The first thing you learn when preparing a bibliography for a scientific paper is that every journal has its own required format! The bibliography program I use (an old version of “Endnote”) actually comes with prefab “formats” or “styles” for hundreds of different journals. But most break down into variations of two styles: numbered, or alphabetical by author. Either is acceptable to me.

In the former (numbered), the references cited are provided as a numbered list at the end of the paper/article in their order of appearance/citation in the text. The citations in the text are then given simply by number, as in the example below.

**Dynamic instability of Microtubules**

Individual MTs are highly dynamic structures, undergoing alternating phases of elongation and rapid shortening, with transitions between these phases termed catastrophe (elongation to rapid shortening) and rescue (rapid shortening to elongation) (1-2). This behavior, termed “dynamic instability,” has been observed both with purified tubulin subunits *in vitro* (3-4), and in living cells (5-7).


In the second case, references cited are given in an alphabetical list at the end of the article, and citations in the text are provided by author and year, as in the example below. Single author references are cited in the text as (Author Year). Two author references are cited as (Author1 and Author2 year). Three author references are cited as (Author1 et al. year) (“et al.” is Latin for “and others”).

**Dynamic instability of Microtubules**

Individual MTs are highly dynamic structures, undergoing alternating phases of elongation and rapid shortening, with transitions between these phases termed catastrophe (elongation to rapid shortening) and rescue (rapid shortening to elongation) (Mitchison and Kirschner 1984 for review, see Desai and Mitchison 1997). This behavior, termed “dynamic instability,” has been observed both with purified tubulin subunits *in vitro* (Horio and Hotani 1986; Walker et al. 1988), and in living cells (Cassimeris et al. 1988, Sammak and Borisy 1988; Shelden and Wadsworth 1993).


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