Recognising family names of authors

How to identify the family name

The custom in English speaking cultures is to present the given name(s) first and the family name last. This can be seen with the name Michael Keith Jackson.

First given name	Second given name	Family name
Michael	Keith	Jackson

For a source written in 2017, this author's name would be entered like this:
- the in-text reference as: (Jackson, 2017)
- the reference list as: Jackson, M.K. (2017).

Note: the two given names (Michael and Keith) are reduced to the first initial of each name in the reference list and are placed together with punctuation.

Cases of reversed order

Sometimes the order of names is reversed such as in library catalogues and databases. When the order is reversed this is shown by a comma placed after the family name as with:

> Anderson, Mary Louise
> Chen, Youhua
> Shah, Prakesh S

Hyphenated family names

Sometimes two family names are combined and joined by a hyphen as seen with:

> Daniel Pitt-Watson

In this example, Pitt-Watson is the family name. Therefore, for a source written in 2018, this name would be entered in:
- the in-text reference as: (Pitt-Watson, 2018)
- the reference list as: Pitt-Watson, D. (2018).

Family names with a prefix

Family names containing prefixes such as de, van, von or De, Van, Von should be listed in the reference list under D and V respectively. Thus, if the author's name is Melissa de Zwart, her name would appear in the reference list under 'd', not 'Z'. Also keep the prefix as part of the surname in-text.

de Zwart (2012) notes...
de Zwart, M. (2012). *NRL v Optus in the full federal court...*

Finally, if you are unsure which is the family name, try searching for other academic publications by the same author.