Citing Web Sources: 2009 MLA Guidelines

The following material is taken directly from the Seventh Edition of the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (2009):

In the past, this handbook recommended including URLs of Web sources in works-cited-list entries. Inclusion of URLs has proved to have limited value, however, for they often change, can be specific to a subscriber or session of use, and can be so long and complex that typing them into a browser is cumbersome and prone to transcription errors. . . . You should include a URL as supplementary information only when the reader probably cannot locate the source without it or when your instructor requires it. If you present a URL, give it immediately following the date of access, a period, and a space. Enclose the URL in angle brackets, and conclude with a period. If a URL must be divided between two lines, break it only after the double slashes or a single slash; do not introduce a hyphen at the break or allow your word-processing program to do so. If possible, give the complete address, including the http, for the specific work you are citing. . . . (MLA 182)

Example:


For scholarly articles accessed in online databases, the Seventh Edition of the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (2009) asserts:

To cite a work from a periodical in an online database, such as an article, a review, an editorial, or a letter to the editor, begin the entry by following the recommendations . . . for citing works in print periodicals, but drop the medium of original publication (Print). A periodical article on the Web may not include page numbers. If possible, give the inclusive page numbers or, when pagination is not continuous, the first page number and a plus sign; if pagination is not available, use n. pag. Conclude the entry with the following items:

1) Title of database (italicized)
2) Medium of publication (Web)
3) Date of access (day, month, and year)

If the guidelines you are following . . . [for print publications] call for supplementary bibliographic information . . . this information should be included immediately before item 1 above . . . . (MLA 192)
Examples of Periodical Publications Found in Online Databases:


All information and examples in this handout were taken directly from the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, Seventh Edition*: