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Introduction to Writing Citations and Reference Lists Using APA Style 7th Edition for Publishing in SINTA-Accredited National Journals

Muhammad Rafiek
Master of Education in Indonesian Language and Literature Study Program,
Universitas Lambung Mangkurat, Banjarmasin, Indonesia
rfk2073@gmail.com

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Abstract

The introduction of reference writing and reference lists in the APA style 7th edition was motivated by changes in the rules for writing reference lists in scientific papers. The change from the rules for writing APA style 6th edition to APA style 7th edition requires the speed of S2 students in updating their information about APA style 7th edition. Students must also update their knowledge by writing references and reference lists in APA style 7th edition. Introduction to reference writing and reference list APA style 7th edition is very necessary, especially in writing a reference list of thesis reports and writing scientific articles. This introduction aims to enable 20 S2 students of the Indonesian Language and Literature Education Postgraduate Program of Universitas Lambung Mangkurat (ULM) for 2023/2024 to write a list of references according to the APA style 7th edition rules. This service method uses Service Learning (SL) in the form of an online introduction with Google Meet. The participants of this introduction amounted to 20 S2 students of the Indonesian Language and Literature Education Postgraduate Program of ULM for the academic year 2023/2024. The implementation technique is carried out by delivering material, providing direct examples, and observing the direct practice of participants in Google Meet impressions. This introduction activity will be held on Saturday, February 3, 2024, through Google Meet. The result of the introduction was that 20 participants successfully mastered writing references and reference lists in APA style 7th edition. This service concludes that 20 S2 students of the Indonesian Language and Literature Education Postgraduate Program of ULM for 2023/2024 can understand and apply reference writing and reference lists in APA style 7th edition.

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INTRODUCTION

This introduction is motivated by the fact that many master's students in the Indonesian Language and Literature Education (PBSI) Study Program, Graduate Program (PPs), ULM, are not yet aware of the changes in citation and reference list writing rules according to the American Psychological Association (APA) Style 7th edition. Many PBSI master's students at PPs ULM only know how to write citations and reference lists based on APA Style 6th edition. This was confirmed through initial questions before the

introduction, asking whether they knew the differences between APA Style 6th and 7th edition rules. All of them admitted they were not familiar with APA Style 7th edition.

Students who only know how to write citations and reference lists according to APA Style 6th edition face difficulties when the journal templates they aim for require APA Style 7th edition. This may be manageable if the journal allows for revisions and resubmission. However, well-established journals typically do not offer the opportunity for such corrections due to the high volume of submissions awaiting evaluation.

The situation described above necessitates the introduction of APA Style 7th edition to ensure that students, as prospective scientific article writers, know how to create proper citations and reference lists. Whether they like it or not, students must gradually learn and understand the differences between APA Style 7th edition and APA Style 6th edition. Students need to update their knowledge from APA Style 6th to APA Style 7th.

Knowledge of APA Style 7th edition should be provided when students enter their first semester at PPs ULM. This ensures students do not struggle to create or write citations and reference lists according to APA Style 7th edition. Understanding APA Style 7th edition is crucial for new students because SINTA-accredited national and reputable international journals require it. Therefore, new students must gradually understand and master APA Style 7th edition rules.

Given the above, it is clear that introducing APA Style 7th edition for writing citations and reference lists is essential. This service activity, which introduces the APA Style 7th edition for writing citations and reference lists, is the first conducted by the service team at PBSI PPs ULM. Therefore, this service activity marks the first introduction of APA Style 7th edition rules for writing citations and reference lists for PBSI master's students at PPs ULM. Previous service activities conducted by the researcher include online OJS version 2 training (Rafiek & Noortyani, 2023), training on writing scientific articles and using the Mendeley application (Rafiek et al., 2022), online training on writing scientific articles for submission to international journals (Rafiek et al., 2022), and online training on writing and submitting articles to Scopus-indexed international journals via OJS (Rafiek & Effendi, 2021).

Previous service activities related to the introduction of APA Style 7th Edition have indeed never been conducted by the service providers for the community. Therefore, this service activity pioneered the introduction of APA Style 7th Edition in Indonesia. Past service activities in Indonesia have only been related to workshops on scientific writing (Prahani et al., 2023) and training on writing scientific publication articles (Fatimah et al., 2023).

This service activity aims to introduce the writing of citations and reference lists according to APA Style 7th Edition. Writing academic papers, especially regarding citations and reference lists, is highly beneficial for master's students.

METHODS

This service activity uses Service Learning (SL), a service method rooted in applying the knowledge learned in the classroom to real-life situations (Kuntjara et al., 2013). SL can be used as a teaching tool to promote social justice and its implementation to enhance learners' personal development (Meyers, 2009). SL is an experiential learning model integrating community engagement into the training curriculum to improve participant learning outcomes and advance society (Mason & Dunens, 2019).

SL is also a teaching approach that combines the goal of writing with addressing community problems in writing citations and reference lists (Setyowati & Permata, 2018). SL involves providing the community with experience in solving a problem (Ibrahim et al., 2018).

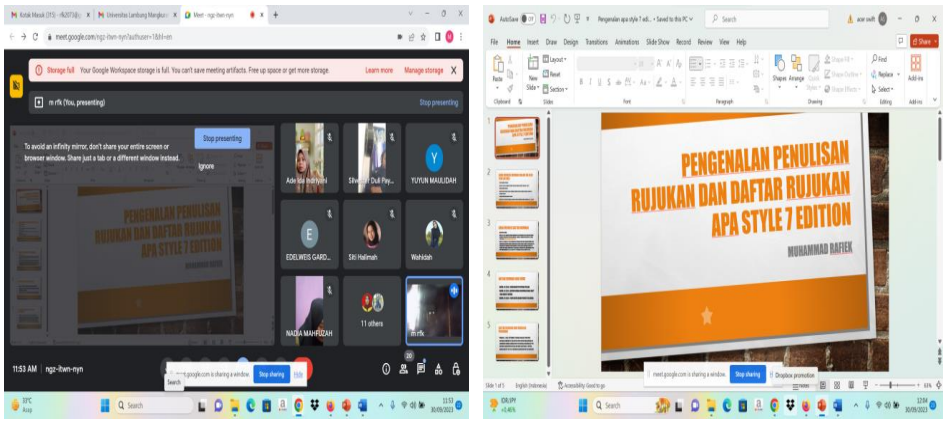
The introduction to writing citations and reference lists using APA Style 7th Edition was conducted online using Google Meet. This introduction occurred on Saturday, February 3, 2024, and was attended by 20 master's students in the PBSI PSM PPs ULM program for the odd semester of 2023/2024.

The introduction method began with (1) material presentation, followed by (2) a question-and-answer session, and (3) practicing writing or typing reference lists according to APA Style 7th Edition. The material was delivered by Dr. Muhammad Rafiek, M.Pd., for approximately 30 minutes. A question-and-answer session and practice followed this in creating reference lists according to APA Style 7th Edition, lasting about 30 minutes. Feedback from the service providers was provided for 30 minutes. The question-and-answer session and practice in writing reference lists were also guided by the event's speaker, Dr. Muhammad Rafiek, M.Pd.

This introductory activity was evaluated by providing exercises to correct reference lists that did not yet follow the APA 7th edition rules. After the participants completed the exercise, the speaker assessed the work and provided feedback.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The material on writing citations and reference lists using APA Style 7th Edition began with a presentation by the service providers. They explained that both domestic and international journal templates are now starting to implement reference list writing rules using APA Style 7th Edition. Therefore, every prospective article writer must master and be able to apply APA Style 7th Edition rules when writing reference lists. Figure 1 (a) shows the material presentation by the service providers, and Figure 1 (b) shows the slides of the introduction materials.



(a) (b)

Figure 1 (a) Service provider delivering the introduction to APA style 7th edition and (b) Introduction slides for writing citations and reference lists using APA style 7th edition

The service provider began explaining how to cite references within the body of an article or research report when authored by a single writer. If the last name of the single author is cited in the text at the beginning of a sentence, it should be written as "last name (year)." Conversely, if the last name is cited at the end of the sentence, it should be written as "(last name, year)." The same rule applies when the article is written by two authors, where only the last names of both authors are cited in the text. The citation should be written as "last name and last name (year)" if placed at the beginning or "(last name & last name, year)" if placed at the end. This differs from the rules for citing references in the text when there are three or more authors. If there are three or more

authors, only the last name of the first author is written, followed by "et al. (year)" or "and colleagues (year)." The citation should be written as "first author's last name et al. (year)" if there are more than two authors.

Next, the service provider discussed writing a journal article's reference list entry. For a single author, the format is the last name followed by the initials of the first name with periods. The year of publication is placed in parentheses and ends with a period. The title of the article also ends with a period. The journal's name is italicized, followed by a comma, and the volume and issue numbers are in parentheses. The volume number is also italicized. After the issue number, a comma is added, followed by the page numbers. Typically, the link to the journal article is added after a period. As an example, the service provider presented a reference list that adheres to APA Style 7th Edition guidelines as follows:

> Herman, H., Rafiek, M., Agustina, T., Saddhono, K., Malabar, S., Saputra, N., & Purba, R. (2023). Exploring the metafunctions to improve EFL learners' writing ability in the perspective of systemic functional linguistics. *Research Journal in Advanced Humanities*, *4*(2). https://doi.org/10.58256/rjah.v4i2.1195.

Next, the service provider presented material on the rules for writing book references. According to APA Style 7th Edition, there are differences in how to write book references compared to the 6th edition. In APA Style 6th Edition, the city of publication was included, but in APA Style 7th Edition, it has been removed. This change is because books published abroad are sometimes released in multiple countries, making it challenging for researchers or authors to specify the city of publication. Now, with APA Style 7th Edition, the city of publication is omitted, simplifying the process for authors. This new information was helpful for participants in understanding how to write references from books. An example of how to write a reference from a book is as follows:

> Rafiek, M. & Zaini, M. (2023). *Leksikon Perikanan Bahasa Banjar dialek Kuala.* Eureka Media Aksara.

The next topic covered by the service provider was how to write references from seminar proceeding papers. The rules for writing references from books according to APA Style 7th Edition differ from those for journal articles. When citing journal articles, there is no need to include "pp." (page numbers). However, when citing a seminar proceeding paper, "pp." is included in parentheses after the title or event name. Additionally, the year in parentheses may include the month of the seminar. According to APA Style 7th Edition, the title of the proceedings should be italicized. An example of this citation format is

After the service provider presented all the material, participants were invited to ask questions if they did not understand. Some participants asked why the citation format for more than two authors differs between the text and the reference list. This distinction is between APA Style 6th Edition and APA Style 7th Edition. In APA Style 7th Edition, for more than two authors, the citation in the text includes the first author's last name followed by "et al." (year). The reference list consists of the last name, first initial, last name, first initial, and last name, first initial. (year).

The service provider also guided participants in correcting and adjusting references that used APA Style 6th Edition to APA Style 7th Edition. The service provider patiently and skillfully assisted participants in correcting their entries, as illustrated in Figure 2.

The participants were asked to correct examples of references that were still using APA Style 6th Edition to conform to APA Style 7th Edition. The participants practiced typing and correcting reference lists that did not comply with APA Style 7th Edition. When some participants could not correctly revise their reference lists, the service provider guided them online to make the corrections.

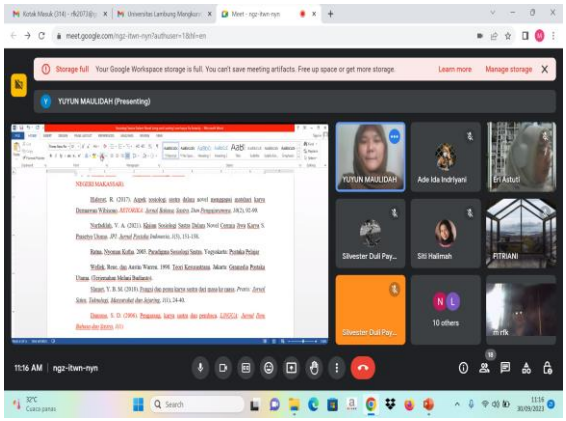


Figure 2 Participant 1 practicing typing references according to APA style 7th edition

The service provider provides feedback indicating that learning and applying APA Style 7th Edition for writing references must be done gradually. This helps in understanding the changes in writing references when there are more than two authors in academic texts. Previously, in APA Style 6th Edition, all authors' last names were written out. In APA Style 7th Edition, only the first author's last name is written, followed by et al.

Similarly, for book references in the bibliography, APA Style 6th Edition required the city of publication, which has been removed in APA Style 7th Edition. The service provider also provided feedback on how to write references from journal articles, noting that the journal name and volume are italicized in APA Style 7th Edition. Page numbers are listed directly without "page (p)" or "pages (pp)" as in references from conference proceedings. References from articles also include the URL and DOI.

The result of this service is that 20 participating students could understand and write references and reference lists following APA Style 7th Edition rules, as evidenced by their direct practice in correcting reference lists. The introduction of APA Style 7th Edition writing rules aligns with Faulconer's (2020) opinion. Faulconer (2020) states that Service Learning (SL) can be conducted electronically or online. According to Faulconer (2020), participants in the introduction can achieve real-world outcomes within a specific community, demonstrating mastery of learning objectives and enhancing transferable key skills.

CONCLUSION

The introduction to writing references and reference lists using APA Style 7th Edition for Master's students in Indonesian Language and Literature at ULM was successfully conducted. This is evident from how participants practiced typing and correcting reference lists from APA Style 6th Edition to APA Style 7th Edition. Overall, the participants understood and were able to create reference lists using APA Style 7th Edition. A limitation of this service is that not all rules for writing references according to APA Style 7th Edition were introduced. This is due to the time constraints of the service, which lasted only one hour and thirty minutes.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The author declares that there is no conflict of interest.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS STATEMENT

The author stated that he contributed to conceptualizing, developing methodologies, conducting formal analysis, writing, preparing the original draft, and making conclusions

and reference lists.

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AUTHOR PROFILES

Muhammad Rafiek, mrfk@ulm.ac.id, Expert in Linguistics, Psycholinguistics, Sociolinguistics, Lambung Mangkurat University.
https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=3i3XA9kAAAAJ&hl=en,
https://sinta.kemdikbud.go.id/authors/profile/5984952/?view=books,
https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7855-5565
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