



♦ VICARIOUS AUTHORSHIP ♦

APA Style 7th edition (Vicarious Authorship) User Guide

Publisher: [Amenism, Inc.](#)

Full model & examples: [How to Cite AI](#)

This guide explains how to cite works created under the [Vicarious Authorship model](#) using **Zotero** or **Mendeley Reference Manager** with the custom APA CSL styles.

Tested platforms: **Zotero** and **Mendeley Reference Manager (Mendeley Cite)** — edge cases #1–#11 validated (July 2026).

Which style file to use

Application	Style file	Install method
Zotero	apa-vicarious-authorship.csl	Import .csl file in Zotero preferences
Mendeley Reference Manager (Mendeley Cite)	apa-vicarious-authorship-mendeley-reference-manager.csl	Add custom style by hosted URL in Mendeley Cite

Download locations

What	URL
Starter bundle (both CSL files + this guide as PDF)	vicariousauthorship.com/download/vicarious-authorship-apa-csl-bundle.zip
Zotero style (direct .csl download)	vicariousauthorship.com/csl/apa-vicarious-authorship.csl
MRM style (hosted URL for Mendeley Cite)	vicariousauthorship.com/csl/apa-vicarious-authorship-mendeley-reference-manager.csl

Most users should start with the **starter bundle**. Mendeley Cite users must install the MRM style from the **hosted URL** above (not from the zip alone).

Mendeley Reference Manager only. The file `apa-vicarious-authorship-mendeley-reference-manager.csl` is for **Mendeley Cite** (Reference Manager) only. It does **not** support **Mendeley Legacy Desktop**. If you use Legacy Desktop, use **Zotero** with `apa-vicarious-authorship.csl` instead.

Field mapping by platform

Role	Zotero	Mendeley Reference Manager
Principal Author	Authors (Author 1 only)	Authors
Collaborative Author (AI)	Contributors	Editors
Other human co-authors	Translators	Translators
VA statement	Extra → annotate: ...	Abstract (plain text)

Do **not** type [v.a.] in any name field. The style inserts it automatically.

MRM — do not use Notes for the statement. Mendeley Cite does **not** sync the **Notes** metadata field to Word citations. Use **Abstract** for the Vicarious Authorship Statement in Mendeley Reference Manager.

What this style does

Feature	How it works
[v.a.] notation	Inserted after the Principal Author's initials (reference list) and after the surname (in-text).
Collaborative Author	AI model in Contributors (Zotero) or Editors (MRM).
VA Statement	Extra as annotate: (Zotero) or Abstract (MRM).
In-text <i>et al.</i>	When the VA author line has 3 or more names , in-text uses (Karenga [v.a.] et al., Year). Reference list still lists all names (APA allows up to 20).

When Vicarious Authorship turns on

Application	Item type	VA activates when...
Zotero	Any standard type (including legal)	annotate: in Extra
MRM	Book	Abstract + Editors (AI)
MRM	Web Page	Abstract filled

On MRM **Book** items, **Abstract** alone must **not** trigger [v.a.] without **Editors**. Use **Web Page** for statement-only items.

1. Install the style

Zotero

1. Download the [starter bundle](#) or the [Zotero .cs1 file](#) directly.
2. Open **Edit** → **Preferences** → **Cite** → **Styles** → **+** (**Add Style**).
3. Select **APA Style 7th edition (Vicarious Authorship)** in your document.
4. Refresh citations after installing or updating the style.

Mendeley Reference Manager (Mendeley Cite)

1. **Mendeley Cite** → **Citation Settings** → **Change Citation Style** → **Add a custom style**
2. Paste: <https://www.vicariousauthorship.com/csl/apa-vicarious-authorship-mendeley-reference-manager.csl>
3. **Update citation style** → select **APA Style 7th edition (Vicarious Authorship - Mendeley Reference Manager)**

Hosting the style (Mendeley Cite)

The `<id>` and `rel="self"` URLs inside the CSL must match the hosted URL exactly (use the full `.csl` extension). Both the import URL and the `<id>` URL must return raw XML — not HTML.

```
<id>https://www.vicariousauthorship.com/csl/apa-vicarious-authorship-mendeley-reference-manager.csl</id>  
<link rel="self" href="https://www.vicariousauthorship.com/csl/apa-vicarious-authorship-mendeley-reference-manager.csl"/>
```

2. Set up each Vicarious Authorship item

Principal Author (Author 1)

Field	Example
Last	Karenga
First	T.

Additional human co-authors

Field	Who goes here
Authors	Principal Author only
Translators	All other human co-authors
AI	Contributors (Zotero) or Editors (MRM)

Expected output:

Case	In-text	Reference list
#11 (2 humans + AI)	(Karenga [v.a.] et al., 2026)	Karenga, T. [v.a.], Pali, A., & Google Gemma 3-27B. ...
#7 (3 humans + AI)	(Karenga [v.a.] et al., 2026)	Karenga, T. [v.a.], Pali, A., Jahal, I., & Google Gemma 3-27B. ...
#1 (1 human + AI)	(Karenga [v.a.] & Google Gemma 3-27B, 2026)	Karenga, T. [v.a.], & Google Gemma 3-27B. ...

Collaborative Author (Contributor / Editor)

Zotero: AI in **Contributors** (not Author 2).

MRM: AI in **Editors** on **Book** items (not Authors).

MRM — changing item type (important)

When you change item type in MRM, metadata in **hidden fields persists** (e.g. **Publisher** from a **Book** remains when switching to **Web Page**). After changing type, clear **Publisher**, **Editors**, and **Translators** when they do not apply. Use **one** site name — **Source** or hidden **Publisher**, not both.

MRM — blog posts and web pages

Field	Enter
Type	Web Page
Authors	Principal Author only
Abstract	VA statement (plain text)
Editors	Empty (statement-only VA)
Source or Publisher	Site name (one only)
URL	Full post URL

Vicarious Authorship Statement

Zotero — Extra:

annotate: This work was created collaboratively between Tarik Karenga (Principal Author) and Google Gemma 3-27B (Large language model). ...

Zotero: Do not use **Notes** for the statement. Leave **annotate: empty** on non-VA items.

MRM — Abstract: Paste the full disclosure as **plain text** — no **annotate:** prefix.

MRM: Do not use **Notes** — it does not sync to Mendeley Cite. Leave **Abstract empty** on non-VA items.

Legal citations (Zotero)

With **annotate:** in **Extra** on a legal item type (**Case**, etc.), the style uses full author-date VA format (#10 tested).

Without **annotate:**, standard legal/title-based APA applies.

3. Expected output

Reference list (#1)

Karenga, T. [v.a.], & Google Gemma 3-27B. (2026). *How to cite AI...* [This work was created collaboratively ...]. Vicarious Authorship. <https://...>

In-text (#1)

(Karenga [v.a.] & Google Gemma 3-27B, 2026)

In-text (#7 / #11 — *et al.*)

(Karenga [v.a.] et al., 2026)

Reference list still lists all names.

Legal (#10, Zotero)

(Karenga [v.a.] & Google Gemma 3-27B, 2026)

4. Works with all standard item types

Books, journal articles, conference papers, theses, blog posts, webpages, and legal documents (Zotero) — when fields are set as above.

5. Quick checklist

- ☐ Zotero `apa-vicarious-authorship.csl` OR MRM `apa-vicarious-authorship-mendeley-reference-manager.csl`
- ☐ **Not** using the MRM file in Legacy Desktop (unsupported)
- ☐ Principal Author in **Authors** only
- ☐ Human co-authors in **Translators** (Zotero / MRM)
- ☐ AI in **Contributors** (Zotero) or **Editors** (MRM)
- ☐ Statement: `annotate:` in **Extra** (Zotero) or **Abstract** (MRM)
- ☐ **Contributors** / **Editors** / **Abstract** cleared on non-VA items
- ☐ After MRM type change, clear hidden **Publisher** / **Editors**
- ☐ Legal VA (Zotero): **Case** + `annotate:`
- ☐ Citations refreshed

6. ChatGPT example

Contributors / Editors: OpenAI ChatGPT (GPT-4o)

Zotero Extra: `annotate:` This work was created collaboratively between [Your Name] ...

MRM Abstract: Same text **without** the `annotate:` prefix.

Support & licensing

- **Model documentation:** vicariousauthorship.com/cite-ai.html
- **Starter bundle:** vicariousauthorship.com/download/vicarious-authorship-apa-csl-bundle.zip
- **Style files:** [Zotero CSL](#) · [MRM hosted URL](#)
- **Contact:** info@vicariousauthorship.com

