This column is designed to assist authors in becoming familiar with APA format and encourage even the most novice writers to try their hand at composing a manuscript. If there is a specific topic that you would like covered in a future issue, please send an email to katie@ajj.com with your suggestion.

Citing Chapters From an Edited Book

When preparing a manuscript in APA format, proper citation of book chapters can be confusing. Many may have the misconception that only the editor of a book needs to be acknowledged. However, when you are citing a particular chapter that was written by someone other than the editor, it is most important that the author is predominately credited.

For example, if I wanted to include information from Chapter 8 of AMSN’s Core Curriculum for Medical-Surgical Nursing in an article, I’d need to primarily cite the chapter author, Sally S. Russell, within the text. The editor of the book, Heather Craven, would also be acknowledged, but only in the reference list. My complete reference citation would look like this:


Note that both the chapter title and the book title are included, as well as the page numbers of the chapter being cited. Also, the editor’s first initial appears before her last name, instead of being inverted like the author’s.

This may seem like an extraneous amount of information to divulge to your readers, but it will ensure that they are able to find exactly what you’re referring to. Each element of this citation is important to the reader, so don’t skimp on the details!

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