IEEE Formatting: In-Text Citations

This guide is based on information accumulated from Murdoch University (2015) and IEEE.org. If your instructor has specific requirements for the format of your reference page or how to cite sources, please check with your professor and follow their guidelines.

- Cite references in consecutive numerical order starting with [1].
- Each reference number is enclosed by brackets.
- Once you number the reference, use the same number in all subsequent citations using that source.
- Each reference number is placed before any punctuation and on the same line of the text that is referencing a source**:**
    - "...end of the line for my research [13]."
    - "The theory was first put forward in 1987 [1]."
    - "Scholtz [2] has argued that......."
- Unless it is relevant to your text, you do not have to mention the author's name or date.
- Instead of stating "in reference [26] ..." it is sufficient to state "In [26] ..."
- Do not make a distinction between print or electronic sources when citing in text.
- Use *et al.* when three or more names are given.

Citing Multiple Sources at a Time:

- To cite more than one source at a time, provide each number within a set of brackets

Preferred:
- [1], [3], [5]
- [1]-[5]

Acceptable:
- [1, 2]
- [1-10]

Citing Personal Communications:

Personal communications include letters, interviews, e-mails, conversations, or telephone conversations. Because these are not published works, IEEE style does not require a citation number or a reference entry; however, you must identify the author in text.

Example: "In a personal interview with Bill Gates, he suggested that he would soon rule the world."

Citing Secondary Sources:

IEEE does not accept secondary sources. You must find the original source or do not use it at all.

The information for this handout was compiled from the following sources:

IEEE. (2015). IEEE citation reference. Retrieved from https://www.ieee.org/index.html

Murdoch University. (2015). IEEE style. Retrieved from http://libguides.murdoch.edu.au/content.php?pid=144623&sid=1229928

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