**OSCOLA Referencing: Secondary Sources**

- OSCOLA (Oxford Standard for the Citation of Legal Authorities) style is used if you are writing for a qualifying Law degree or for the School of Law.

- OSCOLA uses **footnotes**, which should include the pinpoint reference to a page or paragraph number.

- OSCOLA does **not** require the use of full stops in abbreviations, e.g. All ER not All E.R.


**Referencing Secondary Sources – Footnotes**

**Books**
In footnotes give the author’s name in the same form as on the publication’s title page (but in the bibliography, put the author’s family name first). Give the relevant information about edition etc. before the publisher, and give page numbers at the end of the citation, after the brackets. In bibliography omit pinpoint references to pages and paragraphs unless the reference is to the beginning of a discrete chapter of an edited book.

**Examples of footnotes:-**

**Contributions to edited books**

**Encyclopedias**

**Journal articles**
Put a comma between the first page of the article and the pinpoint page.


**Online journals**
Command papers and Law Commission reports  


Websites and blogs  

Newspaper articles  
Jane Croft, ‘Supreme Court Warns on Quality’ *Financial Times* (London, 1 July 2010) 3

Referencing Secondary Sources – Bibliography

In bibliographies, give only the surname followed by the initial(s) of the author, followed by a comma and omit the pinpoint to page or paragraph except where the reference is to a discrete article or chapter in which case give the initial page. Either collect all secondary sources in alphabetical order by author’s surname (as shown below) or if instructed by your Unit handbook or your Dissertation supervisor, present the same information but grouped by the different formats of the sources. A brief example is found [here](#), and a longer more complex one [here](#).


Croft, JAG, ‘Supreme Court Warns on Quality’ *Financial Times* (London, 1 July 2010)


Halsbury’s Laws (5th edn, 2010)


Law Commission, *Reforming Bribery* (Law Com No 313, 2008)


Useful sources of help

You will find links to the main sources of help on the Law Referencing page of the library website, and detailed guidance on individual types of sources in the OSCOLA pages of [Referencing @ Portsmouth](#) accessible from the r on the library’s homepage. (Always set your style as OSCOLA before starting your search for advice. These include:-

**Cardiff Index to Legal Abbreviations** helps you decipher or create abbreviations in legal references and the University of Cardiff’s ‘**Citing the Law**’ tutorial will test your skills and give you useful hints and tips.

The [full OSCOLA guide](#) and a shorter [quick guide](#) are found on the University of Oxford website.

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