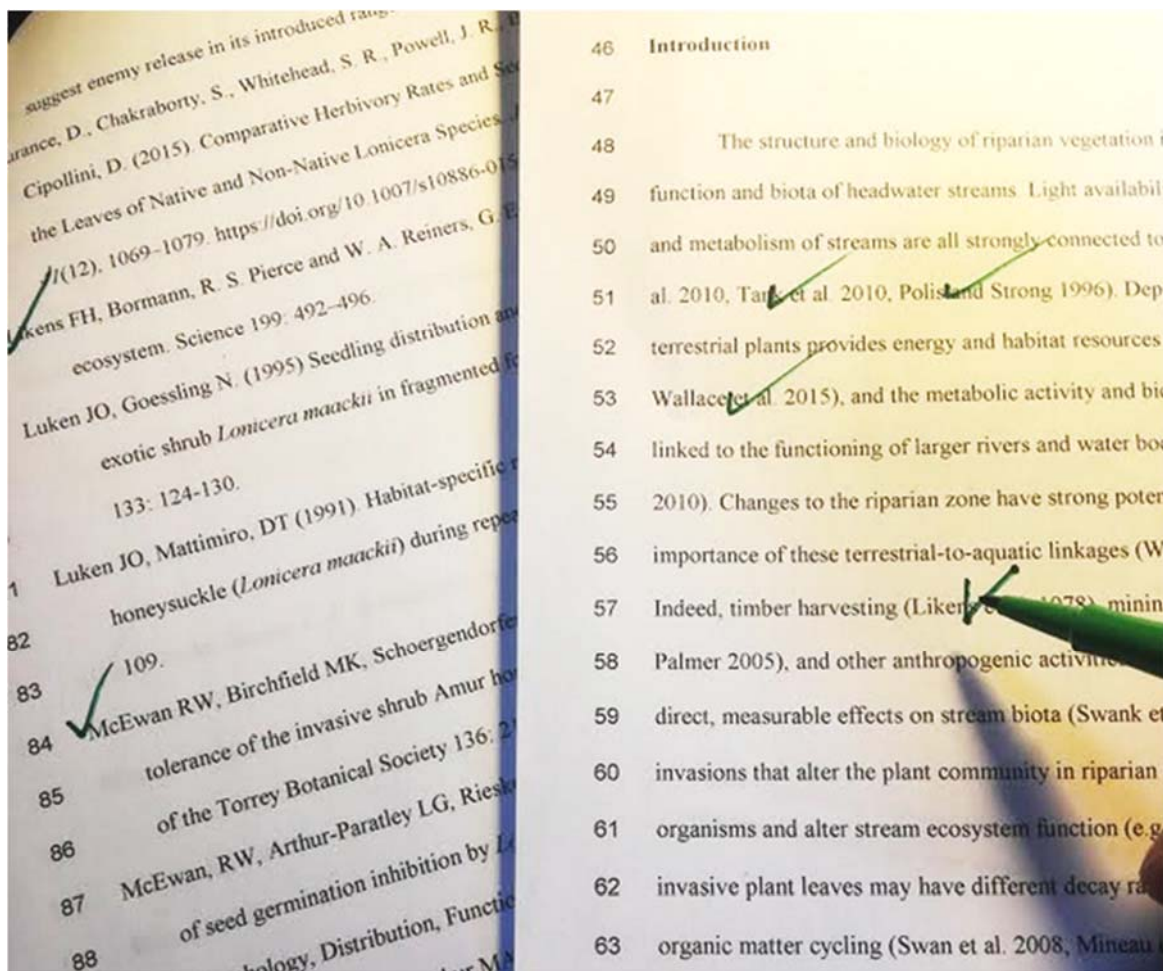
Here are some **McEwan Lab Best Practices**:

(1) Choose a format and stick with it.

You need for your Reference Cited page to be consistent. This means you need to select a format and then use the identical format for all citations. If you have a journal that you are targeting from early on you can use that journal's "Instruction to Authors" to figure out your format. Mendeley might have something that matches precisely that format, or you can actually create your own format within Mendeley. Alternatively, you can chose a Mendeley format that is *close* to the final format you need and edit from there. Ultimately, your goal is consistency.

(2) Make sure all the literature cited in the manuscript appears as an entry in the Literature Cited pages, and that all literature listed in the Literature Cited pages are also referenced in the manuscript.

The reference program you are using (eg, Mendeley) should help you with this, but still mistakes happen and especially if you are working with multiple co-authors you are almost guaranteed to end up with a mis-match between literature cited and Literature Cited. My recommendation is to literally print out the manuscript, and the Literature Cite page and go through one-by-one with a marker and check off each manuscript citation. Like this:



There really is no substitute for this kind of screening process. Then if you find a reference in the text that is not in the Literature Cited you can fill it in, and if you find Literature Cited that is not in the text you can add it, or delete.

(3) Edit for consistent formatting

As you are working on your manuscript and approaching the later stages in the editing process it is good to begin scanning your Literature Cited for formatting mistakes. There will often be many mistakes of consistency. Here are some things to look for:

(a) Author names and initials. You want these to be consistent. Below are three different ways to list the author names and initials, fix this if you find it!

Borth, EB, Custer KW and McEwan RW (2018) Lethal effects of leaf leachate from the non-native invasive shrub Amur honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*) on a model aquatic organism (*Hyalella azteca*). *Ecoscience* 25: 189–197.

Borth, E.B., K.W. Custer & R.W. McEwan (2018) Lethal effects of leaf leachate from the non-native invasive shrub Amur honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*) on a model aquatic organism (*Hyalella azteca*). *Ecoscience* 25: 189–197.

Borth, E.B., Custer K.W., McEwan R.W. (2018) Lethal effects of leaf leachate from the non-native invasive shrub Amur honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*) on a model aquatic organism (*Hyalella azteca*). *Ecoscience* 25: 189–197.

(b) Date. You want to be consistent in the way the date is displayed. Each citation must be the same. Below are three different ways to display date, this is no good.

Borth, EB, Custer KW and McEwan RW. 2018. Lethal effects of leaf leachate from the non-native invasive shrub Amur honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*) on a model aquatic organism (*Hyalella azteca*). *Ecoscience* 25: 189–197.

Borth, E.B., K.W. Custer & R.W. McEwan (2018) Lethal effects of leaf leachate from the non-native invasive shrub Amur honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*) on a model aquatic organism (*Hyalella azteca*). *Ecoscience* 25: 189–197.

Borth, E.B., Custer K.W., McEwan R.W. Lethal effects of leaf leachate from the non-native invasive shrub Amur honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*) on a model aquatic organism (*Hyalella azteca*). (2018). *Ecoscience* 25: 189–197.

(c) Article title. Make sure the title is consistent and watch out for capitalization in particular. For example, these are inconsistent. This is bad. Make all of your references the same.

Borth, E.B., K.W. Custer & R.W. McEwan (2018) Lethal effects of leaf leachate from the non-native invasive shrub Amur honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*) on a model aquatic organism (*Hyalella azteca*). *Ecoscience* 25: 189–197.

Borth, E.B., K.W. Custer & R.W. McEwan (2018) Lethal Effects of Leaf Leachate From the Non-native Invasive Shrub Amur Honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*) on a Model Aquatic Organism (*Hyalella Azteca*). *Ecoscience* 25: 189–197.

Borth, E.B., K.W. Custer & R.W. McEwan (2018) *Lethal effects of leaf leachate from the non-native invasive shrub Amur honeysuckle (Lonicera maackii) on a model aquatic organism (Hyalella azteca)*. *Ecoscience* 25: 189–197.

(d) Latin names are in italics. See below. The bottom one is incorrect.

Borth, E.B., K.W. Custer & R.W. McEwan (2018) Lethal effects of leaf leachate from the non-native invasive shrub Amur honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*) on a model aquatic organism (*Hyalella azteca*). *Ecoscience* 25: 189–197.

Borth, E.B., K.W. Custer & R.W. McEwan (2018) Lethal Effects of Leaf Leachate From the Non-native Invasive Shrub Amur Honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*) on a Model Aquatic Organism (*Hyalella Azteca*). *Ecoscience* 25: 189–197.

(e) There should not be random stuff at the end of a citation. Let the Journal decide if they want to DOI at the end. We just put the proper citation. Don't have the stuff highlighted in yellow hanging out at the end.

Gregory, SV, Swanson, FJ, Mckee, WA, Kenneth, W, Swanson, J, Cummins, KW (1991). An Ecosystem Perspective of Riparian Zones Focus on links between land and water. *BioScience*, 41(8), 540–551. URL : <http://www.jstor.org/stable/>

Vs

Miller KE, Gorchov DL (2004). The invasive shrub, *Lonicera maackii*, reduces growth and fecundity of perennial forest herbs. *Oecologia* 139: 359-375.

(f) all journal names should be treated the same = spelled out, not some abbreviated, others not, not some italics, others not. Three below are all different.

Tank, JL, Rosi-Marshall EJ, Griffiths NA, Entekin SA, Stephen ML (2010). A review of allochthonous organic matter dynamics and metabolism in streams. *Journal of the North American Benthological Society* 29: 118-146.

Vannote RL, Minshall GW, Cummins KW, Sedell JR, Cushing CE (1980). The river continuum concept. *Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci.* 37: 130-137.

Voshell Jr., J. R. 2002. A Guide to common Freshwater Invertebrates of North America.

Wallace, JB (1996). The Role of Macroinvertebrates in Stream Ecosystem Function. *Annual Review of Entomology*, 41(1), 115–139

(g) Be consistent in NOT having the issue number in the reference. It goes "Journal" "Volume": "Page Range" | Not | "Journal" "Volume" "(Issue)" : "Page Range"

Mineau, MM, Baxter, CV, Marcarelli, AM (2011). A Non-Native Riparian Tree (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) Changes Nutrient Dynamics in Streams. *Ecosystems* 14: 353–365.

Mineau, MM, Baxter, CV, Marcarelli, AM, & Minshall, GW (2012). An invasive riparian tree reduces stream ecosystem efficiency via a recalcitrant organic matter subsidy. *Ecology*, 93(7), 1501–1508.

(h) Be consistent in whether you have "and" "&" or "nothing" at the end of your citation. In this example, we have all three in one snip. It has to be the same.

Lenth, R., Singmann, H., & Love, J. (2018). Emmeans: Estimated marginal means, aka least-squares means. *R package version, 1*(1).

Lieurance D, Cipollini D (2012). Damage levels from arthropod herbivores on *Lonicera maackii* suggest enemy release in its introduced range. *Biological Invasions*, 14(4), 863–873.

Likens FH, Bormann, R. S. Pierce and W. A. Reiners, G. E. (1978). Recovery of a deforested ecosystem. *Science* 199: 492–496.