



Acknowledgments in Scientific Publications and Presentations

Celia M. Elliott
Department of Physics
University of Illinois
cmelliot@illinois.edu

© 2015 The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois
All rights reserved

First, get it spelled correctly...

There is no *e* following the *g* in the
U.S. English spelling of *acknowledgment*

(Don't believe me?—look at the acknowledgment
page of any book published by a U.S. publisher).

British English spells it with the “e,” but we colonials
have our own rules.

**Some wimpy dictionaries may accord “acknowledgement”
alternative status, but we have higher standards in PHYS 499**

The *acknowledgment* is a formal printed statement that recognizes individuals and institutions that contributed to the work being reported

Contributions to the research should be acknowledged

Non-research contributions are generally not appropriate for acknowledgment in a scientific paper but may be in a thesis

Acknowledge research contributions by people other than the authors

Persons who gave scientific guidance, participated in discussions, or shared unpublished results

**Persons who provided samples or equipment
Assistants or students who helped do the work**

Technicians at user facilities or labs

The acknowledgment should be a simple statement of thanks, not a testimonial or dedication

Do not acknowledge non-science contributors

**Persons who helped prepare the manuscript
(e.g., typists, graphic artists)**

**Persons who provided encouragement or
moral support (e.g., Mom)**

**Persons who provided non-technical services
(e.g., grant coordinators, secretaries,
purchasing agents)**

**These individuals might be acknowledged in a
thesis, but not in a journal article, presentation,
or poster**

Acknowledge by name only

**Do not use titles, honorifics, positions, or
awards**

Paul G. Kwiat

NOT

**Professor Paul G. Kwiat,
Bardeen Chair in Physics**

Anthony J. Leggett

NOT

Sir Dr. A.J. Leggett, Nobel Laureate

Always acknowledge financial support of the research—always

Give the name of the funding agency and grant or contract number

Do not mention any title that came with the funds

A.C. acknowledges support from the Lorella Jones Summer Research Fund

NOT

A.C. was a Lorella Jones Summer Research Fellow

Funding agency acknowledgments

An acknowledgment of NSF support and a disclaimer must appear in publications (including World Wide Web sites) of any material, whether copyrighted or not, based on or developed under NSF-supported projects:

"This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. ____."

In the case of multiple grants, it may be permissible to name only the funding agency

**NSF support also must be orally
acknowledged during all news media
interviews, including popular media such
as radio, television and news magazines**

***Except for* articles or papers published in
scientific, technical or professional
journals, the following disclaimer must
be included:**

**“Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or
recommendations expressed in this material are
those of the author(s) and do not necessarily
reflect the views of the National Science
Foundation.”**

What about logos?

**Federal funding agencies may allow you to use
their logos, but obtain a high-resolution image
and follow their guidelines**

**The University has explicit rules about the use
of the I-mark**

**Companies are aggressive about protecting their
brands and trademarks; just because you can
grab a logo off a website does *not* mean you
can use it with impunity**



What about logos?

Rules for using the NSF logo:

<http://www.nsf.gov/policies/logos.jsp>

Rules for using the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign logo:

(<http://identitystandards.illinois.edu/graphicstandardsmanual/generalguidelines/generalguidelines.html>)

The U.S. Department of Energy says you may NOT use their logo without explicit permission

(<http://energy.gov/management/office-management/employee-services/graphics/doe-logo-seal-and-word-mark>)

