

Citation Guide: OSCOLA & Harvard

This document is an example project for LexTyp. It demonstrates how to use citations in two widely used academic styles: **OSCOLA** (Oxford University Standard for the Citation of Legal Authorities) and **Harvard** referencing. You can switch between citation styles in the sidebar to see how the same references render differently.

To insert a citation, type `\citation` in the editor and select an entry from the reference library.

Part I: OSCOLA Citation Rules

OSCOLA is the standard citation style for legal scholarship in the UK. It uses footnotes rather than in-text citations. Key principles include:

- **Full citation on first reference** – the first time a source is cited, give the complete reference.
- **Short form for subsequent citations** – use the author’s surname and ‘(n X)’ where X is the original footnote number.
- **Ibid for consecutive citations** – when citing the same source as the immediately preceding footnote, use ‘ibid’.
- **No full stops** – OSCOLA does not use full stops at the end of footnotes or after abbreviations.

Part II: Harvard Citation Rules

Harvard referencing is an author-date system used widely across the social sciences and humanities. Its key features are:

- **Author-date in-text citations** – references appear as (Author Year) within the text body.
- **Full reference list at the end** – a complete alphabetical bibliography is placed at the end of the document.
- **Italicised titles for books and journals** – book titles and journal names are italicised; article titles use single quotes.
- **Place and publisher for books** – include the place of publication followed by the publisher name.

Part III: Citation Examples by Source Type

Below are examples of how different source types are cited. Switch the citation style in the sidebar to compare OSCOLA and Harvard formatting for each type.

Books

In OSCOLA, books are cited as: Author, *Title* (Publisher Year). In Harvard: Author (Year) *Title*. Place: Publisher.

Constitutional principles have been thoroughly examined in recent scholarship.¹ For a practical introduction to legal research methods, see also the work by Jones and Brown.²

Journal Articles

In OSCOLA, articles use: Author, ‘Title’ (Year) Volume *Journal Name* First Page. In Harvard: Author (Year) ‘Title’, *Journal Name*, vol. X, pp. X–Y.

The relationship between international human rights norms and domestic legal systems has been the subject of significant academic debate.³ Similarly, the impact of Brexit on corporate governance frameworks has attracted scholarly attention.⁴

¹John Smith, *Constitutional Law: Principles and Policy* (Oxford University Press 2020)

²Sarah Jones and Michael Brown, *Introduction to Legal Research* (Cambridge University Press 2018)

³Emily Williams, ‘The Evolution of Human Rights in Domestic Courts’ (2019) 82 *Modern Law Review* 445–472

⁴Robert Taylor, ‘Rethinking Corporate Governance After Brexit’ (2021) 137 *Law Quarterly Review* 112–138

Cases

Cases are a primary source in legal writing. In OSCOLA, case names are italicised: *Party A v Party B* [Year] Report Number. Harvard does not have a specific convention for cases, so they typically follow the general author-date pattern.

The modern law of negligence originates from the foundational case establishing the neighbour principle.⁵ Contract law was similarly shaped by the landmark ruling on unilateral offers.⁶

Legislation

In OSCOLA, statutes are cited by their short title and year without italics: e.g., Human Rights Act 1998. Legislation does not use *ibid* or short forms — the full title is always given.

The incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into UK law was achieved through statute.⁷ Company directors' duties are now codified in legislation.⁸

Book Chapters (Edited Collections)

When citing a chapter within an edited book, OSCOLA uses: Author, 'Chapter Title' in Editor (ed), *Book Title* (Publisher Year).

Comparative perspectives on judicial review have been explored in several edited collections.⁹

Theses

In OSCOLA, theses are cited as: Author, 'Title' (PhD/MA thesis, University Year).

Recent doctoral research has examined the role of precedent in shaping international trade disputes.¹⁰

Conference Papers

Conference papers in OSCOLA follow a format similar to book chapters: Author, 'Paper Title' in *Conference Proceedings Title* (Publisher Year).

The intersection of artificial intelligence and legal practice has been discussed at recent conferences.¹¹

Part IV: Ibid and Short-Form Citations (OSCOLA)

OSCOLA's *ibid* and short-form system avoids repeating long citations. Below, the same sources are cited again to demonstrate these features. Switch to OSCOLA style to see the effect.

Smith's analysis of constitutional principles remains the leading textbook in this area.¹² This is confirmed by subsequent scholarship building on the same foundational work.¹³

Williams has argued that human rights protections require stronger enforcement mechanisms.¹⁴ The neighbour principle established in *Donoghue* continues to underpin modern negligence law.¹⁵

⁵*Donoghue v Stevenson* [1932] AC 562

⁶*Carlill v Carbolic Smoke Ball Co* [1893] QB 256

⁷Human Rights Act 1998

⁸Companies Act 2006

⁹David Chen, 'Comparative Approaches to Judicial Review' in Anna White (ed), *Essays on Public Law* (Hart Publishing 2017) 89–114

¹⁰Laura Martinez, 'The Role of Precedent in International Trade Law' (PhD thesis, University of Edinburgh 2022)

¹¹Peter Clark, 'AI and the Future of Legal Practice' in *Proceedings of the Annual Law and Technology Conference* (Springer 2020) 34–51

¹²Smith (n 1)

¹³*ibid*

¹⁴Williams (n 3)

¹⁵*Donoghue* (n 5)