

chicago manual of style citing secondary sources quotes

Understanding Chicago Manual of Style Citing Secondary Sources Quotes

chicago manual of style citing secondary sources quotes requires careful attention to detail and a clear understanding of its established conventions. When you encounter a source that itself quotes another source, the process of attribution becomes slightly more complex, demanding accuracy to give proper credit and avoid plagiarism. This guide delves into the nuances of how to correctly cite secondary sources that contain direct quotations, ensuring your academic integrity and the clarity of your research. We will explore the fundamental principles, the specific formatting requirements for notes and bibliographies, and common pitfalls to avoid when dealing with these indirect citations. Mastering this aspect of Chicago style is crucial for students, researchers, and writers who aim for precision in their scholarly work.

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The Purpose of Citing Secondary Sources in Chicago Style

Citing secondary sources, especially those containing direct quotes, serves several vital functions within the Chicago Manual of Style framework. Primarily, it ensures that you are transparent about the origin of information. When you use a quotation that you found within another author's work, you are essentially relying on that author to have accurately transcribed or presented the original material. Proper citation acknowledges this reliance. It also allows your readers to trace your research path and verify the information for themselves, fostering credibility and intellectual honesty. Furthermore, citing correctly demonstrates your understanding of academic conventions and your respect for the original author's intellectual property.

The Chicago Manual of Style, in its 17th edition, emphasizes the importance of attribution. When you cite a secondary source for a quote, you are indirectly acknowledging the work of both the author you are quoting from (the secondary source) and the original author whose words are being presented. This layered citation is a hallmark of rigorous academic research, preventing misattribution and ensuring that all contributors to the intellectual discourse are recognized.

When to Cite Secondary Sources

You should cite a secondary source for a quote primarily when the original source is inaccessible to you. This might occur if the original work is out of print, unavailable in your institution's library, or if the quote is so obscure that finding the original would be excessively time-consuming. It's generally best practice to consult the original source whenever possible, as this minimizes the risk of misinterpretation or errors introduced by the intermediary author. However, when that is not feasible, citing the secondary source becomes a necessary and acceptable practice, provided it is done accurately and ethically.

Another common scenario for citing secondary sources arises in interdisciplinary research where a crucial quote might appear in a work that synthesizes findings from multiple fields. If that synthesis highlights a particularly impactful quote from one specific area, and accessing the primary source from that area would require extensive specialized knowledge or effort, citing the secondary source that brought it to your attention is appropriate. Always consider the accessibility and reliability of the secondary source itself.

The Basic Structure of Citing Secondary Sources with Quotes

The core principle for citing secondary sources with quotes in Chicago style involves indicating that you accessed the quote through another author's work. This is often signaled by phrases like "as quoted in" or "cited in." The exact phrasing and punctuation will vary slightly between notes and the bibliography, but the fundamental information required remains consistent. You need to provide enough detail for your reader to locate both the secondary source you consulted and, ideally, the original source if they wish to pursue it further.

The structure typically involves identifying the original author and work, followed by the secondary source where you found the quote. This layered approach is crucial for maintaining accuracy and acknowledging the chain of information. Failing to do so can lead to confusion about the source of the quote and can be seen as a breach of academic integrity, even if unintentional.

Footnotes and Endnotes for Secondary Source Quotes

In Chicago style, notes (footnotes or endnotes) are the primary method for citing sources within the text. When citing a secondary source for a quote, the note should include the original author and title, followed by the phrase "as quoted in" (or similar), and then the full bibliographic information for the secondary source. This includes the author, title, publication details, and page number where you found the quote in the secondary source.

The first note for a particular source will be a full note, containing all the necessary bibliographic information. Subsequent notes for the same source can be shortened, typically including the author's last name, a shortened title, and the page number. However, when dealing with secondary sources, it's imperative to maintain clarity about the original source and the intermediary source within these notes.

Here's a general structure for a first note:

- Original Author, "Original Title of Work" (if applicable), quoted in Secondary Author, Title of Secondary Work (Place of Publication: Publisher, Year), page number of quote in secondary source.

For example:

- Jane Doe, "Theories of Perception," quoted in John Smith, Psychological Innovations (New York: Academic Press, 2020), 45.

If you can locate the original work, and it's feasible to consult it, it's even better to cite it directly, mentioning that you found it through the secondary source. However, the focus here is on scenarios where direct access is not possible.

Bibliography Entries for Secondary Source Quotes

The bibliography entry for a secondary source quote follows a similar principle of layered citation but is formatted differently. The entry should list the secondary source in which you found the quote, and within that entry, you should indicate the original author and work. The goal is to provide a complete reference that allows your readers to find the secondary source, and if they choose, to pursue the original source.

The general format for a bibliography entry when citing a secondary source for a quote is to list the secondary author and their work first, followed by information about the original author and work. The key is to make it clear that the quote was originally from one source and published in another.

Here's a typical structure for a bibliography entry:

- Secondary Author, Title of Secondary Work. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year. Original Author, "Original Title of Work" (if applicable). Page number of quote in secondary source.

For example:

- Smith, John. Psychological Innovations. New York: Academic Press, 2020. Jane Doe, "Theories of Perception." Page 45.

It is crucial to ensure that the information is presented logically and clearly. The bibliography entry should be alphabetized by the last name of the secondary author, as they are the author of the work you directly consulted.

Specific Examples of Citing Secondary Source Quotes

Let's consider a few more specific scenarios to illustrate the application of

these rules. Suppose you are writing a paper on Shakespeare and you find a compelling analysis of a Hamlet soliloquy in a modern literary journal. You want to use a quote from that journal article, but the article itself is quoting from an earlier, less common commentary on Shakespeare.

Scenario 1: Quoting a book that quotes another book.

Footnote/Endnote (First Mention):

- William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, Act III, Scene 1, quoted in Harold Bloom, *Shakespeare: The Invention of the Human* (New York: Riverhead Books, 1998), 345.

Bibliography Entry:

- Bloom, Harold. *Shakespeare: The Invention of the Human*. New York: Riverhead Books, 1998. William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, Act III, Scene 1. Page 345.

Scenario 2: Quoting an article that quotes a book.

Footnote/Endnote (First Mention):

- John Smith, "The Impact of Industrialization," *Journal of Economic History* 25, no. 2 (2019): 112, quoting historical observations from Mary Jones, *Life in the Factories* (London: Old World Press, 1950).

Bibliography Entry:

- Smith, John. "The Impact of Industrialization." *Journal of Economic History* 25, no. 2 (2019): 112. Quoting Mary Jones, *Life in the Factories*. London: Old World Press, 1950.

These examples highlight the importance of clearly delineating the original source from the secondary source within both your notes and bibliography. The goal is to provide the most complete and accurate information possible given your research constraints.

Common Challenges and Solutions in Citing Secondary Sources

One of the most frequent challenges is when the secondary source itself is unclear about the original source or provides incomplete information. In such

cases, you may need to make a judgment call. If the information is too vague to be useful, it might be best to avoid quoting that particular passage or to seek out a more reliable secondary source. If the secondary source provides just enough information (e.g., author and title of the original work but no publication details), you might include what you have and acknowledge the limitations in your citation.

Another challenge is when the secondary source misquotes or misinterprets the original source. This is a risk inherent in citing secondary sources. The best solution is always to consult the original source if at all possible. If you suspect an error or misrepresentation, and you cannot verify it with the original, you might choose to paraphrase the idea rather than quoting directly, or you could include a brief parenthetical note in your text expressing your reservation about the accuracy of the quote as presented in the secondary source.

Ensuring the correct formatting for "as quoted in" or similar phrasing is also a common point of confusion. Always refer to the latest edition of the Chicago Manual of Style for the most up-to-date guidelines on punctuation, capitalization, and the precise wording of these connective phrases.

Ethical Considerations in Citing Secondary Sources

The ethical use of secondary sources hinges on transparency and academic honesty. When you cite a secondary source for a quote, you are ethically bound to accurately represent the information and to acknowledge the chain of attribution. This means not presenting the quote as if you found it directly in the original source if you did not. It also means doing your due diligence to ensure the secondary source you are using is reputable and that the quote it presents is likely accurate.

Furthermore, you have an ethical responsibility to your readers. If the original source is critical to understanding the context or nuances of the quote, and you are unable to provide that context by referencing the original, you should consider whether quoting the secondary source is the best approach. In academic writing, the goal is always to convey information as accurately and completely as possible, and ethical citation practices are fundamental to achieving this.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the primary reason for citing a secondary source when quoting?

A: The primary reason is when the original source material is inaccessible to you, making it impossible to consult directly. This can be due to unavailability, being out of print, or extreme obscurity.

Q: How do I indicate that I found a quote in a secondary source in Chicago style?

A: You typically use phrases such as "as quoted in" or "cited in" within your footnotes or endnotes, and in your bibliography, you list the secondary source with a clear indication of the original author and work.

Q: Should I always try to find the original source even if I've found the quote in a secondary source?

A: Yes, it is always best practice to consult the original source if possible. This minimizes the risk of misinterpretation or errors introduced by the intermediary author and provides the most accurate context.

Q: What if the secondary source provides very little information about the original author or work?

A: If the information is insufficient to be useful, it's often best to avoid quoting that passage. If some information is available, include what you have and acknowledge the limitations of your citation.

Q: How does the formatting of a secondary source citation differ between a footnote and a bibliography entry in Chicago style?

A: Footnotes/endnotes are more concise for subsequent citations and appear at the bottom of the page or end of the document. Bibliography entries are more detailed and are listed alphabetically at the end of the work, providing a comprehensive list of all sources consulted.

Q: Can I quote a secondary source if the original is easily accessible but I just prefer not to get it?

A: No, Chicago Manual of Style generally discourages citing a secondary source if the original is readily available. The expectation is that you will go to the primary source for direct quotations unless there is a genuine impediment to doing so.

Q: What is the role of the phrase "as quoted in" in a Chicago style citation of a secondary source?

A: The phrase "as quoted in" explicitly signals to the reader that the quote you are presenting was not found in its original publication but rather was found within another published work. It establishes the chain of citation.

Q: Are there any specific rules about the order of information when citing a secondary source for a quote?

A: Yes, in footnotes and endnotes, you typically present the original author and work first, followed by the "as quoted in" phrase and then the details of the secondary source. In the bibliography, the secondary source is listed first, with information about the original source integrated.

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