

General guide for journal papers, legal documents, books, reports, dissertations/theses, and conferences:

<https://www.occhealth.co.za/documents/vancouverreferenceguide.pdf>

JOURNAL PAPERS

Google paper title. If there is an [NIH link](#), then click on "cite"; also gives journal name abbreviation and doi.

Notes:

1. 1st six authors, followed by "et al."
2. Paper titles in lower case (also after colon), unless proper nouns
3. Include the full page range for journal articles (e.g. 918–927, not 918–27)
4. Add a space after the year of publication (e.g. 2024; 5(4):918–927)
5. Add the doi
6. Don't include the Epub, PMID info, or the month

Example:

Le Prell CG, Clavier OH. Effects of noise on speech recognition: Challenges for communication by service members. *Hear Res.* 2017; 349:176–180. doi: 10.1016/j.heares.2016.10.004.

If no doi: Add "Available from: [url] (accessed dd mmm yyyy) after page numbers".

Example:

Ahmadi M, Golbabael F, Behzadi M. The effect of sick building syndrome (SBS) on the productivity of administrative staff. *Int J Occup Hyg.* 2014;6(4):210–9. Available from: <https://ijoh.tums.ac.ir/index.php/ijoh/article/view/119> (accessed 27 Jan 2026).

Journal name abbreviations: see <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nlmcatalog/journals/>

LEGAL DOCUMENTS

Commonly referenced legal documents:

MHSA

South Africa. Mine Health and Safety Act, 1996 (Act No. 29 of 1996). Available from: https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/201409/act29of1996s.pdf (accessed 25 Dec 2025).

ODMWA

South Africa. Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Act, 1973 (Act No. 78 of 1973). Available from: https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/201504/act-30-1978.pdf (accessed 25 Dec 2025).

South Africa. Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Amendment Act, 1993 (Act No. 203 of 1993). Available from: <https://www.gov.za/documents/occupational-diseases-mines-and-works-amendment-act-0> (accessed 27 Jan 2026).

COIDA

South Africa. Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act, 1993 (Act No. 130 of 1993). Available from: <https://www.gov.za/documents/compensation-occupational-injuries-and-diseases-act> (accessed 25 Dec 2025).

South Africa. Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act, 1993 (Act No. 130 of 1993). Circular instructions. Available from: https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/202305/48518rg11579gon3365.pdf (accessed 25 Dec 2025).

MWA

South Africa. Mines and Works Act, 1956 (Act No. 27 of 1956). Available from: <https://www.gov.za/documents/mines-and-works-act-22-may-2015-1345> (accessed 25 Dec 2025).

Government Gazette

South Africa. Dept. of Health. National Policy for Health Act, 1990 (Act No. 116 of 1990). Free primary health care services. *Government Gazette* No. 17507:1514; 25 Oct 1996.

(17507 is the Gazette No., followed by :1514 – the notice number in this Gazette)

Stats SA

South Africa. Statistics SA. 2010. Millenium development goals: country report. Available from: <http://www.info.gov.za/view/DownloadFileAction?id=179901> (accessed 25 Dec 2025).

BOOKS

Blaxter M. Social class and health inequalities. In: Carter C, Peel J, editors. Equalities and Inequalities in Health. 2nd ed. London: Academic Press, 1976; p. 369–380.

REPORTS

Author names included:

Matthews C, Van Rensburg A, Schierhout G, Coetzee N. The potential of syndromic management to improve the care of patients at an STD clinic in Cape Town. Medical Research Council and Department of Community Health, University of Cape Town; 1997.

No author names:

World Health Organization. Global tuberculosis report 2023. Geneva: WHO; 2023. Available from: <https://www.who.int> (accessed 25 Dec 2025).

International Labour Organization. Guidelines for the use of the ILO International Classification of Radiographs of Pneumoconioses. Revised edition 2022. Occupational Safety and Health Series No. 22. Geneva: ILO; 2022. Available from: <https://www.ilo.org/resource/ilo-international-classification-radiographs-pneumoconioses-1> (accessed 25 Dec 2025).

DISSERTATIONS/THESES

Ndlovu N. Evaluation of autopsy data for occupational lung disease surveillance: this is the place where death delights to help the living (PhD thesis). Johannesburg: University of the Witwatersrand; 2019. Available from: <https://wiredspace.wits.ac.za/communities/1534a1c1-070b-46da-8296-11820af70170/browse/author?value=Ndlovu,%20Ntombizodwa&bbm.return=2> (accessed 25 Dec 2025).