

OSCOLA Quick Guide

The OSCOLA Quick Guide provides basic guidance on how to reference some materials for assessments. For full guidance, please refer to the Arden University Guide to OSCOLA Referencing on our Learning Success Hub [Academic Integrity](#) page.

What is the OSCOLA referencing system?

OSCOLA is **footnote referencing system**. All statements, arguments, theories, opinions, conclusions etc. taken from primary or secondary legal sources (print, online or multimedia) should be cited, whether the work is directly quoted, paraphrased, or summarised.

OSCOLA referencing is a **three-part process**:

1. *Footnotes*
2. *Tables of authority (e.g., Table of Cases and Table of Legislation)*
3. *Bibliography*

Footnotes

When you cite a text, you will need to insert a footnote. Footnotes are indicated by superscripted numbers at the relevant point in your work. These numbers link to a list of notes at the bottom of your page.

When writing your citation in the footnote, you will follow the OSCOLA guidance for how to format the footnote for that kind of source.

You can include the author(s) names within the sentence, at the start of information:

Deane argues that working with academic integrity involves indicating who your sources of information are.¹

¹ Mary Deane, *Academic Research, Writing & Referencing* (Pearson Education Limited 2010).

You can also place all the source's information (including author) in the footnote:

Working with academic integrity involves indicating who your sources of information are.¹

¹ Mary Deane, *Academic Research, Writing & Referencing* (Pearson Education Limited 2010).

Tables of authority

You will normally include a list of the **cases** you have cited (table of cases) and a list of the **legislation** you have cited (table of legislation) at the end of your work.

The cases and legislation are listed in **alphabetical order** in the tables.

Table of cases

Corr v IBC Vehicles Ltd [2008] UKHL 13, [2008] 1 AC 884

Evans v South Ribble Borough Council [1992] QB 757 (QB)

Table of legislation

Equality Act 2010

Human Rights Act 1998

Bibliography

After your tables of authority, you will include a bibliography that lists all the secondary sources (e.g., **eBooks, journal articles, and websites**) that you have used.

These are also listed **alphabetically** by the authors' surnames.

Bibliography

Craig P, 'Theory and Values in Public Law' [2005] PL 440

Deane M, *Academic Research, Writing & Referencing* (Pearson Education Limited 2010)

Commonly cited primary legal sources:

Cases (cases before 2001)

Table of Cases format	Table of Cases entry example	Footnote example
Party names [Year of law report] Volume of law report Law report abbreviation First page of report (Court that issued judgement)	Page v Smith [1960] 1 All ER 792 (CA)	<i>Page v Smith</i> [1960] 1 All ER 792 (CA).

Cases (cases after 2001)

Table of Cases format	Table of Cases entry example	Footnote example
Party names [Year of judgement] Court that issued judgement Number of judgement for that year, [Year of law report] Volume of law report Law report abbreviation First page of report	Corr v IBC Vehicles Ltd [2008] UKHL 13, [2008] 1 AC 884	<i>Corr v IBC Vehicles Ltd</i> [2008] UKHL 13, [2008] 1 AC 884.

Legislation

Table of Legislation format	Table of Legislation entry example	Footnote example
Name of Act with year	Human Rights Act 1998	Human Rights Act 1998.

Commonly cited secondary legal sources:

Books/eBooks

Bibliography format	Bibliography entry example	Footnote example
Author A, <i>Title of work: Capital letter also for subtitle</i> (Edition if greater than 1 st , publisher Year of publication)	Deane M, <i>Academic Research, Writing & Referencing</i> (Pearson Education Limited 2010)	Mary Deane, <i>Academic Research, Writing & Referencing</i> (Pearson Education Limited 2010).

Journal articles

Bibliography format	Bibliography entry example	Footnote example
Author A, 'Title of article' (Year of Publication) Volume number (issue number) Journal name/abbreviation First page of article	Craig P, 'Theory and Values in Public Law' [2005] PL 440	Paul Craig, 'Theory and Values in Public Law' [2005] PL 440.

Webpages

Bibliography format	Bibliography entry example	Footnote example
Author A, 'Webpage title' (<i>Website name</i> , publication date) <URL> accessed date	Cole S, 'Virtual Friend Fires Employee' (<i>Naked Law</i> , 1 May 2009) <www.nakedlaw.com/2009/0 5.index.html> accessed 19 November 2009	Sarah Cole, 'Virtual Friend Fires Employee' (<i>Naked Law</i> , 1 May 2009) <www.nakedlaw.com/2009/05.ind ex.html> accessed 19 November 2009.