

Reference Citations in B. F. Skinner's *Verbal Behavior*

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In writing *Verbal Behavior*, B. F. Skinner (1957) made clear his intention not to review the extant literature on the subject matter (Skinner, 1979, p. 282). Nonetheless, he did formally and informally cite many scientific, philosophical, and literary books and articles throughout his text. The formal citations appear as references in footnotes at the bottoms of pages, but are not found in any reference section of the book—there is none. The purpose of this paper is to provide that reference section.

As mentioned, Skinner included both formal and informal citations in his book. The *informal* citations appear in the body of the text and, along with the formal citations, are indexed at the end of the book. This index contains 188 proper names of real people, who are listed on 336 separate pages in the 470 page text; over half of these individuals are authors of the formally referenced citations. Overall, the authors with five or more citations in the index are Freud (18), Shakespeare (16), B. Russell (9), Dickens (8), T. S. Eliot (7), Trollope (7), Stendhal (6), Tolstoy (6), Coleridge (5), Conrad (5), Dodgson/Carroll (5), Fowler (5), Joyce (5), Stein (5), and Tooke (5); Skinner's name does not appear. Given the higher number of literary figures compared to scientists and philosophers in this list, and a corresponding two-to-one split in the index, Skinner seems clearly to have emphasized literary material in developing and illustrating his analysis.

The *formal* references to literary, scientific, and philosophical material in *Verbal Behavior* are made to 116 separate citations in 162 different footnotes. These references would have comprised the text's reference section had there been one. Both the 116 citations

and the 162 separate footnotes are about equally divided between the literary and the scientific and philosophical. The most frequently cited authors are Skinner (28), B. Russell (8), Tooke (6), Fowler (5), Richards (4), Trollope (4), Freud (3), Housman (3), Quine (3), and Stendhal (3); no other author appears in more than two footnotes. Skinner is also the author with the greatest number of different cited works—seven (Ferster & Skinner, 1957; Skinner, 1934, 1936, 1942, 1945, 1953, 1961); the only other authors with more than two cited works are Quine (1940, 1941, 1942) and Richards (1923, 1929, 1934). The most frequently cited reference in these footnotes is *Science and Human Behavior* (Skinner, 1953), to which readers of *Verbal Behavior* are referred to 21 times for more extensive treatments of human behavior (Skinner, 1957, p. 11). The only other references that have more than two citations are B. Russell (1940) (8), Tooke (1857) (6), Fowler (1930) (5), and Housman (1945) (3).

In compiling this material, we came across four categories of errors of commission and omission in the publication process. First, in four cases—Critchley (1927), Dryden (1949), Fielding (1926), and Weiss (1929)—the authors of footnoted citations do not appear in the index. Second, in eight cases, authors of footnoted material do not receive a page listing in the index for the page on which the footnote appeared, even though their names were otherwise listed; these were Freud (p. 303), B. Russell (p. 450), Shakespeare (p. 242), Tooke (pp. 341, 342), Trollope (pp. 376, 387), and Wordsworth (p. 249). Third, two index listings of footnoted citations are incorrect—Dodgson/Carroll, p. 297, was listed as p. 279, and von Frisch, p. 462, was listed as p. 402.

The fourth category of errors occurred in the formal references themselves, which is another reason for offering the complete

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list here. These errors were made in the listing of the following: (1) authors (e.g., spelling errors—DeQuincey, 1899, is cited as DeQuincy; and author order reversals—Shakow and Rosenzweig, 1940, is cited as Rosenzweig and Shakow, 1940); (2) publication dates (e.g., Proust, 1914-1927, is given as Proust, 1914-1928), (3) titles (e.g., "modernist" appears as "modern" in Riding and Graves, 1927), (4) volume numbers (e.g., the volume number for Wells, 1937, is listed as 5 instead of as 45); (5) page numbers (e.g., the page numbers for Foley and Macmillan, 1943, are listed as pp. 299-309 instead of pp. 299-310), and (6) publishers (e.g., Packard is the publisher for Hudson, 1946, not University Classics). In addition, omissions are often found in the information provided on publishers and their locations, publication dates, and journal article titles; sometimes a particular edition is not specified.

Our primary reference sources for compiling and correcting this reference list were the *Psychological Abstracts*, the University of Kansas Libraries card catalog, and *The National Union Catalog*; we also occasionally consulted the *Cumulative Book Index*, the *Science Citation Index*, and *The Publishers' Trade List Annual*. Our standard style source was the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (APA) (3rd ed.). In preparing the formal reference list, we were guided by the pragmatic concern that the references be easily located and cited by others. Where the standard citation style or references were ambiguous, we adhered to the following conventions.

First, the authors' names are given as Skinner cited them; they are not corrected for pseudonyms (e.g., M. H. Beyle is listed as Stendhal, 1936, 1955) or for changes due to marriage (e.g., d'Arblay is listed as Burney, 1950).

Second, when insufficient information was provided to specify a particular edition of a book, an edition was chosen that was published prior to the copyright date of *Verbal Behavior* (1957) (e.g., Suetonius, 1939).

Third, *The National Union Catalog: Pre-1956 Imprints* did not often provide original copyright dates for republished or reprinted editions. When this information was provided, we included it (e.g., Machen, 1907/1927), but when it was not, we used the date cited by Skinner or by our standard reference sources.

Fourth, subtitles listed in *The National Union Catalog* are provided except when the authors' names were listed as portions of subtitles. Other subtitle material was also occasionally deleted, especially when it seemed unnecessarily extensive, as in Carew's (1670), *Poems, songs and sonnets, together with a masque*, the subtitle for which is: *By Thomas Carew, esq; one of the gentlemen of the Privy-chamber and sewer in ordinary to His Late Majesty. The songs set in musick by Mr. Henry Lawes, gentleman of the Kings chappel, and one of His Late Majesties private musick.*

Fifth, when our sources listed two publishers or cities of publication, we provided only the first, unless Skinner listed the second, in which case we provided both. The publishers' names are given as listed in our sources, but modified according to APA style—for instance, the initials in a publisher's name were retained unless the publisher was well known or if the initials might specify different publishers, as in "Dent," "J. M. Dent," and "J. M. Dent and Sons."

In addition to providing the complete and corrected 116 formal reference citations, we have included with each reference the page(s) on which its footnote appears in *Verbal Behavior* [in brackets], as well as any specific page or chapter numbers cited by Skinner for that reference (in parentheses). Finally, any substantive differences in our citations from those Skinner provided are explained in parenthetical comments at the end of the respective references.

We hope that this list of formally cited reference material in *Verbal Behavior* will be useful to current and future (and past) readers of the book. For those interested in further study of the text, the list provides some initial suggestions about the literary, scientific, and philosophical material that may have acted as controlling variables to shape and maintain Skinner's analysis of verbal behavior as a whole.

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