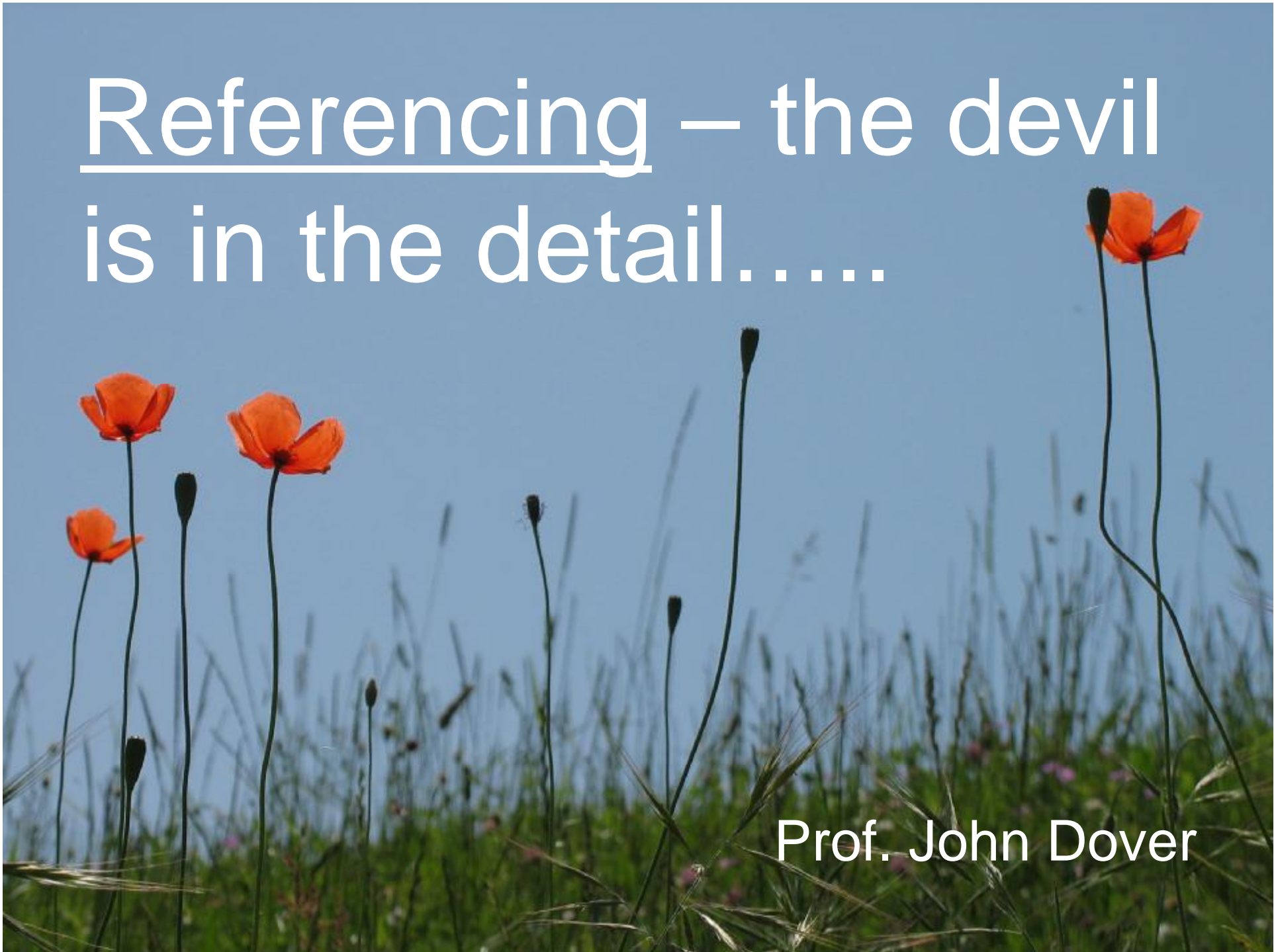


Referencing – the devil
is in the detail.....

Prof. John Dover



Referencing is important because:

- It shows where you got information from (you are not making it up)
- It acknowledges the contribution other people make to knowledge
- It helps other people find the source you found if they want more detail
- It stops you being accused of plagiarism!
- It allows people to check the accuracy of your interpretation of other people's work

It is not just referencing that is important it is also the accuracy of the referencing *and* the consistent use of a style

GENERAL:

There are two places you have to think about with referencing:

- Citing in the body of the document
- The reference list

The main style in use (yes, there are different styles....) in Biology and Ecology is to cite information in the body of the document using the author surname and date of publication, and to put the full citation details in a reference list at the end of the document (but before any appendices)

There are other issues such as how to cite when there is no author, or citing a web-site which I'll deal with later...

Before we go on: One thing to definitely avoid is lots of quotes!!

Sometimes something is so pithy that you want to quote it. That's fine, maybe one quote in a piece of work.

BUT DON'T use quotes to get out of doing the work you are supposed to be doing!! I have seen assignments that are merely a collection of quotes linked by a few words e.g.:

“stuff quoted, stuff quoted, stuff quoted, stuff quoted” (Bloggs, 2005)

and therefore

“more stuff quoted, more stuff quoted, more stuff quoted, more stuff quoted, more stuff quoted, more stuff quoted, more stuff quoted, more stuff quoted” (Devonshire, 2008) but this was challenged by Arbuthnot (2009) who claimed:

“yet more stuff quoted, yet more stuff quoted, yet more stuff quoted”

The only work by the student here is: “and therefore” **and** “but this was challenged by Arbuthnot (2009) who claimed:” – **not going to get much of a mark for that!!!!**

So what do I do?

First of all recognise what you are doing:

- An assignment usually means you are putting together a body of work, a report perhaps, an essay, on a given theme.
- You will search the literature for information relevant to the topic.
- You use that information to tell a coherent story with a beginning, a middle and an end.
- You use the information to construct that story in your own words and use citations to support what you say.
- Every time you use a citation you are effectively saying “and if you want to check I’ve got this right, or more detail, you can read the original piece of work, and I didn’t publish this data or make the discovery myself”
- You do not need to use quotes to do this! But you must never use extracts of someone else’s work without quotes and citation.

In-text citations

Myrmecophily is a well-known phenomenon within the Lycaenidae, and the maintenance of ant:butterfly relationships is vital to the conservation of such species (see, for example, [Settele *et al.*, 2005](#)). Typically studies of myrmecophily are undertaken on populations of species in the countryside, and are often associated with understanding and rectifying management changes that have resulted from changes in farming practice ([Thomas, 1995](#)). However, myrmecophilous species are also present in urban situations and are subject to similar challenges, e.g., extant populations may be restricted to small physical areas, and subject to management change ([Dover & Rowlingson, 2005](#)).

Three or more authors, contract to the surname of the first author and *et al.* – note that it is italicised as it is a Latin contraction. That is also why “*al.*” has a full-stop; “*et al.*” is the contraction of the Latin phrase *et alia* which means in English: “and others”

Single author: just surname and date

Two authors: Both surnames and date

NOTE: The comma separating the author surname(s) and date.

NEVER: use author initials – unless there are two authors with the same name **AND** the papers were published in the same year

In-text citation style: varies due to context

Notice? no comma!

Kadlec *et al.* (2008) found that more advanced successional stages contributed to the decline of Lepidoptera in urban nature reserves in Prague, and Burgman *et al.* (2007) noted that lack of disturbance is a new threatening process for some Australian flora.

NOTE: that here the citation style is slightly different due to the context within the sentence: only the date is inside the bracket

Typically, studies of myrmecophily are undertaken on populations of species in the countryside and are often associated with understanding and rectifying management changes that have resulted from changes in farming practice (Thomas, 1995).

Here both author name and date are within brackets. The top example does not need a comma separating the author(s) and date because a bracket does the same job.

Notice? a comma!

Referencing material you can't access

Ferrets were shown to be exceptionally good pets apart from their propensity to bite ([Lovejoy, 1822](#) cited in [Painkiller & Bandage, 1987](#)) whilst other authorities considered them to be too smelly for the drawing room (Niffnaff, 1922). However,...

Sometimes you cannot reference the primary information source (the original) because of an inability to get hold of a copy and check yourself – in this case you can use a secondary source (someone who has seen the original) but you still cite the primary source as well. You also need to give both the primary and secondary sources in the reference list.

Referencing the Unknown author

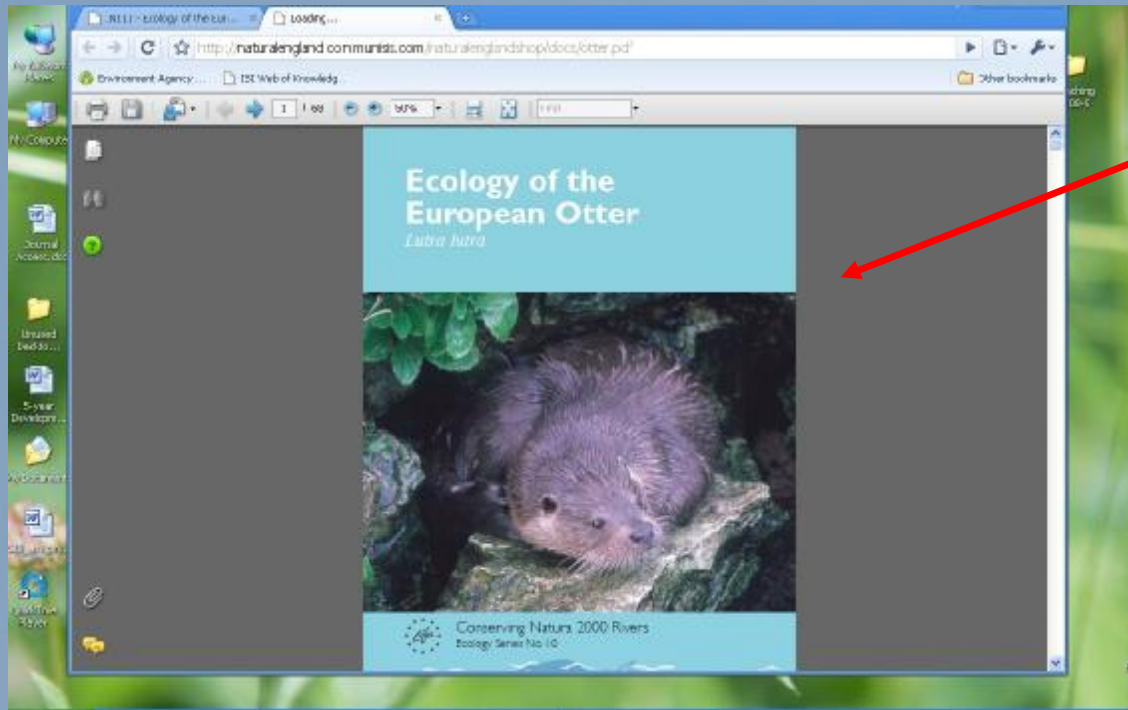
Urban green spaces often have a biodiversity conservation function, however the amenity and conservation roles may conflict (Breuste, 2004; Sandstrom *et al.*, 2006; Anon., 2007; Markovchick-Nicholls *et al.*, 2008), e.g. where the need to manage for biodiversity results in a perceived lower aesthetic value or the training of the land managers is more horticultural than ecological.

When a document has a title, a publisher, date of publication and place of publication it can be tempting to use the publisher as the author – don't! Instead put "Anon." or "Anonymous"

ALSO: notice that the references are ordered in date order, **NOT** alphabetical order. Only use alphabetical if there are a number of papers published by different authors in the same year

Referencing a document obtained from a website

pdf of a report on
Natural England's
website



Because this document is on a website there is the temptation to give the URL (<http://naturalengland.communisis.com/naturalenglandshop/docs/otter.pdf>) as the reference – but **DON'T** – the actual reference is **Chanin P (2003). *Ecology of the European Otter*. Conserving Natura 2000 Rivers Ecology Series No. 10. English Nature, Peterborough.** The information needed for a citation can usually be found somewhere on the document – and sometimes explicitly says “This document should be cited as:”

What about when there is no obvious citation information?



This leaflet doesn't obviously have an author, or a date, but it does have information on the publisher



So you can construct a reference as:

Anonymous (undated). *Butterflies and day-flying moths of Glasgow*. Butterfly Conservation Scotland, Stirling. You could even add a URL afterwards if you wished e.g. **Available from:** www.butterfly-conservation.org/uploads/glasgow%20ID%20final.pdf

The Reference List – the basics 1

Anonymous (1995). *Unistat Version 4 for Windows User's Guide*. Unistat Ltd., London.

Belsey, V. (1998). *The Green Lanes of England*. Green Books Ltd., Totnes.

Dover, J. W. (1991). The Conservation of insects on arable farmland. In: N. M. Collins & J. A. Thomas (eds.). *The Conservation of Insects and their Habitats*. Academic Press, London, pp. 294-318.

Dover, J. W. (1996). Factors affecting the distribution of butterflies on arable farmland. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 33: 723-734.

Dover, J., Sotherton, N., & Gobbett, K. (1990). Reduced pesticide inputs on cereal field margins: the effects on butterfly abundance. *Ecological Entomology* 15:17-24.

1. Notice that the author(s) and date are in bold – this is to help see where new references start (often when the second and subsequent lines of a reference are indented, there is no need for emboldening the author/date).
2. Author initials come after surnames, and are separated from it by a comma
3. If a book, report or leaflet, (top 2 refs) the title comes next, followed by the publisher and then by the place of publication – notice the use of full-stops and commas.

The Reference List – the basics 2

Anonymous (1995). *Unistat Version 4 for Windows User's Guide*. Unistat Ltd., London.

Belsey, V. (1998). *The Green Lanes of England*. Green Books Ltd., Totnes.

Dover, J. W. (1991). The Conservation of insects on arable farmland. In: N. M. Collins & J. A. Thomas (eds.). *The Conservation of Insects and their Habitats*. Academic Press, London, pp. 294-318.

Dover, J. W. (1996). Factors affecting the distribution of butterflies on arable farmland. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 33: 723-734.

Dover, J., Sotherton, N., & Gobbett, K. (1990). Reduced pesticide inputs on cereal field margins: the effects on butterfly abundance. *Ecological Entomology* 15:17-24.

4. If an edited book or a journal article the title of the chapter, article or paper follows the date.
5. If an edited volume with individually authored chapters, sections or papers then the title of the chapter (etc.) is followed by "In:" followed by the editors' names – note the editors have their initials before their surnames – and finally by (ed.), or (eds.) if there is more than one editor.

The Reference List – the basics 3

Anonymous (1995). *Unistat Version 4 for Windows User's Guide*. Unistat Ltd., London.

Belsey, V. (1998). *The Green Lanes of England*. Green Books Ltd., Totnes.

Dover, J. W. (1991). The Conservation of insects on arable farmland. In: N. M. Collins & J. A. Thomas (eds.). *The Conservation of Insects and their Habitats*. Academic Press, London, pp. 294-318.

Dover, J. W. (1996). Factors affecting the distribution of butterflies on arable farmland. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 33: 723-734.

Dover, J., Sotherton, N., & Gobbett, K. (1990). Reduced pesticide inputs on cereal field margins: the effects on butterfly abundance. *Ecological Entomology* 15:17-24.

6. If an edited book, the start and end pages of the article are given after the place of publication, preceded by "pp."

7. If a journal article, the volume number follows the journal title, followed by a colon, then the start and finish page numbers

The Reference List - books

Anonymous (1995). *Unistat Version 4 for Windows User's Guide*. Unistat Ltd., London.

Belsey, V. (1998). *The Green Lanes of England*. Green Books Ltd., Totnes.

Dover, J. W. (1991). The Conservation of insects on arable farmland. In: N. M. Collins & J. A. Thomas (eds.), *The Conservation of Insects and their Habitats*. Academic Press, London, pp. 294-318.

Dover, J. W. (1996). Factors affecting the distribution of butterflies on arable farmland. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 33: 723-734.

Dover, J., Sotherton, N., & Gobbett, K. (1990). Reduced pesticide inputs on cereal field margins: the effects on butterfly abundance. *Ecological Entomology* 15:17-24.

These are books. Note that the book title is italicised. Also, by convention, the major words in the title are often capitalised.

This style can also be used for leaflets and reports.

If you have a book that has one or more editors, but the individual chapters do not have individual authors, just add "(eds.)" after the editors' names.

The Reference List – edited books

Anonymous (1995). *Unistat Version 4 for Windows User's Guide*. Unistat Ltd., London.

Belsey, V. (1993). *The Green Lanes of England*. Green Books Ltd., Toines.

Dover, J. W. (1991). The Conservation of insects on arable farmland. In: N. M. Collins & J. A. Thomas (eds.). *The Conservation of Insects and their Habitats*. Academic Press, London, pp. 294-318.

Dover, J. W. (1995). Factors affecting the distribution of butterflies on arable farmland. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 33: 723-734.

Dover, J., Sotherton, N., & Gobbett, K. (1990). Reduced pesticide inputs on cereal field margins: the effects on butterfly abundance. *Ecological Entomology* 15:17-24.

This is a book which is edited, and the individual chapters or papers within the book have separate authors.

1. Note that the author of the article is the first thing mentioned.
2. Note that it is the book title, not the chapter or paper title which is italicised
3. Note that the editors' names come after the title, preceded by an 'In:' and that their initials, again, by convention, are before, not after, their surnames

The Reference List - Journals

Anonymous (1995). *Unistat Version 4 for Windows User's Guide*. Unistat Ltd, London.

Belsey, V. (1993). *The Green Lanes of England*. Green Books Ltd, Totnes.

Dover, J. W. (1991). The Conservation of insects on arable farmland. In: N. M. Collins & J. A. Thomas (eds.), *The Conservation of Insects and their Habitats*. Academic Press, London, pp. 204-218.

Dover, J. W. (1996). Factors affecting the distribution of butterflies on arable farmland. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 33: 723-734.

Dover, J., Sotherton, N., & Gobbett, K. (1990). Reduced pesticide inputs on cereal field margins: the effects on butterfly abundance. *Ecological Entomology* 15:17-24.

These are journal papers.
As you can see it is the journal name, not the title of the paper that is italicised

The Reference List – more than one in the same year...

Settele J, Margules CR, Poschlod P, Henle K (1996a).

Species survival in fragmented landscapes. Kluwer, Dordrecht.

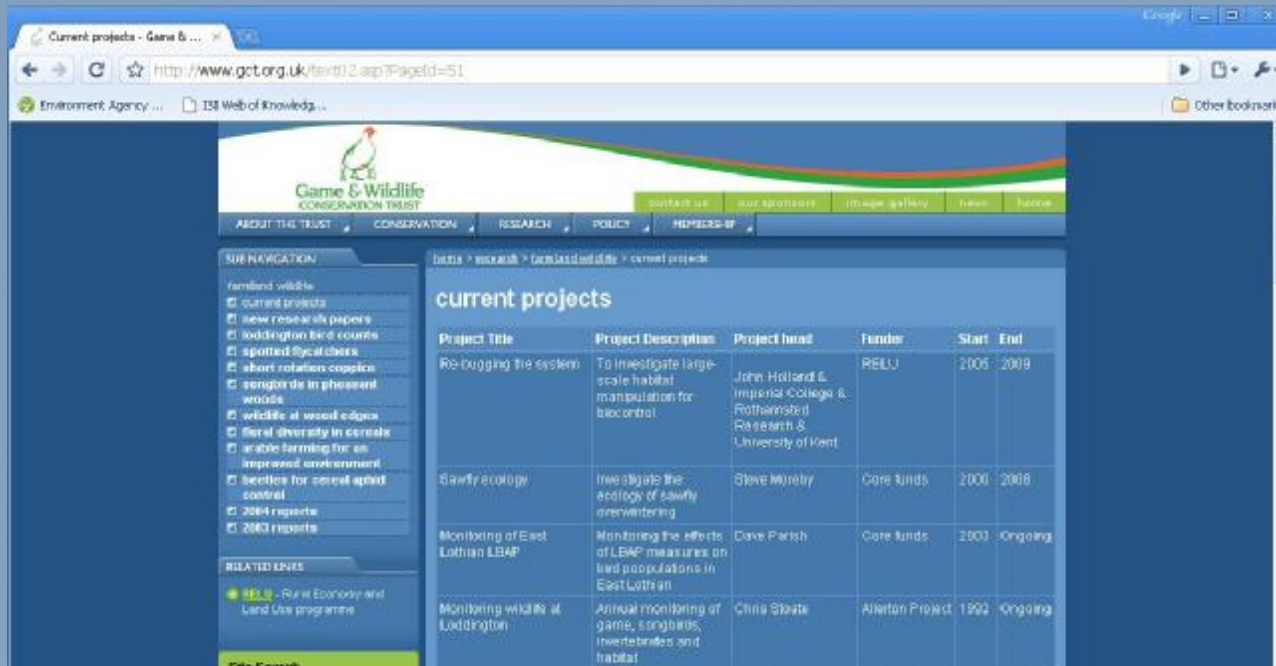
Settele J, Henle K, Bender C (1996b). Metapopulationen und

Biotopverbund: Theorie und Praxis am Beispiel von

Schmetterlingen und Reptilien. *Z O" kol Naturschutz* 5:187–206.

These two references could both appear as “Settele *et al.* (1996)” even though the other authors are different, leading to confusion – which paper is which? They would therefore actually appear as “Settele *et al.* (1996a)” and “Settele *et al.* (1996b)” in the text, and in the reference list the “a” and “b” would be included with the date (as above). The same approach would be used if the same author published two (or more!!) papers in the same year.

The Reference List – web sites



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the 'Current projects' page of the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust. The page features a navigation menu and a table of projects. The table has columns for Project Title, Project Description, Project Lead, Funder, Start, and End.

Project Title	Project Description	Project Lead	Funder	Start	End
Re-bugging the system	To investigate large-scale habitat manipulation for biocontrol	John Holland E. Imperial College & Rothamsted Research & University of Kent	RELU	2005	2009
Sawfly ecology	Investigate the ecology of sawfly overwintering	Steve Moreby	Core funds	2000	2008
Monitoring of East Lothian LBAP	Monitoring the effects of LBAP measures on bird populations in East Lothian	Dave Parish	Core funds	2003	Ongoing
Monitoring wildlife at Luddington	Annual monitoring of game, songbirds, invertebrates and habitat	Chris Skelton	Alton Project	1992	Ongoing

This website does not have an author, or a 'last updated' date but we know the publisher and where the publisher is based (see the contact details of the website). So we can construct a reference as:

Anonymous (undated). *Current projects*. The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust, Fordingbridge. <http://www.gct.org.uk/text02.asp?PageId=51> Accessed: 24-11-08.

Note that the title of the webpage has been italicised.

The Reference List – journal name abbreviations

Sometimes journals only give name contractions and this can be a pain when you are trying to follow something up e.g.:

Cowling RM, Lamont BB (1987). Post-fire recruitment of four 937 co-occurring *Banksia* species. *J Appl Ecol* 24: 645–658.

Coverage: Core

Fortunately there are lists of abbreviations and they can easily be found on the web –the following site is very useful for tracking down journal names:

<http://www.bioscience.org/atlas/jourabbr/list.htm>

Abb_name: J. Appl. Biomater.
Coverage: Selective

#1016

Full_name: Journal of Applied Ecology
Abb_name: J. Appl. Ecol.
ISSN: 0021-8901
Coverage: Core

#1017

Full_name: Journal of Applied Entomology
Abb_name: J. Appl. Entomol.
ISSN: 0044-2240
Coverage: Core

#1018

Full_name: Journal of Applied Fire Science

