

CITE-FROM-DOI — Advanced options

Every option is optional and off by default, grouped and ordered exactly as under “Advanced options” on the page.

Applies to every output

Sources & search order

Research area

Pick one — Policy / social science, Medicine & life sciences, or Engineering & physical sciences — and the search order is set for you. Picking one freezes the order boxes and overrides the per-source skips, so there is exactly one thing deciding where records come from. Untick it to go back to choosing yourself. It affects ONLY which sources are searched and in what order: it never changes how a citation is formatted, because the style already decides that and a second input could only contradict it. WHY: the sources are not interchangeable, and the wrong order is slow rather than wrong. PubMed is biomedical only, so for a non-biomedical DOI it is a guaranteed miss that still costs three retries — one run stalled about four minutes on a single education policy report this way. Pointed the other way, a biomedical user wants PubMed early. HOW: the three areas map to the PubMed question, which is the only one that really changes the answer. Medicine & life sciences puts PubMed second — and covers bench science (molecular biology, biochemistry, genetics), which is PubMed-indexed even though it is not clinical. The other two leave PubMed out: Policy / social science goes CrossRef → DataCite → OpenAlex, because reports and working papers are usually DataCite-registered; Engineering & physical sciences goes CrossRef → OpenAlex → DataCite, which also suits physics, chemistry and mathematics. NOTE: leaving PubMed out does NOT cost you NLM journal abbreviations — ‘Fill NLM journal abbreviations’ asks PubMed directly, whatever the search order. That is what makes this safe for health policy, which sits on both sides of the line.

Search order (CrossRef / DataCite / PubMed / OpenAlex)

Number the four sources to set the order they are queried (1 = tried first). Leave a source blank to skip it entirely; searching stops after the last-numbered source. At least one source must be numbered. The default order is CrossRef, DataCite, PubMed, OpenAlex. WHY: the sources have different strengths, and the first one to answer supplies the record. CrossRef covers most journal articles; DataCite covers datasets, theses and reports; PubMed is biomedical only but is the authority for NLM journal abbreviations; OpenAlex has the broadest coverage and is the only source of open-access status. HOW: for a biomedical list, move PubMed up — it supplies the abbreviations JAMA and Vancouver need. For a non-biomedical list (working papers, RAND-style reports, datasets), leave PubMed blank: it cannot match those DOIs and each miss costs several seconds of retries. Note: selecting the Open access status column always includes OpenAlex (its OA status comes from OpenAlex) — if you leave OpenAlex blank it is added as the last source.

Don't fill gaps from other sources

Use only the primary record and do not backfill missing fields (journal, pages, dates, and so on) from the other databases. WHY: by default a single citation can be assembled from several registries, which gives the most complete reference but means the fields do not all come from one place. HOW: turn this on when you need every field in a citation to be traceable to one record — checking a publisher's own deposit, or diagnosing which source introduced a wrong value. Pair it with Metadata source(s) to see which registry answered. Expect more blanks.

Accuracy & currency

Ignore cache (re-fetch)

Bypass the local DOI cache and fetch every record fresh from the sources — slower, but picks up any corrections made since the last fetch. WHY: records are cached because bibliographic metadata almost never changes once published, which makes repeat runs fast. The exceptions are publisher corrections and, above all, citation counts, which move daily. HOW: turn it on after a publisher fixes a record, to rule out a stale cache when a citation looks wrong, or whenever a citation count has to be current. Selecting the Citation count column turns this on for you.

Prefer version of record

When a DOI resolves to a preprint, follow it to the published version and cite that instead. WHY: reference managers often capture the preprint DOI because that is what was read first, and the preprint and published versions can differ in authors, title and year. HOW: use it when your DOIs came from a manager that has been collecting for a while, or when a journal requires the version of record. Leave it off if you are deliberately citing the preprint — for a result that has not yet been published, or where the preprint is what you actually read.

Check retractions

Flag any cited work that appears in the Retraction Watch dataset. WHY: citing a retracted paper undermines the argument that rests on it, and retractions often post-date the work that cited them — so a reference list assembled a year ago can contain one without anyone knowing. HOW: worth running on any manuscript before submission, and on an inherited reference list you did not compile yourself. A flag is a prompt to read the retraction notice, not an instruction to delete the reference: retracted work is sometimes cited deliberately.

Formatted citations only

Citation text (not in BibTeX / RIS)

Keep surname particles lowercase (“van Zaanen, M.”) *

By default biblio capitalises a surname particle when the family name leads an inverted name, so “Menno van Zaanen” becomes “Van Zaanen, M.”. APA's own instruction is to follow the author's usage, which the source metadata does not record, so the default follows what published APA reference lists do. Tick this to keep the particle lowercase instead. Either way, only particles biblio recognises are affected — Scandinavian “af” and “av” are always left alone. WHY: this is a convention standing in for information the metadata does not carry. The correct rendering depends on how the individual author writes their own name, and no registry records that, so either default will be wrong for some people. HOW: leave it off to match what published APA reference lists do. Tick it if you know the authors in question keep the particle lowercase, or if you are citing in a tradition — much Dutch and Belgian practice — where the lowercase form is expected.

Max authors before “et al.” *

A number that overrides the author-list cutoff for APA and JAMA / Vancouver. Leave blank to use each style's default. WHY: the defaults follow each style manual, but individual journals routinely override them in their own author instructions. HOW: set it to the number in your target journal's instructions. It affects APA and JAMA / Vancouver only — the other styles keep their manual's rule — so leave it blank unless a journal has told you otherwise.

Don't normalize titles/pages *

Skip the tidying of titles and page ranges (for example, en-dash normalization in page spans). WHY: normalisation makes output consistent regardless of how each registry happened to record a value, which is almost always what you want. HOW: turn it on only when you need to see the source data as it actually is — checking a publisher's deposit, or diagnosing whether an oddity came from the registry or from biblio. Not a formatting preference: expect inconsistent output across rows.

Fill NLM journal abbreviations *

Fill in missing JAMA / Vancouver journal abbreviations from the PubMed / NLM catalog. WHY: both styles require the NLM abbreviation, and biblio can only use one supplied by the source. When CrossRef omits it, the full journal name is printed instead — a visible error in a submitted manuscript ('International Journal of Surgery' where the journal prints 'Int J Surg'). HOW: turn it on for any JAMA or Vancouver output. It asks PubMed directly, so it works whatever the search order says — including when a research area has left PubMed out. It costs an extra lookup per journal and does nothing for the other styles, which use full journal names.

Don't abbreviate journals (JAMA/Vancouver) *

Keep full journal names in JAMA and Vancouver output instead of abbreviating them. WHY: abbreviation is the correct default for both styles, but a few journals and many institutional templates ask for full names, and full names are easier to read when the list is for humans rather than for submission. HOW: turn it on for internal reading lists or where a target explicitly asks for full titles. Leave it off for submission to a JAMA- or ICMJE-style journal.

Show ISBN on books/chapters *

Append the ISBN to book and book-chapter citations. WHY: most styles do not call for an ISBN, but some publishers and institutional repositories ask for one, and it disambiguates editions. HOW: turn it on if your target explicitly requires it; leave it off otherwise, as it is not part of any of the built-in styles' standard form.

Chicago: notes-bibliography instead of author-date *

Switch the Chicago selection from the author-date system to the humanities notes-bibliography form. WHY: Chicago is the only built-in style with two complete citation systems, and they are not interchangeable — author-date puts the year straight after the author, notes-bibliography puts it at the end and quotes the title differently. Which one is right depends on the discipline, not on preference. HOW: leave it off for the sciences and social sciences, which use author-date (the default, and what biblio's in-text citation assumes). Turn it on for history, literature, art history and theology, where notes-bibliography is expected. If you also want in-text forms, note that this changes them from a parenthetical to a note.

Also include in-text forms *

Also produce the short in-text citation (e.g. APA's "(Smith & Doe, 2020)") alongside the full reference-list entry. WHY: the in-text form follows different rules from the reference entry — often a different et-al threshold — so it cannot reliably be derived by hand from the entry. HOW: useful when drafting prose rather than only assembling a bibliography. Note that Chicago's two systems differ here: the author-date default has a parenthetical form, which the notes-bibliography option replaces with a note.

Author formatting (Word, Excel, Markdown, HTML only)

Bold / underline / italicize authors †

Upload `author_formatting.xlsx` (a name column plus a B/U/I treatment column) to emphasise specific authors' surnames in every formatted citation, on top of your chosen style. A downloadable template is linked from the option. Names that cannot be told apart are reported, never guessed. WHY: promotion and tenure dossiers, grant biosketches and departmental reports routinely ask for your own name — or your group's — to stand out in a long list, and doing that by hand across a bibliography is slow and easy to get wrong. HOW: list the surnames you want marked and the treatment for each. Emphasis survives into Word and Excel output as real formatting, and into Markdown and HTML as markup; plain text and the reference-manager formats have nowhere to put it. Check the ambiguity report rather than ignoring it — a common surname will be flagged instead of guessed, and an unmarked name is the failure this option exists to prevent.

Title casing (not in BibTeX / RIS)

Don't sentence-case titles (keep source casing) *

Leave every title exactly as the source provides it (no sentence-case conversion at all). WHY: APA and JAMA / Vancouver want sentence case, and registries usually store the publisher's own casing, so conversion is normally required. But if your DOIs are already in the casing you want, converting can only introduce errors. HOW: use it when the source metadata is known-good, or when you intend to case the titles yourself afterwards. WHICH STYLES: APA, JAMA, Vancouver and IEEE — the sentence-case styles. Chicago, Chicago-NB, MLA, ASA and APSA use headline case, which has its own option below. HARVARD IS UNAFFECTED by this option and by the headline-case one: it imposes no casing convention, so it always prints the title exactly as the source recorded it. If a Harvard or IEEE title is cased oddly, the fix is in the source record, not here.

Conservative title casing (safer for names) *

By default, when a title arrives in Title Case, biblio sentence-cases it fully (lowercasing every word except detected proper nouns — acronyms like DNA, mixed case like mRNA, and a keep-list of countries/eponyms such as Bayesian, Nash). This option switches to the safe mode: it lowercases only recognised common words and leaves everything else as the source had it, so a proper noun is never lowercased — at the cost of leaving some ordinary words capitalised. WHY: the two modes fail in opposite directions, and which failure you can live with depends on the material. Full mode can lowercase an unusual proper noun; safe mode can leave an ordinary word capitalised. HOW: switch to safe mode for title-heavy lists full of names — companies, drugs, places, people — where a lowercased proper noun would be the worse error. Whichever mode you use, read the titles: neither can be right every time, because the metadata does not record which words are names. WHICH STYLES: APA, JAMA, Vancouver and IEEE — it refines sentence casing, so it does nothing while 'Don't sentence-case titles' is on, and nothing for Harvard, which never re-cases at all.

Don't headline-case titles (Chicago/MLA/ASA/APSA) *

Leave titles as the source provides them for the headline-case styles, instead of capitalising to each manual's rule. WHY: Chicago, MLA, ASA and APSA capitalise significant words and lowercase minor ones, and the manuals disagree about which prepositions count — CMOS 18 capitalises those of five letters or more; MLA and ASA lowercase every one. biblio follows each manual, but a source title that is already correctly cased for your target does not need it. HOW: use it when the incoming titles are already in the casing your target wants, or when a journal specifies casing that differs from the manual. WHICH STYLES: Chicago, Chicago-NB, APSA, ASA and MLA — the headline-case styles. It is the counterpart of 'Don't sentence-case titles', which covers APA, JAMA, Vancouver AND IEEE. HARVARD IS UNAFFECTED by either switch: it imposes no casing convention, so it always prints the source's own casing.

Excel / CSV only

Extra columns

Metadata source(s) ‡

Add a source column naming the registries each record came from — CrossRef, DataCite, PubMed or OpenAlex. The plural is deliberate: one row can name several. By default a record is assembled from whichever sources it takes to complete it, so a cell may read 'CrossRef+OpenAlex' — CrossRef answered, and OpenAlex filled fields CrossRef left blank. The names are in the order they contributed. WHY: the source explains most surprises in the output. A record from DataCite has no journal abbreviation and no citation count; one from PubMed has no funder data. When a row looks thin, the source usually says why, and it tells you where to go to get the record corrected at origin. It also tells you when rows are NOT comparable: a citation count can come from CrossRef or from OpenAlex, which count different things, so a column that reads CrossRef all the way down is evidence the comparison is sound. HOW: use it whenever a batch is mixed — journal articles alongside datasets, reports or theses — and sort by it to see which rows came from where. Pair it with 'Don't fill gaps' to force every field in a citation to come from ONE registry, which turns the compound values back into single names. This column costs nothing: the source is recorded during the fetch that happens anyway.

Grant reporting ‡

Add the funder acknowledgement column plus the PubMed Central compliance columns, to the right of the standard columns: funding (the funder as reported by each record's source: CrossRef, DataCite, or OpenAlex), pmc_required_by (the federal agency, when detected from funder names or grant numbers), pmc_posting (an actual NCBI PMC check), and nih_public_access (inferred from the OA level, for triage). WHY: federal funders require deposited copies of funded publications, and checking that by hand across a long list is slow. HOW: use it for progress reports and biosketches — sort by pmc_posting to find the papers that still need depositing. Treat nih_public_access as triage, not an answer: it is inferred from the OA level, whereas pmc_posting is an actual check against PMC.

Citation count ‡

Add a citation_count column. IMPORTANT: this option forces a full re-fetch (it turns on 'Ignore cache'), so the run is slower than usual. WHY: every other field this tool emits is fixed once a work is published — authors, title, pages and the supplying registry never change — but a citation count changes daily. A cached count is not merely out of date, it is wrong in a way you cannot see: plausible, correctly formatted, and indistinguishable from a current figure. Forcing the re-fetch is the only way to make the number mean what it appears to mean. WHERE THE NUMBER COMES FROM: CrossRef's own count of how many times other CrossRef-deposited works cite this DOI ('is-referenced-by-count'), or OpenAlex's equivalent where OpenAlex supplied the record. DataCite and PubMed publish no count at all, so a record resolved from either arrives blank. Turn on the Metadata source(s) column to see which one answered. HOW IT COMPARES WITH OTHER SOURCES: every citation index counts a different universe, so there is no single true figure for a paper. CrossRef counts only citations from works whose publishers deposit reference lists with CrossRef — most journals do, but deposit is voluntary, so some journals contribute nothing. Google Scholar is consistently the highest: it also crawls theses, preprints, working papers, book chapters and reports. Scopus and Web of Science are curated — they count only citations from titles they have selected for inclusion — so they usually land between CrossRef and Scholar, and differ from each other. OpenAlex is closest in spirit to CrossRef but indexes more, so it often reads slightly higher. Expect the same paper to carry noticeably different numbers in each, and expect the gap to be widest in fields that publish through conferences, working papers or books — engineering, economics and the humanities — and narrowest in clinical medicine, where nearly

everything is a journal article with a deposited reference list. Use this column to compare works WITHIN one list, where the same rule applies to every row. Do not quote it against a figure someone took from Scopus or Scholar, and do not put it in a CV or promotion file without naming CrossRef as the source and the date. A blank means the registry holds no count for that DOI; blank is left empty rather than zero, because 'no count available' and 'cited zero times' are different facts. HOW: useful for triaging a long reading list by influence, or for a quick sense of which references in a draft are doing the heavy lifting. Because the count is a moment in time, record the date alongside it if the number is going into a document.

Open access status ‡

Add two columns, always furthest right: `open_access` (the OpenAlex OA status) and a plain-language key to what each status value means. WHY: OA status decides whether a reader can actually reach a work, and it is the quickest way to see whether funder open-access conditions have been met. HOW: use it when assembling a reading list others must be able to open, or alongside Grant reporting for compliance work. Selecting this always adds OpenAlex to the search order, since the status comes from there. See the level key below for what each value means — in particular 'bronze', which is free to read but can be withdrawn.

Author ORCIDs ‡

Add an `orcid` column: the ORCID iD of every author on the record, ';' '-joined. Blank when no author on that record has one deposited. WHY: names do not identify people. A reference list can hold three J. Smiths, an author can publish under a maiden and a married name, and transliteration varies between publishers. An ORCID is a persistent identifier that settles all three. HOW: use it whenever the question is WHOSE work this is rather than what the work is — checking a CV, assembling a candidate's output, deduplicating a list built from several searches. It costs nothing: ORCIDs are already fetched with the record. Coverage is the limit, not the lookup — deposit is voluntary and rarer on older works, so expect blanks in anything pre-2015. Selecting Citation count turns this on for you.

Author affiliations ‡

Add an `affiliation` column: the institutions credited on the record, ';' '-joined. WHY: it answers the other half of 'is this the right person' — the same name at the same institution is usually the same researcher — and it is what institutional reporting needs. HOW: pair it with ORCID when disambiguating; use it alone for a departmental or institutional output list. NOTE THE SOURCE: OpenAlex records structured institutions, CrossRef records free text and often nothing at all, so selecting this ALWAYS adds OpenAlex to the search order — the same arrangement as Open access status. Even so, expect gaps: affiliation is deposited far less consistently than authorship, and it is the affiliation AT PUBLICATION, not where the author is now. Selecting Citation count turns this on for you.

Grant reporting: PMC & NIH public access

For federally funded records (NIH, AHRQ, CDC, FDA), `pmc_required_by` names the agency and `pmc_posting` is an ACTUAL PubMed Central check via NCBI's ID Converter (a PMCID, or "not in PMC").

`nih_public_access` is **inferred** from the OpenAlex OA level (gold/hybrid/green/diamond → likely; bronze → unclear; closed → no; unknown → unknown) for triage only — not a verified check.

Open-access levels (OpenAlex)

The `open_access` (OpenAlex) column reports OpenAlex's OA status.

gold

Published in a fully open-access journal — the version of record is free under an open licence.

hybrid

A subscription journal, but this article was made free under an open licence.

green

The published version may be paywalled, but a free copy sits in a repository such as PubMed Central. This is the route NIH-funded work usually takes.

bronze

Free to read on the publisher's site, but with no open licence — access is at the publisher's discretion and can be withdrawn.

diamond

A fully open-access journal that charges no author fees (newer OpenAlex data; otherwise counted as gold).

closed

No free version was found — effectively paywalled.

unknown

OpenAlex reported no status: no OpenAlex record, or the DOI resolved from CrossRef/DataCite only. Not the same as “closed”.

Which outputs an option reaches

An option with no mark applies to EVERY output type. The marks below narrow that, and the page hides a marked option once you have chosen output formats it cannot reach.

*

Not produced for BibTeX / RIS. Those are structured, style-agnostic records: the reference manager applies its own formatting, so nothing here reaches them.

†

Word, Excel, Markdown and HTML only. Emphasis needs a format that can carry it — real runs in Word and Excel, markup in Markdown and HTML. Plain text, CSV, BibTeX and RIS have nowhere to put it.

‡

Excel / CSV only. These are spreadsheet columns; no other output format has columns to put them in.