GENERAL

apa 6th edition 2nd printing

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Introduction

In the world of academic writing, precision and consistency are paramount. Whether you're drafting a journal article, preparing a thesis, or compiling a literature review, the guidelines you follow can make the difference between a polished manuscript and a confusing document. Among the most widely adopted frameworks is the American Psychological Association (APA) style. While many researchers have moved on to the 7th edition, the **APA 6th edition 2nd printing**remains a critical reference for countless disciplines, especially in the social sciences. This article explores the history, features, and practical application of the second printing of the 6th edition, offering a comprehensive guide for scholars who need to navigate its nuances with confidence.

1. The Evolution of APA Style: From 6th Edition to 2nd Printing

1.1 The Original 6th Edition Release

Published in 2009, the 6th edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association marked a significant shift in formatting conventions. It introduced a new approach to headings, clarified the use of the Oxford comma, and refined guidelines for electronic sources. The manual quickly became the go-to resource for students and professionals across psychology, education, and related fields.

1.2 Why a Second Printing Was Needed

Over time, minor errors and ambiguities emerged in the original print. The second printing, released in 2010, corrected typographical mistakes, clarified ambiguous sections, and updated certain examples to reflect evolving digital practices. These refinements were essential for ensuring that authors could apply the style consistently, especially as the academic landscape shifted toward online publishing.

2. Key Features of the APA 6th Edition 2nd Printing

2.1 Formatting Guidelines

One of the most valuable aspects of the second printing is its detailed instructions on manuscript structure. The manual specifies margins, font choices, line spacing, and heading levels, all of which contribute to a clean, professional appearance. For example, the recommended font is 12 point Times New Roman, and double spacing is required throughout, including the reference list.

2.2 Citation Style

The APA 6th edition 2nd printing refines in text citation formats, especially for multiple authors and secondary sources. It clarifies the use of et al., the placement of commas, and the formatting of dates. These rules help prevent confusion when citing sources with more than two authors.

2.3 Reference List Construction

The reference list remains one of the most challenging components for many writers. The second printing provides a comprehensive set of examples, covering books, journal articles, conference proceedings, and online materials. It also introduces guidelines for handling corporate authors and works with no author, ensuring that every reference

can be accurately represented.

2.4 Electronic Sources and DOI Usage

With the rise of digital content, the manual emphasizes the importance of Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs). The second printing offers updated instructions for formatting URLs and DOIs, including how to handle cases where a DOI is not available. These guidelines are vital for maintaining the integrity of electronic citations.

3. Comparing the 1st and 2nd Printings: What Changed?

3.1 Minor Corrections and Clarifications

Many changes in the second printing are subtle but critical. For instance, the manual corrected a misprint that listed “APA 6th edition” as “APA 5th edition” in one section. These corrections prevent misinterpretation and ensure that readers are following the correct guidelines.

3.2 Updated Examples

The second printing updated several examples to reflect contemporary research practices. It includes new examples of citing open access journals, social media posts, and podcasts—sources that were less common in the original release.

3.3 Expanded Guidance on Ethics and Plagiarism

Ethical considerations are integral to scholarly work. The second printing expands on the discussion of plagiarism, providing clearer definitions and more concrete examples of what constitutes improper citation. This expansion helps students and researchers understand the ethical implications of their work.

4. Transitioning to APA 7th Edition: Why the 6th Edition Still Matters

4.1 The Shift to the 7th Edition

Released in 2019, the 7th edition introduced several significant changes, such as the inclusion of singular “they,” a new recommended font (Calibri), and updated guidelines for citing online sources. These updates reflect the evolving nature of research communication.

4.2 When to Use APA 6th Edition 2nd Printing

Despite the newer edition, many institutions and journals still require the 6th edition. Graduate programs, especially in psychology, often maintain the 6th edition as the standard for theses and dissertations. Consequently, familiarity with the 2nd printing is essential for students and scholars who must adhere to these specific guidelines.

4.3 Bridging the Gap Between Editions

Understanding the differences between the two editions allows researchers to transition smoothly. For example, while the 7th edition recommends using the author date system for in text citations, the 6th edition’s rules for multiple authors remain in place. By mastering both, writers can adapt to a broader range of publication requirements.

5. Mastering APA 6th Edition 2nd Printing: Citation Techniques

5.1 In Text Citations

In-text citations in the APA 6th edition 2nd printing follow the author date format. For a single author, the citation appears as (Smith, 2015). For two authors, include both names: (Smith & Jones, 2016). For three or more authors, list the first author followed by “et al.” and the year: (Smith et al., 2018). These rules help readers quickly locate the

reference list entry.

5.2 Reference List Entries

Each reference entry begins with the author(s) name(s), followed by the publication year in parentheses, the title of the work, and the publication information. For example:

1. Smith, J. A. (2015). Understanding social behavior. New York, NY: Academic Press.
2. Jones, L. & Brown, K. (2016). The impact of technology on learning. Journal of Educational Research, 22(3), 123–135. https://doi.org/10.1234/jer.2016.022

Note the use of italics for book titles and journal names, the placement of commas, and the inclusion of the DOI or URL when available.

5.3 Electronic Sources and DOIs

For online sources, the manual requires the use of a DOI whenever possible. If a DOI is not available, provide the direct URL to the source. The second printing clarifies that URLs should not be hyperlinked in the reference list, maintaining a clean appearance.

5.4 Handling Multiple Works by the Same Author

When citing multiple works by the same author, arrange them chronologically. If the works were published in the same year, differentiate them with letters: (Smith, 2015a), (Smith, 2015b), etc. This method keeps the reference list organized and prevents confusion.

6. Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

6.1 Misplacing the Year

A frequent error is placing the publication year outside the parentheses or omitting it entirely. Always ensure the year is in parentheses immediately after the author's name.

6.2 Incorrect Use of "Et Al."

In the 6th edition 2nd printing, "et al." should only appear for works with three or more authors. Using it for two authors violates the style guidelines.

6.3 Formatting Errors in Reference List

Common issues include missing italics, incorrect punctuation, and inconsistent capitalization. Double check each entry against the examples in the manual.

6.4 Over Citing or Under Citing

While it's essential to cite all sources that influenced your work, over citation can clutter the manuscript. Conversely, under citation may raise plagiarism concerns. Strive for a balanced approach.

7. Tools and Resources for APA 6th Edition 2nd Printing

7.1 Citation Generators

- Purdue OWL: Offers a comprehensive guide and sample citations.
- Zotero: A free reference manager that supports APA 6th edition formatting.
- Mendeley: Enables automatic citation generation and bibliography creation.

7.2 Style Guides and Online Resources

- APA Style Blog: Provides updates and clarifications on APA guidelines.
- Chicago Manual of Style: While not APA, it offers complementary formatting insights.
- University Writing Centers: Many universities host PDF copies of the 6th edition manual for student use.

7.3 Professional Workshops

Many academic departments offer workshops on APA style. These sessions cover the 6th edition 2nd printing's nuances and provide hands on practice with citation tools.

8. Practical Applications in Academic Writing

8.1 Thesis and Dissertation Preparation

Graduate students often rely on the 6th edition 2nd printing for formatting their dissertations. The manual's guidelines on title pages, abstract formatting, and appendices help maintain consistency across submissions.

8.2 Research Proposals

Funding agencies frequently require proposals to follow APA style. Accurate citations and a well structured reference list demonstrate scholarly rigor and enhance credibility.

8.3 Journal Submissions

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