

Documenting Literary Reference Books

The library carries numerous reference books that contain criticism on works of literature. Many of these reference books have conveniently compiled articles from a wide variety of journals, books, and other sources, making it easy for students to find several works of criticism on a single author.

Since the articles in these books were originally printed elsewhere, students must include in their document both information on the original publication **and** information on the reference work containing the reprint of that information.

When using MLA format for reprinted works, begin the citation with the original source information, then add the reprint information. The *Holt Handbook* provided examples on how to document books and articles in magazines and journals. After listing this information in MLA format, indicate the MLA listing for the multivolume work containing the reprint.

The journal *Commentary*, published an article by David T. Bazelon titled “Dashiell Hammet’s “Private Eye”” in volume 7, issue 5 in May 1949 on pages 467-472. The correct MLA format for a Works Cited entry using the original article in *Commentary* would be

Bazelon, David T. “Dashiell Hammet’s “Private Eye.”” *Commentary* 7.5 (May 1949):
467-72.

An internal citation from page 467 in this article would be written (Bazelon 467) assuming there are no other sources by Bazelon used.

Bazelon’s article is reprinted in volume 19 of *Contemporary Literary Criticism*. The citation format for the article reprinted in *Contemporary Literary Criticism* would be

Bazelon, David T. “Dashiell Hammet’s “Private Eye.”” *Commentary* 7.5 (May 1949):
467-472. Rpt. in *Contemporary Literary Criticism*. Vol. 19. Ed. Sharon R.
Gunton. Detroit: Gale Research, 1981. 193-4.

Notice that the beginning of the citation remains the same, but information is added to the end of the citation regarding its reprinting in *Contemporary Literary Criticism*.

An internal citation from the reprinted source would indicate the pages in the reprinted source, not the original, so the same information cited from the original article when cited from the reprint source might be (Bazelon 193).

