

Abbreviations in academic writing

A number of abbreviations are generally accepted in academic writing. The following list, though not exhaustive, contains the most frequently used examples. Most of these are found in citations or referencing components of writing such as in table or image captions.

| ABBREVIATION | USAGE | MEANING |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| app. | “See App. 2...” | appendix |
| bk., bks., | “See Bk 3 ...” | book/books |
| c, © | “Turnitin©” | copyright |
| c. (<i>circa</i>) | “c. 1901” | about a certain date |
| ch., chs. (or chap/chaps) | “See Ch. 6 ...” | chapter/chapters |
| col., cols. | “See p. 6, col. 3...” | column/s |
| diss. | “PhD diss....” | dissertation (Masters/PhD) |
| ed., eds. | “Davies, M. and Devlin, M. (eds.) ...” | editor/s |
| edn., 3 rd ed. | “See 1996, 3 rd ed. ...” | Edition / third edition |
| et al., (<i>et alii</i>) | “Jones, et al., 1999 ...” | “and others” when a book has several authors |
| et. seq., (<i>et sequentes</i>) | “pp. 64 et seq.” | “and following” |
| f., ff. | Refers to other page numbers, e.g., “p. 6 ff. ...” | and the following |
| facsim. | “See 1854, facsim....” | facsimile (exact copy) |
| fol., fols | “See p. 45, fol. 3457...” | folio/s |
| front. | “See front. p. iii”... | frontispiece (first page) |
| ibid., (<i>ibidem</i>) | “See ibid., p. 35” | the same work (as cited directly above) |
| ill., ills. | M. and K. Smith, ills. | illustrator/s |
| loc. cit. (<i>loco citato</i>) | “See, Smith, loc. cit. ...” | same place already cited — same passage used before |
| ms., mss. | “See Jones, 1999 ms....” | manuscript (unpublished) |
| n., nn. | “See p. 56, n. 3” ... | note (s) below text |

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| n.d. | “See Smith, n.d., p. 35...” | no date (of publication) |
| n.p. | “Jones, 1999, n.p.” | no place (of publication) |
| no. | “Vol. 56, no. 5 ...” | number (used for journals) |
| op. cit. (<i>opere citato</i>) | “Jamison, 1999, op. cit., p. 45 ...” | in a work recently cited before |
| p., pp. | “1999, pp. 45-58...” | page/pages |
| passim. | “Jackson, 1987, passim...” | throughout the work rather than specific pages |
| pers. comm. | “According to John Smith, Director of Teaching and Learning: ‘.....’, (Smith, pers. comm., 16/6/17).” | personal communication |
| pt. | “See Chapter 4, pt. 3...” | part (e.g., I, II, III, IV) |
| q.v. (<i>quod vide</i>) | “pp. 34-56, q.v. p. 67...” | “which see” used in cross-referencing |
| rev. edn. | “1999, rev. edn. ...” | revised edition |
| sic. [sic] | He said: ‘I had too see it for myself [sic]’. | thus so - used to identify mistakes in original quote |
| suppl. | “See <i>the Australian</i> , Higher Education suppl....” | Supplement |
| tech. rep. | “See tech. rep., no. 6...” | technical report |
| tr., trans. | “Nosick, R., trans., ...” | translator |
| v., vv., vs., vss. | “See p. 5, vs. 567...” | verse(s) |
| verso | “See publisher’s information. verso page, p. ii...” | page after title page |
| viz. (<i>videlicet</i>) | “He needs a doctor, viz., a medical expert.” | namely or “in other words” |
| vol., vols | “See 1876, vol. 5...” | volume/s |

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