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Review: CheckCite (in A Few of Our Favorite Things: Part II)

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CheckCite

<http://www.lib.jmu.edu/help/checkcite/>

Visited: Spring 2014

Reviewer: Kelly Giles, Applied Sciences Librarian, James Madison University

CheckCite is an interactive style guide created at James Madison University (JMU) in 2006. Coordinator of Library Instruction Lynn Cameron, Director of Digital Services Jennifer Keach, and Systems Administrator Bill Hartman collaborated with JMU General Education faculty to develop this tool. CheckCite is not a citation generator, but instead shows users what different types of citations should look like. This reduces the need to refer to style manuals or handouts.

The main CheckCite screen has check boxes that can be used to select a citation style, the type of document being cited, and the intended end product. For example, one could choose to cite an article in APA style for a paper. CheckCite will then show the basic format for APA article citations, including popular periodicals, print journals, and online journals. CheckCite also provides examples of reference list entries and in-text citations for each type of article. Multiple source types may be selected at once, and there is also a “Not Sure/Show All” option.

Citation styles covered by CheckCite include APA, MLA, Turabian Humanities, Turabian Social Sciences, and APSA (American Political Science Association). Different citation styles can be compared by checking more than one of the style boxes. At the bottom of

the results screen are links to online style guides and other resources for the selected citation style or styles.

In Short: Academic librarians will find CheckCite a useful tool for answering common questions about citation format.

Recommended.