Citation Styles

The following information was taken from online Research Guides provided by the University of Minnesota Library (http://tutorial.lib.umn.edu). More detailed information and models can be found at that site.

There are published guides called style manuals that can show you how to cite your sources completely and consistently. Some style manuals are specific to particular disciplines, others are more general. A particular style may be required by your instructor.

Three of the most common citation formats:

- **APA** (American Psychological Association), primarily used by scholars in the social sciences
- **MLA** (Modern Language Association) used by scholars in the humanities
- **Turabian** (*A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*) which is based on the *Chicago Manual of Style*.

Following a style consistently and carefully throughout your bibliography ensures that you include all the necessary information to identify your sources and makes it easy for your reader (and yourself) to recognize and locate them.

Different styles relate to different disciplines because disciplines differ in the kinds of information they use and in the way information is used.

A Bibliography or list of Works Cited

is a list of source publications on a particular topic. A scholarly publication such as a journal article usually lists source publications used by the author at the end of the article.

Instructors require a bibliography or list of references for legal, ethical, and practical reasons:

- **Legal.** Using another author's work without giving proper credit may violate copyright laws
- **Ethical.** Using another author's work without giving proper credit constitutes plagiarism
- **Practical.** Documenting your sources in detail allows your readers (and you!) to locate the same sources for further research