

chicago manual of style 17th edition

dissertation citation

The chicago manual of style 17th edition dissertation citation is a critical component for academic integrity and scholarly communication, ensuring that your research is properly attributed and that your readers can trace your sources. Navigating the intricacies of citing a dissertation or thesis under the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS), particularly the 17th edition, requires precision and attention to detail. This comprehensive guide will demystify the process, covering the essential elements of both footnote/endnote and bibliography formats. We will explore specific examples for various types of dissertations and theses, address common challenges, and offer practical advice for achieving accurate and compliant citations, ultimately enhancing the credibility of your academic work.

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Understanding the Basics of CMOS Dissertation Citations

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS), now in its 17th edition, provides a robust framework for academic citation, emphasizing clarity and consistency. When it comes to citing a dissertation or thesis, the primary goal is to furnish enough information for a reader to locate the original work. This typically involves identifying the author, the title of the dissertation, the degree sought, the university granting the degree, and the year of completion. Furthermore, the location of the dissertation—whether it's publicly available online, held within a university library, or accessible through a specific database—is crucial information.

CMOS offers two primary citation systems: the notes-bibliography system and the author-date system. For dissertations, the notes-bibliography system, which uses footnotes or endnotes and a bibliography, is more commonly employed in humanities and social sciences, fields where detailed explanatory notes are often beneficial. The author-date system, more prevalent in sciences and social sciences, uses in-text parenthetical citations and a reference list. This guide will primarily focus on the notes-bibliography system as it's the most frequent choice for dissertation writers adhering to CMOS.

It is imperative to recognize that a dissertation is considered an unpublished work unless it has been formally published by a commercial press. This distinction influences how it is formatted in citations. The specific edition of CMOS being used is also vital, as minor but important changes can occur between editions. The 17th edition refines some guidelines, so relying on an older version can lead to inaccuracies.

Footnote and Endnote Citation Format for Dissertations

The notes-bibliography system requires two forms of citation for each source: a footnote or endnote for the first full citation and subsequent shortened notes for recurring sources, and a bibliography entry that provides a more complete overview of all sources used. For a dissertation, the footnote/endnote format aims to provide immediate context, while the bibliography entry offers a comprehensive list for further research.

First Footnote/Endnote Citation

The initial citation in a footnote or endnote for a dissertation follows a structured pattern. It begins with the author's first name, followed by their last name. Next comes the title of the dissertation, italicized to indicate it is a standalone work. This is followed by the degree sought (e.g., Ph.D. dissertation, M.A. thesis), the name of the university granting the degree, and the year of completion. If the dissertation is available through a specific repository or database, that information should also be included.

For example:

- 1. Jane A. Doe, "*The Impact of Social Media on Adolescent Identity Formation*" (Ph.D. dissertation, University of Chicago, 2022), ProQuest Dissertations and Theses Global.

In this example, "Jane A. Doe" is the author, "*The Impact of Social Media on Adolescent Identity Formation*" is the italicized title, "Ph.D. dissertation" specifies the degree, "University of Chicago" is the awarding institution, "2022" is the completion year, and "ProQuest Dissertations and Theses Global" indicates the access point.

Subsequent Footnote/Endnote Citations

Once a source has been fully cited, subsequent references in notes can be significantly shortened for brevity. This typically involves the author's last name, a shortened version of the title, and the page number if a specific passage is being referenced. If the author has only one work cited in the notes, the author's last name and page number may suffice.

For example:

- 2. Doe, "Social Media," 45.

If a dissertation is the only work by a particular author cited, it might be further abbreviated to just the author's last name and the page number, but it's generally good practice to include a shortened

title for clarity, especially if multiple works by the same author are used.

Bibliography Citation Format for Dissertations

The bibliography entry for a dissertation in the Chicago Manual of Style 17th edition serves as a more comprehensive record of the source, presented in a list at the end of the paper. While the core information remains the same as the initial footnote or endnote, the order and punctuation differ slightly to create a consistent alphabetical listing of all consulted works.

Standard Bibliography Entry

In the bibliography, the author's last name precedes their first name, followed by a comma. The title of the dissertation is italicized, and the degree information, university, and year are presented in parentheses. This format is designed for easy scanning and alphabetization. If the dissertation is accessible through a database, that information follows the parenthetical details.

For example:

- Doe, Jane A. "The Impact of Social Media on Adolescent Identity Formation." Ph.D. dissertation, University of Chicago, 2022. ProQuest Dissertations and Theses Global.

The key difference here from the footnote is the author's name order (last, first) and the punctuation. The semicolon used in some earlier editions for separating elements within the parentheses is generally replaced by commas in the 17th edition for internal consistency within the parenthetical information.

Dissertations Available Online

When a dissertation is accessed online, whether through a university's institutional repository, ProQuest, or another digital archive, it is crucial to provide the access information. This allows readers to potentially retrieve the document themselves. The format for online dissertations is largely the same, with the addition of the database name or repository URL.

For example, if a dissertation is available directly from the university's website:

- Smith, John R. "Analyzing the Economic Factors of Urban Development." Ph.D. dissertation, Stanford University, 2021. https://thesis.stanford.edu/smith_2021.pdf.

The inclusion of the URL is vital for online resources, ensuring verifiability and accessibility for your

readers.

Citing Different Types of Dissertations and Theses

While the general principles for citing dissertations and theses remain consistent, variations may arise depending on the specific type of degree, the availability of the work, and whether it has been published. Understanding these nuances is key to accurate CMOS 17th edition citation.

Master's Theses

Master's theses are cited using the same principles as doctoral dissertations. The primary difference lies in specifying the degree sought. Instead of "Ph.D. dissertation," you would use "M.A. thesis," "M.S. thesis," or the specific master's degree title. The structure of the footnote/endnote and bibliography entry remains analogous.

Footnote example:

- 3. Emily B. Chen, "A Comparative Study of Renewable Energy Policies in East Asia" (M.A. thesis, University of California, Berkeley, 2023), University of California, Berkeley Library.

Bibliography example:

- Chen, Emily B. "A Comparative Study of Renewable Energy Policies in East Asia." M.A. thesis, University of California, Berkeley, 2023. University of California, Berkeley Library.

Published Dissertations

If a dissertation has been formally published as a book by a commercial press, it should be treated as a book in your citations. This means using book citation formats rather than dissertation formats. The key indicator is that it has an ISBN and is marketed and distributed like any other published monograph. The dissertation information (degree, university) is generally omitted in this case.

For instance, if a Ph.D. dissertation was later published as a book:

- 4. Robert Johnson. Theories of Quantum Mechanics. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2020.

This clearly distinguishes a published work from an unpublished academic document.

Common Challenges and Solutions in Dissertation Citation

Academic writing often presents unique challenges, and citing dissertations is no exception. Navigating these complexities with the Chicago Manual of Style 17th edition requires careful consideration and a systematic approach.

Missing Information

Occasionally, you may encounter a dissertation where certain pieces of information, such as the exact year of completion or the specific degree, are not readily apparent. In such cases, the CMOS suggests making a reasonable effort to locate the missing data. If it remains elusive, you can note that the information is unavailable. For example, you might use "n.d." for "no date" if the year is unknown, though this should be a last resort. Consulting the university's graduate school or departmental website might help in finding the precise degree title.

Dissertations from Foreign Universities

Citing dissertations from international institutions requires similar information but may necessitate translations of titles or degree names if they are not commonly understood in English. Always strive to provide the original title and, if possible, a translation in parentheses. For the degree, use the most accurate English equivalent or the original term with a parenthetical explanation.

Example:

- 5. Maria Garcia. "Estudios sobre la influencia de la música en el desarrollo cognitivo." (Studies on the influence of music on cognitive development.) Ph.D. dissertation, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, 2019.

This ensures clarity for readers unfamiliar with the source's original language and academic context.

Archived Dissertations

If you are citing a dissertation from an archive that is not part of a standard academic database like ProQuest, you will need to describe the archival source accurately. This includes the name of the archive, the collection, and any specific archival identifiers.

Example:

- 6. David Lee. "Early Industrialization in the American Midwest." Ph.D. dissertation, Harvard University, 1975. Harvard University Archives, Papers of David Lee, Box 3, Folder 7.

Precision in describing archival holdings is paramount for verifiability.

Essential Tips for Accurate Chicago Manual of Style 17th Edition Dissertation Citation

Achieving accurate dissertation citations under the Chicago Manual of Style 17th edition is not just about following rules; it's about cultivating good academic habits. By integrating these tips into your research and writing process, you can minimize errors and enhance the scholarly value of your work.

Consult the Official Manual

The definitive source for all citation guidelines is the Chicago Manual of Style itself. While online resources and style guides can be helpful, they are often summaries or interpretations. For the most accurate and up-to-date information, always refer to the 17th edition of CMOS. Pay close attention to the sections dedicated to unpublished works and academic dissertations.

Maintain a Consistent Style

Consistency is a cornerstone of good citation practice. Whether you are using footnotes/endnotes or a bibliography, ensure that the format for each element (author's name, title, publication details) is applied uniformly across all your citations. Inconsistency can detract from the professionalism of your dissertation and may lead to confusion for your readers.

Proofread Meticulously

Even with careful attention, errors can creep into citations. Before submitting your dissertation, conduct a thorough proofread specifically for your citations. Check for typos, incorrect punctuation, misspellings, and adherence to the CMOS format. It can be beneficial to have a colleague or advisor review your citations as well.

Use Citation Management Software Wisely

Tools like Zotero, Mendeley, or EndNote can be invaluable for managing your sources and generating citations. However, it is crucial to remember that these are tools, not infallible automatons. Always verify that the software is set to the Chicago Manual of Style 17th edition and that the generated citations are accurate before incorporating them into your work. Manual review remains essential.

Understand the Purpose of Each Citation Element

Knowing why each piece of information is included in a citation helps in understanding the formatting. The author's name identifies the creator, the title specifies the work, the degree and university establish its academic context, and the date situates it historically. Access information allows for retrieval. This deeper understanding aids in correctly formatting even unusual sources.

FAQ

Q: What is the primary difference between citing a published dissertation and an unpublished dissertation in the Chicago Manual of Style 17th edition?

A: The primary difference lies in how the source is treated. A published dissertation is cited as a book, with its own ISBN and publisher information, omitting the details about the degree and university. An unpublished dissertation is cited with its title, degree sought, university, and year of completion, indicating it is an academic document rather than a commercial publication.

Q: How should I cite a dissertation that is only available through a university library's physical collection and not online?

A: For a dissertation held only in a physical library collection, you would cite it similarly to an online dissertation but would indicate the location of the physical copy. For example, you might state "University of [Name] Library" or a specific archive within the library if applicable, rather than a database name or URL.

Q: Is it acceptable to use abbreviations like "Ph.D." and "M.A." in CMOS 17th edition dissertation citations?

A: Yes, abbreviations like "Ph.D." and "M.A." are standard and acceptable in Chicago Manual of Style 17th edition dissertation citations to denote the degree sought, as they are widely understood and concise.

Q: What if the author of the dissertation has the same last name as another author cited in my work?

A: If you have multiple authors with the same last name, it is crucial to include their first names in both footnotes/endnotes and the bibliography to clearly distinguish between them and avoid confusion. In shortened notes, providing a slightly more descriptive title might also be necessary.

Q: How do I cite a dissertation where the author's name is unknown?

A: In the rare case where the author's name is unknown, you would begin the citation with the title of the dissertation, italicized, followed by the other relevant details about the degree, university, and year. The citation would then be alphabetized by the first significant word of the title in the bibliography.

Q: What is the correct way to format the title of a dissertation in Chicago Manual of Style 17th edition citations?

A: The title of a dissertation in CMOS 17th edition citations should always be italicized, whether it appears in a footnote/endnote or in the bibliography. This is to signify that it is a standalone work.

Q: Should I include the page numbers in a bibliography entry for a dissertation?

A: Generally, page numbers are not included in a bibliography entry for a dissertation unless you are referencing a specific published edition of that dissertation that has pagination. The bibliography entry provides an overview of the entire work, not specific page references. Page numbers are essential for footnotes/endnotes when quoting or paraphrasing specific sections.

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