What’s new with MLA??

Page numbers are provided from the MLA Handbook: Eighth Edition

Abbreviations

- Common terms in the works-cited list like editor, edited by, translator, and review of are no longer abbreviated. The eighth edition provides a shorter list of recommended abbreviations (96–97).

Authors

- When a source has three or more authors, only the first one shown in the source is normally given. It is followed by et al. (22). (Previously, the omission of coauthors was limited to sources with four or more authors and was presented as an option.)

Books and Other Printed Works

- Page numbers in the works-cited list (but not in in-text citations) are now preceded by p. or pp. (46).
- For books, the city of publication is no longer given, except in special situations (51).

Journals

- Issues of scholarly journals are now identified with, for instance, “vol. 64, no. 1” rather than “64.1” (39–40).
- If an issue of a scholarly journal is dated with a month or season, the month or season is now always cited along with the year (45).

Online Works

- The URL (without http:// or https://) is now normally given for a Web source. Angle brackets are not used around it (48, 110).
- The citing of DOIs (digital object identifiers) is encouraged (110).
- Citing the date when an online work was consulted is now optional (53).
- Placeholders for unknown information like n.d. (“no date”) are no longer used. If facts missing from a work are available in a reliable external resource, they are cited in square brackets (2.6.1). Otherwise, they are simply omitted.

Publishers

- Publishers’ names are now given in full, except that business words like Company (Co.) are dropped and, for academic presses, the abbreviations U, P, and UP are still used (97).
- A forward slash (/) now separates the names of copublishers (108).
• The kinds of publications that don’t require a publisher’s name are defined (42).
• When an organization is both author and publisher of a work, the organization’s name is now given only once, usually as the publisher (25). No author is stated.

Miscellaneous

• Full publication information is now given for widely used reference works. Page-number spans are given for articles in alphabetically arranged reference books in print. In other words, reference works are treated like other works and are no longer subject to exceptions.
• The medium of publication is no longer stated, except when it is needed for clarity (52).

Other Aspects of Writing

Following are new points that concern the writing in a research project:

• When the title of a periodical (journal, magazine, newspaper) begins with an article (A, An, The), the article is now treated as part of the title: the article is italicized and its first letter capitalized. For example, the handbook previously specified “the Georgia Review” in text and “Georgia Review” in the works-cited list but now specifies “The Georgia Review” in all contexts.
• Two forward slashes (//) mark stanza breaks in run-in quotations of verse (78).
• If a block quotation of prose contains internal paragraphing, the first line of the quotation now begins without a paragraph indentation even if one is present in the source (77).