Which date do I use in my APA style citation?

Answer

In general, the APA Manual has these guidelines about dates:

- **For books, use the copyright date** (even if it is different from the release date);
- **For journal articles, use the year of the volume** (also known as the "publication date");
- **For webpages, use the last updated or publication date**. The copyright date in a website's footer should not be used, as this date does not indicate when the content on the page was last updated.

If there is **no date** listed, the APA Manual says to "write "n.d." (which stands for "no date") in parentheses. Put a period after the "n" and after the "d" with no space between the letters" (p. 291).

Journal Articles

Articles often have several dates associated with them, and each date serves a different purpose. How do you know which date to use in your APA style citation?

For academic articles, there are usually a series of dates related to the peer-review process. For example, there may be:

- A "submitted" or "received" date (when the article was initially sent to the journal);
- A "revised" date (when the article was sent back to the journal with the revisions recommended by the reviewers);
- An "accepted" date (when the journal's editor accepts the article for publication);
- A "published online" date (when the article was first posted online);
- A "publication" date (the official publication of the article). The publication date usually appears in several different places, along with the rest of the source information, like the volume number.

Some, all, or none of these dates may be listed in an article's metadata.

These dates can be a useful confirmation that an articles has gone through the peer-review process, but they can be confusing when trying to cite. **When citing, only the publication date matters**.

For APA 7th ed. specifically, the APA Manual says that "for a journal article reference, **use the year of the volume**, even if it is different than the copyright year" (p. 289). As a result, the publication date is often easy to locate because it will be closely associated with the volume information.



DE GRUYTER Open Information Science 2020; 4: 11–28

Research article

Caitlin Ratcliffe*

Why intellectual freedom? Or; Your values are historically contingent

https://doi.org/10.1515/opis-2020-0002
Received October 30, 2019; accepted January 31, 2020

Abstract: Intellectual freedom is a cornerstone value of library and information studies (LIS) in the twenty-first century. However, LIS institutions have not always held intellectual freedom with the significance it has today. Historic analysis situates the development of intellectual freedom in the context of the European Enlightenment. This systematized review analyzes the use of the phrase "intellectual freedom" in primary sources from the mid-eighteenth century until the American Library Association (ALA) published the *Library's Bill of Rights* in 1939 in order to examine the historic origins and development of intellectual freedom as a shared cultural value prior to 1939. I consider the development of intellectual freedom from two perspectives: as a shared value that developed in Britain and the United States during the eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth centuries and as a meaningful phrase found in primary sources regarding religion, politics, and education. By contextualizing the origins of intellectual freedom with Enlightenment values and discourse, it is hoped this study will illustrate the fundamental nature of intellectual freedom as a value within LIS philosophy and contribute to the conversation about intellectual freedom as a continually negotiated concept that must be held in balance with social responsibility.

Keywords: intellectual freedom, social responsibility, historical analysis, LIS history, European Enlightenment

It would be difficult to overstate the value of intellectual freedom in the world of library and information studies (LIS). Yet LIS institutions have not always held intellectual freedom in the place of significance it has today. The goal of this systematized review is to examine the historic origins of intellectual freedom as a shared cultural value. The study will focus on cultural developments in Britain and the United States to contextualize LIS' eventual adoption of intellectual freedom. Through historical analysis, I intend to illustrate the underlying nature of intellectual freedom as a value grounded in the philosophies of the European Enlightenment. Since intellectual freedom is a central concept of LIS, it is vital to understand the origins of intellectual freedom and how this history impacts modern LIS practices. Ultimately, the study will contribute to the conversation about intellectual freedom as an ongoing and continually negotiated concept that must be held in balance with social responsibility.

Despite the prevailing notion that LIS concepts–which are often presented as moral imperatives–have remained constant throughout our history, LIS professional ethics and standards have evolved over time due to particular historic circumstances. The value of intellectual freedom has emerged only relatively recently. A brief overview of "Western" history reveals countless instances of state- and community-perpetrated censorship for over 2,500 years (Kemp, 2015). Indeed, Sue Curry Jansen (1988) argues that censorship is "an enduring feature of all human communities" as knowledge and power are inextricably bound together (p. 4). In this context, our value of intellectual freedom and its related values of free expression and the right to information are disjointed from the flow of history: the exception, not the norm.

*Corresponding author, Caitlin Ratcliffe, School of Library and Information Studies, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2G5, Canada, E-mail: cratclif@ualberta.ca

Open Access. © 2020 Caitlin Ratcliffe, published by De Gruyter. This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 Public License.

Links & Files

APA Style Website: Guidelines on Dates

Topics

Citation

Last Updated	Views	Answered By
Nov 16, 2023	242	RDP Library

Was this helpful? 0 0

Comments (0)

Add a public comment to this FAQ Entry

Email Your Question to the Library

Use this form to submit your question and we'll respond by email. Your question and contact information will not be displayed publicly.

Your Question

Question *

More Detail/Explanation

Click to choose files or Drag them here.
Maximum file size: 20.0 MB Clear files

Your Information

Name *

Email *

Are you a ... *

- Red Deer Polytechnic student
- Red Deer Polytechnic faculty
- Red Deer Polytechnic staff
- Community member

Fields marked with * are required.

Submit Your Question

Powered by Springshare; All rights reserved.
Report a tech support issue.
Login to LibApps