

chicago citation examples for loc cit

Chicago Citation Examples for Loc Cit

chicago citation examples for loc cit are a crucial element for academic and professional writing, ensuring proper attribution and clarity in research. Understanding how to use "loc cit," an abbreviation for the Latin term "loco citato" meaning "in the place cited," is essential when referring to a specific passage from a source already mentioned in your footnotes or endnotes. This article delves deeply into the nuances of employing loc cit in Chicago style, providing comprehensive examples for various source types and clarifying when its use is most appropriate. We will explore the fundamental principles of Chicago notes-bibliography style, the mechanics of loc cit usage, and its distinctions from other abbreviated citation forms like *ibid.* and *op. cit.* By mastering these examples, writers can significantly enhance the precision and professionalism of their scholarly work.

Table of Contents

Understanding Chicago Style and Footnotes/Endnotes

The Purpose and Function of Loc Cit

When to Use Loc Cit Effectively

Loc Cit Examples for Books

Loc Cit Examples for Journal Articles

Loc Cit Examples for Websites and Online Sources

Loc Cit vs. *Ibid.* and *Op. Cit.*

Best Practices for Using Loc Cit

Understanding Chicago Style and Footnotes/Endnotes

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) offers two primary citation systems: the notes-bibliography system and the author-date system. This article focuses exclusively on the notes-bibliography system, which is prevalent in the humanities, history, and arts. In this system, citations are presented as numbered footnotes (appearing at the bottom of the page) or endnotes (collected at the end of the document). Each note corresponds to a superscript number in the text. The first citation of a source in a footnote or endnote provides full bibliographic details. Subsequent citations, however, can be shortened for conciseness, and this is where abbreviations like *loc cit* become relevant.

The Purpose and Function of Loc Cit

The primary purpose of *loc cit* is to shorten subsequent references to a specific source that has already been fully cited, particularly when referring to the exact same page as a previous note. It avoids the need to repeat the full bibliographic information of a source that has been cited before, thus streamlining the notes and improving readability. Unlike "*ibid.*," which is used for consecutive references to the same source and page, *loc cit* is employed when there are intervening citations to other sources. It directs the reader back to a specific page within a previously identified work.

When to Use Loc Cit Effectively

The effective use of loc cit hinges on specific conditions. It is best employed when you have cited a particular source in a prior note, and you need to refer back to that same source and the same page in a later note, with other notes (referring to different sources) appearing in between. This scenario is crucial because if the intervening notes refer to different sources, "ibid." cannot be used. Loc cit then becomes the most efficient way to pinpoint the exact location of the cited material without redundancy. It signals to the reader that the cited passage comes from a source already detailed, and its specific page is the same as a prior mention.

Distinguishing Loc Cit Usage Scenarios

There are distinct scenarios where loc cit shines:

When a source is cited in note 5, and then again in note 10, referring to the same page as note 5, with notes 6, 7, 8, and 9 referencing other sources.

If a source is cited in note 12, and then again in note 18, referencing the same page as note 12, with intervening notes (13-17) referring to different works.

It is important to note that the use of loc cit has declined in modern scholarship, with many style guides favoring author-page or short-title forms for subsequent citations due to their clarity and universality across different editions or printings. However, understanding loc cit remains valuable for interpreting older texts or adhering to specific editorial requirements.

Loc Cit Examples for Books

When citing a book using the Chicago notes-bibliography system, the initial footnote or endnote provides full details. If you need to refer back to that same book and the exact same page number in a later note, after citing other sources, you would use loc cit.

Let's assume the first citation of a book is:

1. Michael Pollan, *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals* (New York: Penguin Press, 2006), 99.

If you later need to refer to page 99 of Pollan's book again, and there are intervening notes, the subsequent citation using loc cit would appear as:

15. Pollan, loc. cit.

This concisely directs the reader back to page 99 of *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, a source already fully identified in note 1. It is critical that the preceding notes (notes 2-14 in this example) refer to different sources for loc cit to be the correct choice. If note 14 also cited Pollan's book on the same page, then "ibid." would be appropriate for note 15.

Variations in Book Citations with Loc Cit

While the core principle remains consistent, consider these nuances:

If the subsequent citation refers to a different page in the same book, loc cit is not applicable. You would then use the author's last name and the new page number (e.g., Pollan, 110). The author's last name is typically included before "loc. cit." for clarity, especially if multiple works by the same author are cited within the document.

Loc Cit Examples for Journal Articles

Citing journal articles in Chicago style also involves full initial citations followed by shortened subsequent references. When referring to the exact same page of a journal article that has already been fully cited, and with intervening notes pointing to other sources, loc cit is used.

Suppose your first citation for a journal article is:

3. Jane Doe, "The Impact of Digital Media on Political Discourse," *Journal of Communication Studies* 45, no. 2 (2018): 215.

Should you need to reference page 215 of Doe's article again in a later note, after citing other articles or sources:

22. Doe, loc. cit.

This note clearly indicates that the information is from page 215 of the article by Jane Doe, as previously detailed in note 3.

Specifics of Journal Article Loc Cit

Key points to remember for journal articles:

The journal title is not repeated with loc cit; the author's name is sufficient to identify the source when the specific page is the same.

Ensure that the author's name is distinct enough to avoid ambiguity if multiple authors with the same last name are cited.

Loc Cit Examples for Websites and Online Sources

Citing online sources can be more fluid, but the principles of loc cit still apply when referring to a specific online location that has been previously cited in full, and with intervening citations.

Let's say your initial citation for a web page is:

7. "National Park Service History," National Park Service, accessed October 26, 2023, <https://www.nps.gov/aboutus/history.htm>.

If you later need to refer to the same specific section or information on that page, and there are other notes in between:

18. "National Park Service History," loc. cit.

In this case, using the title of the webpage along with "loc. cit." is standard practice when the author is an organization and not a specific individual. If an individual author was credited, their name would be used as with other source types.

Considerations for Online Loc Cit

For online sources, clarity is paramount. If the URL is long or complex, using the title is preferable. The "accessed" date is part of the initial citation and is not typically repeated with loc cit.

Loc Cit vs. Ibid. and Op. Cit.

It is vital to distinguish loc cit from similar abbreviations used in Chicago style to avoid citation errors.

Ibid.: This abbreviation, from the Latin *ibidem* ("in the same place"), is used when referring to the immediately preceding note, both in source and page number. If note 15 is Pollan, p. 99, then note 16 could be "Ibid." to refer to Pollan, p. 99. If note 16 were "Ibid., 101," it would refer to Pollan, p. 101.

Op. Cit.: This abbreviation, from the Latin *opere citato* ("in the work cited"), is used to refer to a previously cited work by the same author, but not necessarily the same page. It is less common than loc cit or ibid. and is often discouraged in favor of short-title citations. For example, if note 5 cited Pollan's book and note 15 needs to refer to a different page in that same book, one might use "Pollan, op. cit., 110." However, modern usage often prefers "Pollan, *Omnivore's Dilemma*, 110."

Loc. Cit.: As discussed, this refers to the same source and the same page as a previous note, but with intervening notes referring to other sources.

The choice between these abbreviations depends on the sequence of your notes and whether you are referencing the exact same page or a different page.

Key Distinctions Summarized

- **Ibid.:** Immediately preceding note, same source, same page.
- **Loc. Cit.:** Previous note, same source, same page, intervening notes exist.
- **Op. Cit.:** Previous note, same author's previous work, potentially different page (less common).

Best Practices for Using Loc Cit

While loc cit can be a useful tool for conciseness, adhering to best practices ensures clarity and avoids confusion for your readers.

Prioritize Clarity: If there's any doubt about whether loc cit will be understood, err on the side of providing a more explicit short-title citation (e.g., Pollan, *Omnivore's Dilemma*, 99).

Consistency is Key: Once you choose to use loc cit, be consistent throughout your document.

Understand the Audience: For academic papers intended for publication, consult the specific style guide or editorial instructions, as some journals or publishers may prefer short-title citations exclusively.

Avoid Overuse: Excessive use of abbreviations can make text harder to follow. Use them judiciously where they genuinely improve conciseness without sacrificing clarity.

Check Your Notes: Always double-check that the preceding notes correctly identify the source and page number you are referencing with loc cit.

When Short-Title Citations Are Preferred

In many modern academic contexts, short-title citations are preferred over loc cit and op. cit. A short-title citation includes the author's last name and a shortened version of the title, followed by the page number. For instance, instead of "Pollan, loc. cit.," you might use "Pollan, *Omnivore's Dilemma*, 99." This method is generally considered more transparent because it explicitly names the source and page number without requiring the reader to recall the exact page from a prior, possibly distant, note. However, understanding loc cit is still essential for interpreting existing scholarship and for specific editorial guidelines that may still require its use.

Q: What is the primary reason to use "loc cit" in Chicago style?

A: The primary reason to use "loc cit" in Chicago style is to shorten subsequent references to a specific source when referring to the exact same page as a previously cited passage, especially when there are intervening notes referencing other sources. It promotes conciseness by avoiding the repetition of full bibliographic details.

Q: Can I use "loc cit" if I'm referring to a different page than the one cited previously for the same source?

A: No, you cannot use "loc cit" if you are referring to a different page than the one cited previously for the same source. "Loc cit" specifically means "in the place cited," implying the exact same location. For a different page in the same source, you would use the author's last name and the new page number, or a short-title citation.

Q: How does "loc cit" differ from "ibid."?

A: "Ibid." (ibidem, meaning "in the same place") is used for citations referring to the immediately preceding note, meaning the same source and the same page number. "Loc cit" refers to the same source and page number as a previous note, but there are intervening notes that cite different sources between the two references.

Q: Are there any situations where using "loc cit" is no longer recommended in Chicago style?

A: Yes, the use of "loc cit" and "op. cit." has declined in favor of short-title citations or author-page citations in many modern academic contexts. These newer methods are often considered clearer and more universally understood, as they don't rely on the reader recalling the exact page from a previous note.

Q: What is the correct format for using "loc cit" with a book?

A: If the first citation of a book is, for example, "Michael Pollan, *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals* (New York: Penguin Press, 2006), 99," and you need to refer to page 99 again in a later note with intervening citations, the "loc cit" format would be: "Pollan, loc. cit."

Q: When citing an online source, what information is typically included with "loc cit"?

A: When citing an online source with "loc cit," if the source has an organizational author, the title of the webpage is usually included before "loc. cit." For example: "'National Park Service History,' loc. cit." If an individual author is listed, their name would be used as with other source types.

Q: Is "loc cit" the same as "op. cit."?

A: No, "loc cit" and "op. cit." are not the same. "Loc cit" refers to the same source and the exact same page as a previous citation (with intervening notes). "Op. cit." (opere citato, meaning "in the work cited") refers to a previously cited work by the same author, but not necessarily the same page, and is less common today.

Q: What should I do if I'm unsure whether to use "loc cit" or a short-title citation?

A: If you are unsure whether to use "loc cit" or a short-title citation, it is generally best to err on the side of clarity. A short-title citation (e.g., Pollan, *Omnivore's Dilemma*, 99) is often preferred as it explicitly states the source and page, reducing the chance of reader confusion. Always consult your specific style guide or instructor's preferences.

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