Does the thought of assembling an APA citation for material found online make you shudder? Never fear! You're not alone. Researchers have been relying more and more heavily on social media as a source of newsworthy information, and nurses are no exception to this trend. Considering this, the number of Web addresses in manuscript reference lists is rapidly increasing, as well as the number of questions surrounding how to properly format them in APA style. Most confusing of all seems to be sites like Facebook and Twitter. While this specific subject wasn’t addressed in the 6th edition of the *APA Style Manual* (2010), the issue is discussed at length on the APA Style Blog (http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/social-media/).

In a nutshell, if you’ve learned how to structure an online article citation in APA format (which is now fairly commonplace), citing Facebook posts and Twitter tweets is just as easy. If you need a refresher on citing Internet-only electronic sources, read our April 2009 column on this topic.

For social media citations, include all the same information you normally would for an electronic resource: author, date, title, and Web address. The only addition you’ll need to note is what the source is (i.e. a tweet or post). This information should appear in brackets following the title (when applicable), before the period.

For example, this is how we could cite a tweet from AMSN:


Note there is no title here, as tweets share only a condensed amount of information (usually linking elsewhere to elaborate). You also don’t need to include a date of retrieval for a tweet because the URL is static and the information found there will remain the same regardless of when it is accessed.

If you want to reference something from the AMSN Facebook page, it would appear like this:


Again, this post doesn’t have a title attached to it. Examples of sources that would contain a title include blog posts, YouTube videos, and Wikipedia articles. It’s also helpful to know direct URLs for Twitter and Facebook posts are available in your address bar after clicking the date/time of the post underneath it. The Web address provided in a reference list should lead you directly to the source, not the user’s main profile page or Wall. Be as specific as possible; your readers will thank you.

Katie R. Brownlow, ELS, is a Managing Editor, Jannetti Publications, Inc., a Division of Anthony J. Jannetti, Inc., Pitman, NJ. She may be contacted via email at katie@ajj.com.

Katie R. Brownlow, ELS, is a Managing Editor, Jannetti Publications, Inc., a Division of Anthony J. Jannetti, Inc., Pitman, NJ. She may be contacted via email at katie@ajj.com.