IEEE Referencing Quick Guide

IEEE is one referencing style used by the School of Computing in the National College of Ireland but other referencing styles such as Harvard may be used by your course – please consult with your lecturer to confirm which style they require you to use. In order to correctly reference each type of source using the IEEE style, you should include all the details, correct punctuation and italicised text as shown; see the full NCI Library Referencing Guide for further details.

In-text Citations, Paraphrasing & Quoting

When using ideas or information from another source, it is much better practice to paraphrase (i.e. change the wording) than to directly quote the source. Paraphrasing is a key academic skill when referencing information from other sources and helps to avoid the risk of plagiarism. It also provides the means for you to demonstrate your understanding of a source rather than relying on the exact wording.

Using IEEE, in-text citations are numbered by the order in which they appear in the text. The number is placed in square brackets [#] on the same line as the text it is referencing, at the end of the text before the punctuation or within the sentence as shown below. The author name need only be mentioned if it is integral to the meaning of the sentence.

Paraphrase example

The physical systems which are used during processing of applications can be termed as computing substrate [1].

Every short, basic reference has an equivalent full reference in the references at the end of your work – see the different format examples below.

Direct quote example

Marinescu [1, p. 56] defines computing substrate as “a generic term for the physical systems used during the processing of an application.”

Referencing Examples

Book – Single author

Book – Two authors

Book – Three or more authors

Book – Corporate author

Chapter of an edited book – Single author

eBook – Two authors