

## Karin Connelly on Who Uses What

Respondents to our inquiry have indicated the following preferences for guidance in academic writing:

- *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* has the most takers: American Studies, English, German, and Spanish
- *APA*, or *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, is used by Physical Education, Psychology, and is accepted by English
- Biology uses the *CBE Style Manual* ; Physics, the *American Institute of Physics Style Manual* ; Chemistry, the *Handbook for Authors of Papers* in American Chemical Society Publications; Mathematics, the *Manual for Authors of Mathematical Papers*
- Classical and East Asian Languages and Music both recommend Corbett's *The Little Rhetoric and Handbook* ; Music also mentions Turabian's *Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*

Speaking for myself, for citation I prefer the MLA for three reasons. It is the only manual I have ever consulted; I have a copy on my desk; and it tells me how to do anything I have ever wanted to do. I use Corbett for approximately the same reasons.

Some people say they don't care what students do as long as they're consistent. REALLY? Of course, as soon as students show a little imagination, they are likely to be in trouble. One thing that genuinely vexes people who like the parenthetical documentation is the inappropriate placement of the parenthetical notation at a distance from and outside the period, as in . (15) Of course, this is where it belongs after an indented quotation. (I have tried to invent reasons for this practice in terms of readability, to calm hysterical students --like trying to justify that the only destination from Nanjing for which you can buy round trip train tickets is Shanghai.)

Now what I'm interested in is the notion, or claim, of "bibliography." In student papers these are, not infrequently, all of one-source long. This is where Andy Rooney comes in. You know what annoys me? Why do they call them bibliographies, anyway? Why don't they call them List of Works Cited, or Works Consulted or Selected Bibliography or--if there's only one-- *Work Cited*? Here is a genuine opportunity for imaginative practices. The Book I read for the Paper leaps to mind, or, The Only Book I Read for this Paper. A student who subscribes to the inoculation theory of education might even want to use something like, The Book Professor Cuckoo Made Me Read, and I Won't Ever Have to Read a Book Like This Again.

Stylin'--Karin Connelly