

**SAS Honors Seminar 256:  
Extraterrestrial Life**

**12/8/2011**

# Why internet-only references are suspect...



*"On the Internet, nobody knows you're a dog."*

**courtesy of *The New Yorker***

# Term papers: bibliography

**Main purpose of a bibliography and citations of references:  
make it possible for a reader to track down the original  
sources of ideas and words.**

## **Bibliography:**

- + Include every reference that you cite (and only those references that you cite!).**
- + Provide enough information for **any** reader to be able to locate the reference (author(s), year, title of book or journal; volume/page number for a journal article). List URL only if this is the **only** way to track.**

# Term papers: citations

+ Provide enough information for someone to be able to find the idea or words without too much trouble if (s)he has the reference handy.

+ It is easy (not required) to use the “author-date” format...

[http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)

...which eliminates ambiguities by including author surname(s), year of publication, and page number(s).

+ To deal with different numbers of authors and/or multiple references with the same author(s) and year, you can use, e.g., (Baker 2004a, 127; Baker 2004b, 18; Baker & Tacconi 2010, 452; Baker et al. 2011, 73).

# Term papers: citing ideas/results

## Original sentence:

“In view of the encouraging intelligence available before we began our campaign, the failure to detect WMD11 is rather surprising.”

## Bad:

Previous efforts to detect this galaxy were unexpectedly unsuccessful.

## Good:

Previous efforts to detect this galaxy were unexpectedly unsuccessful (Baker et al. 2004).

# Term papers: citing words

## **Original sentence:**

**“In view of the encouraging intelligence available before we began our campaign, the failure to detect WMD11 is rather surprising.”**

## **Bad:**

**Given the promising information available before they began their campaign, the authors' failure to detect the galaxy was rather surprising (Baker et al. 2004).**

## **Good:**

**The authors note their disappointment, remarking “the failure to detect WMD11 is rather surprising” (Baker et al. 2004).**

# Discussion next Tuesday (12/13)

**Organize yourselves into four three-person groups  
(JR/YG/SP + LB/BF/AT + JP/MC/BS + NS/LB/MA?).**

**Each group should discuss (in person or by email) the  
various terms in the **original form** of the Drake  
Equation, and agree on consensus **most likely values**  
and **appropriate uncertainties**. **Do this before class.****

**Different groups should not compare answers in advance!**