AMA Journal Abbreviations

AMA requires citations for journal articles to have a specific form of abbreviation. This is derived from the citation style of the old Index Medicus, what has become MEDLINE (included in PubMed.gov). For journals included in MEDLINE it is fairly simple to find the accepted abbreviation. Instructions for this are included in Part 2 below. For journals that are not part of MEDLINE, it can be much harder to determine the abbreviation, see Part 3.

Part 1: Overview

Book:

Author last name, Initials. Title of the Book. #th ed. City, ST: Publisher's Name; year.

Example:


Article:

Author last name, Initial, 2nd author, 3rd author (if more then six, use et. al. after 3rd, otherwise list out.) Article title. Journal Title*. Year; volume(issue):pages.

Example:


*Journal titles are abbreviated and in italics.

- Use PubMed abbreviations for journal titles. See Journals referenced in the NCBI Databases.
- If no PubMed journal abbreviation exists, use standard abbreviations in the AMA Manual of Style to construct an abbreviated title.
- Single word titles, such as Pediatrics, are not abbreviated.
- In journal titles, capitalize all major words (Do not capitalize the, an, a, in, for, or but, unless this word begins the title.)
Part 2: Journal Abbreviations from MEDLINE

The list of titles indexed in MEDLINE is available at
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez?Db=journals&Cmd=DetailsSearch&Term=currentlyindexed%5BAll%5D

1. Put the name of the journal you want to find into the search box after the preentered code. Then hit search.

2. Find the journal you are looking for from the list and click on it.
3. This will open up the item record for the journal. You want the NLM Title Abbreviation.

Medical anthropology

- **NLM Title Abbreviation:** Med Anthropol
- **ISO Abbreviation:** Med Anthropol
- **Title(s):** Medical anthropology
- **Other Title(s):** MED ANTHROPOLOGY
- **Publication Start Year:** 1977
- **Frequency:** Quarterly
- **Country of Publication:** United States
- **Publisher:** Pleasantville, N. Y., Redgrave
- **Latest Publisher:** Philadelphia : Taylor & Francis
- **Description:** v. ill.
- **Language:** English
- **ISSN:** 0145-9740 (Print)
Part 3: Journal Abbreviations not in MEDLINE

If the journal you want to cite is not included in MEDLINE, you have several options to construct the abbreviation yourself.

1. The AMA manual includes instructions on how to do abbreviations. The manual is available for check from the library service desk for two hours not to leave the building.

2. Use the MEDLINE list to look up titles that share words with your journal. For example, if you are looking for how to abbreviate Journal of Special Education, try searching for the word Education in the MEDLINE index and see how they've abbreviated it in other titles. Do the same thing for special.

3. Some library catalogues give you the option to see the MARC or “librarian view” of a serial record. IUCAT is one of these catalogues. If you search for the journal in IUCAT you can select Librarian View from the right hand menu after opening the item record.

If the abbreviated title is available it will appear on the 210 line. Medical anthropology, however, does not include the abbreviation for some reason (It should), so this is not always a full-proof method. If it does appear it will look something like this: