

Peer Review

Review of: "How to (Better) Cite Aristotle in APA Format?"

Laurel Scheinfeld¹

1. Health Sciences Librarian, State University of New York at Stony Brook, United States

The author of this paper has laid out their proposal clearly and thoroughly, but what I find missing is its relevance. APA Style is used predominantly in the behavioral and social sciences, so it is not surprising that the guidelines for citing classical works are not highly specialized. The APA citation style was created for scientific writing and is used mainly in fields in which the recency of a publication is often important. There are other citation styles that were created with the humanities in mind, and therefore, why not focus this advocacy on those styles? I'm sure there are instances where classical works are cited in APA-formatted papers, but I doubt the current guidelines cause difficulty for most authors and readers of those papers. Improving APA guidelines as suggested in this article would do no harm as far as I can see, but I wouldn't prioritize it. The article itself doesn't employ the APA citation style for its in-text citations or reference list, which would seem to support this concern over relevancy. Including some justification for why APA, specifically, should contemplate making this change would improve the article. In addition, comparing how other citation styles address classical works would be interesting to include as well.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.