

## MLA and Electronic Resources

Increasingly, there are resources that are available in electronic format (e.g., Kindle, Nook, iPad, .PDF, .MOBI files, etc.) available online or via e-reader devices. Because there is not yet a general MLA standard for some of these resources (e-books in particular), EuNC has created the following documentation to help students in utilizing these resources.

From the FAQ on MLA's website ([http://www.mla.org/style/handbook\\_faq/cite\\_an\\_ebook](http://www.mla.org/style/handbook_faq/cite_an_ebook)), the MLA suggests citing the e-book in the same way as a traditional printed text on the "Works Cited" page, but specifying the type of file at the end:

Example:

Rowley, Hazel. *Franklin and Eleanor: An Extraordinary Marriage*. New York: Farrar, 2010. Kindle file. **Note: "Nook file," "iPad file," "Kindle PC file," etc. would be used depending on the e-reader device.**

MLA also suggests for parenthetical references within the text of the paper that chapter numbers be cited, rather than page or section numbers:

Example:

According to Hazel Rowley, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt began their honeymoon with a week's stay at Hyde Park (ch. 2).

or

Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt began their honeymoon with a week's stay at Hyde Park (Rowley, ch. 2).

This will direct the instructor to a more narrow bit of text to search when confirming a reference in a student's paper. Chapter numbers – unlike section numbers – will not differ from device to device.

For .PDF files, which are just digital copies of traditional text with fixed page numbers, MLA suggests citing the page numbers. It should also be specified that the resource is a .PDF file. Where the e-book citation reads "Kindle file" at the end, simply replace that with ".PDF file." According to Purdue University, the URL location of the .PDF file is not required since web addresses often change.

Example:

Rowley, Hazel. *Franklin and Eleanor: An Extraordinary Marriage*. New York: Farrar, 2010. .PDF file.

The parenthetical reference for the .PDF file would follow the traditional MLA format since it contains fixed page numbers: e.g., (Rowley, p. 21) or (p. 21).

More information can be obtained from Purdue University at:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/08>