



**MASS OBSERVATION**

Recording everyday life in Britain

## Referencing Mass Observation material

### Abbreviation for all Mass Observation references:

**MOA : Mass Observation Archive**

Please note that Tom Harrison's surname has two "ss".

### Acknowledgements

Formal acknowledgement for any quotation or use of the MOA must be made to "the Trustees of the Mass Observation Archive, University of Sussex".

### ***(1) Early (1937-50s) material:***

FR : File Report.

Eg: FR 601 'The Bristol Blitz', April 1941, pp.5-7.

D : Diarist (followed by number).

Eg: D 5234, diary for March 1943, p.3.

DR : Directive Respondent (followed by number).

Eg: DR 2890, reply to May 1945 Directive.

DS : Day Survey Writer (followed by number).

Eg: DS88, Day Survey for May 12th 1937.

TC : Topic Collection (followed by Box no. and File letter).

Eg: M-O A: TC Air Raids, 3/C, Observation in air raid shelter, London,  
September 1940.

The brief version of this citation for use with the text of your paper or book (using the TC number) would be TC 23/3/C.

### ***(2) Mass Observation Project material (Directive Replies since 1981 or Special Reports)***

#### ***When working from a single set of directive replies:***

You should make it clear early on your text that all extracts are taken from one set of replies and give title and date of Directive. This should also be made clear in your bibliography when you should cite archival sources separately from book and journal citations.

#### ***Example:***

Mass Observation Archive (University of Sussex): Replies to Spring 1991 directive

At the end of a quotation, add the number of the M-O correspondent you have quoted:

***Example:*** [F3341].

You might like to "humanise" this by adding biographical details:

*Example:*

[F3341, male student aged 22 from Birmingham]

or [R4216, hairdresser, female in her thirties, from London]

You could also use a pseudonym but you must ensure that the number is also included.

***When working with several different sets of directive replies:***

If you are quoting from or referring to several of sets of directive replies, you need to specify which directive each quotation comes from. You can either use the date and term or the number of the directive (see the list of themes and directives).

*Example:*

[F3342, Spring Directive 1995, part 2, p2].

***When working from Special Reports***

You should cite the number of the MO correspondent (and other details as above if desired), the Special Report number, title, if there is one, and date.

*Example:*

[V1324, Special Report 204, "Visit to hospital", May 1985].

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