

chicago manual of style footnotes for loc cit examples

Understanding Chicago Manual of Style Footnotes for Loc. Cit. Examples

chicago manual of style footnotes for loc cit examples are crucial for academic and professional writing, ensuring proper attribution and clarity in scholarly work. This guide will demystify the application of "loc. cit." and "ibid." within Chicago style footnotes, providing comprehensive examples and explanations. We will delve into the nuances of abbreviating frequently cited sources, exploring the distinction between short-form citations and the traditional "loc. cit." approach, and demonstrating best practices for maintaining consistency. Understanding these elements is vital for scholars aiming to adhere to the rigorous standards of the Chicago Manual of Style, preventing plagiarism and enhancing the credibility of their research. This article serves as a definitive resource for mastering these specific footnote citation conventions.

Table of Contents

Introduction to Loc. Cit. and Ibid. in Chicago Style

The Purpose of Loc. Cit. and Ibid.

When to Use Loc. Cit.

When to Use Ibid.

Alternatives to Loc. Cit.: Short-Form Citations

Crafting Chicago Manual of Style Footnotes for Loc. Cit. Examples

Footnotes for Books: Loc. Cit. Application

Footnotes for Journal Articles: Loc. Cit. Application

Footnotes for Websites and Online Sources: Loc. Cit. Application

Common Pitfalls and Best Practices for Loc. Cit.

Ensuring Accuracy and Consistency in Footnote Citations

Frequently Asked Questions about Chicago Manual of Style Footnotes for Loc. Cit. Examples

Introduction to Loc. Cit. and Ibid. in Chicago Style

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) provides a detailed framework for academic citation, and understanding the proper use of abbreviations like "loc. cit." and "ibid." is essential for accurate referencing. While the tenth edition of CMOS moved away from "loc. cit." in favor of a short-form citation system, many style guides and academic disciplines still permit or even prefer its use, particularly in specialized fields or for historical documents. This section will explore the historical context and current relevance of these abbreviations within the broader landscape of CMOS footnote citation practices. It's important for writers to be aware of the specific

requirements of their publication or institution, as adherence to these nuances is paramount for scholarly integrity.

The Purpose of Loc. Cit. and Ibid.

The primary purpose of both "loc. cit." and "ibid." is to shorten citations when the same source is referenced multiple times within a document. "Loc. cit." (short for loco citato, meaning "in the place cited") traditionally refers to the exact same work as the preceding citation, but potentially a different page. "Ibid." (short for ibidem, meaning "in the same place") refers to the exact same work and page as the immediately preceding citation. Their use aims to reduce redundancy in footnotes, making the text more readable and less cluttered by repeated full citations. This efficiency is particularly valued in dense scholarly works where a single source might be consulted repeatedly throughout a chapter or section.

When to Use Loc. Cit.

The use of "loc. cit." is becoming less common in contemporary Chicago style, largely due to the preference for short-form notes. However, in contexts where it is still employed, "loc. cit." is used to refer to a previously cited work when the immediately preceding citation refers to a different work. Crucially, "loc. cit." signals that the writer is returning to a source that has been cited before, but not necessarily on the immediately preceding footnote. It is generally used when the specific passage being referenced is not on the same page as the prior citation of that same source, distinguishing it from "ibid." which implies exact page repetition. It's a way to acknowledge a return to a previously discussed text without repeating the full bibliographic details if the work has been cited at least once before, but not necessarily consecutively.

Consider a scenario where you cite Book A on page 50, then Book B on page 75, and then need to refer back to Book A again, but on page 60. In this case, if using "loc. cit.", the footnote would simply read "loc. cit." or "loc. cit., 60." This is distinct from how "ibid." would function. The key differentiator is the interruption by another source. If you had cited Book A, then Book A again on a different page, you would use "ibid." For the return to Book A after an intervening source, "loc. cit." serves the purpose of brevity.

When to Use Ibid.

The abbreviation "ibid." is reserved for situations where a footnote refers to the identical source and page number as the immediately preceding

footnote. This is the most concise way to refer to a source that has just been cited. If the same source is cited again, but on a different page, "ibid." is followed by the new page number. For example, if footnote 5 cites John Smith, *The History of Chicago* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2020), 45, and footnote 6 refers to the same book and page, footnote 6 would simply be "Ibid." If footnote 7 refers to the same book but on page 52, it would be "Ibid., 52." This strict requirement for immediate succession makes "ibid." a powerful tool for streamlining repeated references to the same passage or page.

The structure for using "ibid." is quite straightforward:

- If the immediately preceding footnote cites the exact same source and page number, use "Ibid."
- If the immediately preceding footnote cites the exact same source but a different page number, use "Ibid., [new page number]."

It is essential to note that if any other source or citation intervenes, the opportunity to use "ibid." is lost. This necessitates careful tracking of your citations to ensure correct application.

Alternatives to Loc. Cit.: Short-Form Citations

The most widely adopted and recommended system within the current edition of the Chicago Manual of Style is the use of short-form citations in footnotes. This system replaces both "loc. cit." and "ibid." with a brief reference that includes the author's last name, a shortened version of the title (if necessary to distinguish it from other works by the same author), and the page number. The first footnote for a source includes the full bibliographic information. Subsequent footnotes then use the short-form method. For instance, if the first footnote for a book is "John Smith, *The History of Chicago* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2020), 45," subsequent footnotes referring to this book would be "Smith, *History of Chicago*, 60," or simply "Smith, 60," if the title is unambiguous.

This short-form approach offers several advantages:

- **Clarity:** It clearly identifies the source without relying on potentially ambiguous Latin abbreviations.
- **Consistency:** It provides a uniform method for all subsequent citations, regardless of whether the source was cited immediately before.
- **Ease of Use:** It is generally easier for writers to manage and for

readers to follow.

Even when "loc. cit." is permitted, understanding the short-form method is crucial, as it is the contemporary standard for CMOS.

Crafting Chicago Manual of Style Footnotes for Loc. Cit. Examples

When preparing footnotes that incorporate "loc. cit.," meticulous attention to detail is paramount. The goal is to provide sufficient information for the reader to locate the cited material without unnecessary repetition. The "loc. cit." abbreviation should only be used when referring to a previously cited source, and crucially, not immediately following the prior citation of that same source if another source has intervened. This distinguishes it from "ibid." The structure typically involves the abbreviation followed by the relevant page number, if different from a previous mention of the same work, or simply "loc. cit." if the page is the same as the preceding citation of that specific work.

Footnotes for Books: Loc. Cit. Application

Applying "loc. cit." to book citations requires careful context. Let's imagine the first footnote for a book is presented in full:

1. John Smith, *The History of Chicago* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2020), 45.

If you then cite a different book:

2. Jane Doe, *Urban Development in the Midwest* (New York: Metropolis Books, 2019), 112.

And then you need to refer back to Smith's *The History of Chicago*, but this time on page 60, you would use "loc. cit.":

3. Smith, loc. cit., 60.

If, however, you needed to cite Smith's *The History of Chicago* again on page 45, after the intervening citation of Doe, you would still use "loc. cit.":

3. Smith, loc. cit.

This demonstrates how "loc. cit." signals a return to a specific work previously mentioned, irrespective of the intervening citations, and maintains the citation of the specific location within that work. However, it is important to reiterate that this usage is often superseded by the short-form citation method in modern CMOS practice.

Footnotes for Journal Articles: Loc. Cit. Application

The principles for using "loc. cit." with journal articles are consistent with those for books. The initial footnote for a journal article would include the author's name, article title, journal title, volume number, issue number, publication year, and page numbers. For example:

4. Emily Carter, "The Industrial Revolution's Impact on Urban Landscapes," *Journal of Historical Studies* 35, no. 2 (2021): 185–205, at 192.

If a subsequent footnote cites a different source, and then you need to refer back to Carter's article, the "loc. cit." would be employed to indicate the return to that specific article. Suppose the next footnote cites a different author:

5. David Lee, *Modern Economic Theory* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2022), 78.

And then you need to reference Carter's article again, perhaps on page 198:

6. Carter, loc. cit., 198.

If the intention was to refer to the exact same page (page 192) as footnote 4, after the intervening citation, it would be:

6. Carter, loc. cit.

This maintains the convention of referring to the previously cited work without repeating the full bibliographic details, assuming the intervening citation is from a different source. Again, the short-form citation system is the more contemporary approach favored by CMOS.

Footnotes for Websites and Online Sources: Loc. Cit. Application

While "loc. cit." and "ibid." are traditionally associated with print sources, their application to online materials, if permitted by the specific style guide or editor, would follow the same logical progression. The initial footnote would provide a comprehensive citation for the online source, including author (if known), title of the specific page or document, name of the overall website, publication or last updated date, and the URL. For example:

7. "Climate Change Data," National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, last modified October 26, 2023, <https://www.noaa.gov/climate-data>.

If an intervening footnote cites a different online source or a print source, and then you need to refer back to the NOAA page, you would use "loc. cit.":

8. [Intervening citation for another source]

9. NOAA, loc. cit., or NOAA, loc. cit., <https://www.noaa.gov/climate-data>.

The "loc. cit." would point to the previously cited NOAA webpage. However, for online sources, the permanence of pagination can be an issue, and therefore, the use of precise URLs and archival links is often preferred. The short-form citation system, which would typically involve the website name or author and a direct URL or specific section identifier, is generally more practical and recommended for online resources in CMOS.

Common Pitfalls and Best Practices for Loc. Cit.

Several common pitfalls can arise when attempting to use "loc. cit." and "ibid." accurately. The most frequent error is misapplying "ibid." by using it when the immediately preceding footnote does not refer to the exact same source and page. Another significant issue is confusing the conditions for using "loc. cit." versus "ibid."; "ibid." requires immediate succession, while "loc. cit." allows for intervening citations but refers to a previously cited work. Furthermore, writers may forget to include the page number when necessary, or conversely, include it when it's identical to the preceding citation, thus negating the intended brevity of "ibid."

To avoid these mistakes and ensure best practices, consider the following:

- **Understand the Strict Rules:** "Ibid." is only for the immediately preceding citation. "Loc. cit." is for a previously cited work after an intervening citation.
- **Prioritize Short-Form Citations:** In most modern CMOS writing, the short-

form citation system (Author's Last Name, Shortened Title, Page Number) is the preferred and most reliable method.

- **Maintain a Citation Log:** Keep a running list of all sources cited and their full bibliographic details. This helps in tracking which sources have been used and how many times.
- **Proofread Meticulously:** Always double-check your footnotes for accuracy, especially when using abbreviations. A single misplaced abbreviation can cause confusion.
- **Consult Your Style Guide:** If in doubt, always refer to the latest edition of the Chicago Manual of Style or the specific guidelines provided by your institution or publisher.

Ensuring Accuracy and Consistency in Footnote Citations

Accuracy and consistency are the cornerstones of credible scholarship, and this is especially true for footnotes. When employing any citation method, whether it's the traditional "loc. cit." and "ibid." or the more contemporary short-form system, maintaining a uniform approach throughout your document is paramount. Inconsistent citation practices can undermine the reader's trust and make it difficult for them to follow your sources. This means that once you decide on a method for handling subsequent citations (e.g., using short-form notes for all books), you must adhere to it without deviation.

The Chicago Manual of Style emphasizes that clarity should always be the guiding principle. While abbreviations can contribute to conciseness, they should never come at the expense of comprehensibility. If there is any ambiguity about how a citation will be interpreted, it is always better to err on the side of providing more information. This might mean opting for the full short-form citation even when a shorter version might seem permissible, especially in complex arguments or when dealing with multiple works by the same author.

Ultimately, the goal of any citation system is to give credit where credit is due and to enable readers to easily access the sources you have consulted. By understanding the nuances of Chicago style footnotes, including the historical context and current preferences for "loc. cit." examples and their alternatives, writers can produce polished and authoritative scholarly work.

FAQ: Chicago Manual of Style Footnotes for Loc. Cit. Examples

Q: What is the primary function of "loc. cit." in Chicago Manual of Style footnotes?

A: "Loc. cit." (loco citato) is used in Chicago Manual of Style footnotes to refer to a previously cited work, but not the immediately preceding one, without repeating the full bibliographic information. It indicates a return to a specific source that has already been mentioned in the footnotes, distinguishing it from "ibid." which refers to the immediately preceding citation.

Q: When should I use "ibid." instead of "loc. cit."?

A: You should use "ibid." when the current footnote refers to the exact same source and page number as the immediately preceding footnote. If the source is the same but the page number is different, you would use "Ibid." followed by the new page number. "Ibid." strictly requires the preceding footnote to be the identical source and page.

Q: Is "loc. cit." still widely used in the current Chicago Manual of Style?

A: No, the current edition of the Chicago Manual of Style strongly prefers short-form citations over the use of "loc. cit." and "ibid." While "loc. cit." may still be encountered in older texts or specific academic fields, the short-form system (Author's Last Name, Shortened Title, Page Number) is the contemporary standard for subsequent footnote citations.

Q: How does a short-form citation differ from "loc. cit."?

A: A short-form citation includes the author's last name, a shortened version of the work's title (if necessary to distinguish it from other works by the same author), and the page number. This is used for all subsequent citations after the initial full citation, regardless of whether the citation is immediately preceding or if other sources have intervened. "Loc. cit." is an abbreviation that relies on the reader recalling the specific work being referenced from a previous footnote.

Q: Can I use "loc. cit." for online sources?

A: While the principles of "loc. cit." can theoretically be applied to online

sources, it is generally not recommended or used in modern Chicago style. For online sources, the short-form citation system, which typically includes the website name or author and a specific URL, is far more practical and clear for readers to locate the information.

Q: What are the potential problems with using "loc. cit."?

A: The main problems with using "loc. cit." include potential confusion for readers who may not be familiar with the abbreviation, the risk of misapplication if intervening citations are not carefully tracked, and its departure from the currently preferred short-form citation method in CMOS, which offers greater clarity and consistency.

Q: If I cite a book in footnote 1 and then again in footnote 3 without any intervening sources, which should I use?

A: If footnote 1 cites a book, and footnote 2 refers to the exact same book and page number, you would use "Ibid." for footnote 2. If footnote 3 refers to the same book as footnote 1 but on a different page, and no other source has been cited between footnote 1 and footnote 3, you would use "Ibid., [new page number]." The prompt states no intervening sources, implying a direct sequence if we consider only the book itself. However, if another source was cited in footnote 2, then for footnote 3, referring back to the book from footnote 1, you would use the short-form citation or "loc. cit." if allowed. Given the strict "no intervening sources" context, "Ibid." applies.

Q: How do I present the first footnote citation for a book in Chicago style?

A: The first footnote citation for a book in Chicago style includes the author's full name, the full title of the book (italicized), the city of publication, the publisher, the publication year, and the specific page number(s) being cited. For example: John Smith, *The History of Chicago* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2020), 45.

[Chicago Manual Of Style Footnotes For Loc Cit Examples](#)

Chicago Manual Of Style Footnotes For Loc Cit Examples

Related Articles

- [chicago manual of style figure caption placement in academic papers](#)
- [chicago manual of style bibliography guide](#)
- [chicago manual of style essay writing](#)

[Back to Home](#)