

# chicago manual of style for citing books with editors

The chicago manual of style for citing books with editors is a fundamental aspect of academic and scholarly writing, ensuring proper attribution and clarity for readers. Mastering these citation rules is essential for anyone engaging with edited collections, anthologies, or multi-author volumes. This comprehensive guide will delve into the intricacies of citing books with editors according to the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS), covering both the Notes-Bibliography and Author-Date systems. We will explore the specific elements required for each citation type, from identifying editors to handling different types of contributions within the book. Understanding these nuances will enhance the credibility and accuracy of your research papers, essays, and any written work that relies on the meticulous standards set by CMOS.

## Table of Contents

Understanding the Role of Editors in Citations

Citing a Book with Editors in Notes-Bibliography System

Citing a Book with Editors in Author-Date System

Citing a Specific Chapter or Essay within an Edited Book

Variations and Special Cases

The Importance of Consistency

## Understanding the Role of Editors in Citations

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) places significant emphasis on accurately representing the source material, and this includes clearly identifying the contributors. When a book is compiled and curated by one or more editors, their role becomes crucial in the citation process. Editors are not authors of the entire work in the same way a single author is, but rather they are responsible for selecting, organizing, and often providing introductory or concluding remarks for the pieces within the volume. Therefore, CMOS guidelines ensure that editors are acknowledged appropriately, distinguishing their contribution from that of the authors of individual chapters or essays. This distinction is vital for readers who may wish to trace the origin of specific ideas or arguments.

The way editors are listed in a citation depends on the specific citation system being used – either Notes-Bibliography or Author-Date. Both systems aim for clarity, but they present the information in slightly different formats. In the Notes-Bibliography system, editors are typically introduced with the abbreviation "ed." or "eds." following their names, appearing prominently in both footnotes/endnotes and the bibliography. In contrast, the Author-Date system prioritizes the author and publication year for in-text citations, with the full editorial details appearing in the reference list. Recognizing this foundational difference is the first step to correctly citing any book with editors.

# Citing a Book with Editors in Notes-Bibliography System

The Notes-Bibliography system, prevalent in the humanities, uses footnotes or endnotes for in-text citations and a comprehensive bibliography at the end of the work. When citing a book with editors in this system, the editor(s) are listed first, followed by the book title, publication details, and page numbers if referring to a specific part. The abbreviation "ed." for one editor or "eds." for multiple editors is appended directly after their names. This clearly signals to the reader that these individuals are the editors of the collection, not the authors of the entire volume.

## Essential Elements for Notes-Bibliography Citations

Several key components are necessary for a complete and accurate citation of a book with editors using the Notes-Bibliography system. These elements ensure that the reader can easily locate the source and understand its organizational structure.

- **Editor's Name(s):** List the editor(s) in the order they appear on the title page. For one editor, it's "First Name Last Name, ed." For multiple editors, it's "First Name Last Name and First Name Last Name, eds." or "First Name Last Name, First Name Last Name, and First Name Last Name, eds."
- **Book Title:** The title of the book should be italicized.
- **Publication Information:** This includes the place of publication, the publisher's name, and the year of publication, enclosed in parentheses.
- **Page Numbers:** If you are referencing a specific passage or page, include the relevant page number(s) after the publication details.

For example, a footnote citation might look like this:

1. John Smith, ed., *Theories of Modern Art* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1998), 45.

And the corresponding bibliography entry would be:

Smith, John, ed. *Theories of Modern Art*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1998.

# Multiple Editors and Their Formatting

When a book has two or three editors, CMOS prefers listing all of them, separated by "and" before the last editor's name. The abbreviation "eds." follows the last editor's name. If there are four or more editors, CMOS recommends listing the first editor followed by "et al." (and others) for brevity, especially in footnotes/endnotes. However, in the bibliography, it is generally better to list all editors if space permits and if it enhances clarity, though the "et al." option is also permissible.

Example for two editors in a bibliography:

Brown, Alice, and Robert Green, eds. *Essays on Contemporary Literature*. London: Penguin Books, 2010.

Example for four editors using "et al." in a footnote:

2. Clara Davis, David Evans, Fiona Garcia, and Gregory Harris, eds., *Global Environmental Issues* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015), 112.

And in the bibliography:

Davis, Clara, David Evans, Fiona Garcia, and Gregory Harris, eds. *Global Environmental Issues*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015.

## Citing a Book with Editors in Author-Date System

The Author-Date system, commonly used in the sciences and social sciences, relies on in-text parenthetical citations that include the author's last name and the publication year. The bibliography, termed a "Reference List," provides the full source details. For books with editors, the citation format shifts to highlight the editors as the primary organizers of the work. The editors' names are listed first, followed by the book title and publication information.

## Key Differences in Author-Date Formatting

The primary distinction in the Author-Date system for books with editors lies in how the

editors are presented and the structure of the reference list entry. Unlike the Notes-Bibliography system where editors are explicitly introduced with "ed." or "eds.", in the Author-Date system, the editors' role is signified by placing "ed." or "eds." after their names in the reference list. The in-text citation typically refers to the editors themselves as the source of the compiled work.

A typical Author-Date reference list entry for a book with one editor would look like this:

Smith, John, ed. 1998. *Theories of Modern Art*. New York: Oxford University Press.

For a book with multiple editors:

Brown, Alice, and Robert Green, eds. 2010. *Essays on Contemporary Literature*. London: Penguin Books.

The in-text citation for these examples would be (Smith 1998) and (Brown and Green 2010) respectively, assuming you are referencing the entire work or an idea generally attributed to the compilation. If referencing a specific page, it would be (Smith 1998, 45) or (Brown and Green 2010, 112).

## **Citing a Specific Chapter or Essay within an Edited Book**

Often, when citing a book with editors, you are not referencing the entire volume but a specific contribution by one of its authors. In such cases, the citation needs to acknowledge both the author of the chapter and the editors of the overall collection. This ensures precision and gives credit where it is due. The process involves citing the author of the specific piece first, followed by the title of that piece, and then information about the edited book in which it appears.

## **Notes-Bibliography Format for Chapters**

In the Notes-Bibliography system, citing a specific chapter requires including the author of the chapter, the title of the chapter (in quotation marks), followed by the editors of the book and the book's publication details.

Example for a footnote:

3. Jane Doe, "The Evolution of Narratives," in *Literary Studies Today*, ed. Peter Jones, 78-95 (London: Academic Press, 2020).

The corresponding bibliography entry would be:

Doe, Jane. "The Evolution of Narratives." In *Literary Studies Today*, edited by Peter Jones, 78-95. London: Academic Press, 2020.

## Author-Date Format for Chapters

For the Author-Date system, the reference list entry for a chapter in an edited book follows a similar structure, prioritizing the author of the chapter.

Example for a reference list:

Doe, Jane. 2020. "The Evolution of Narratives." In *Literary Studies Today*, edited by Peter Jones, 78-95. London: Academic Press.

The in-text citation would be (Doe 2020). If you are quoting directly or referring to a specific point, you would include the page number: (Doe 2020, 88).

## Variations and Special Cases

While the general rules for citing books with editors are clear, CMOS addresses various scenarios that might require slight adjustments. These include situations with different numbers of editors, revised editions of edited works, or when an editor also contributes as an author. Understanding these nuances ensures that your citations remain accurate and professional.

## Revised Editions and Reprints

When citing a revised edition of a book with editors, you should indicate the edition number. For instance, "2nd ed." or "revised edition." This applies to both the Notes-

Bibliography and Author-Date systems. If the editors changed between editions, you would cite the editors of the specific edition you are using. If the same editors are involved in a revised edition, their names would appear as usual, followed by the edition information.

Example in Notes-Bibliography (bibliography):

Miller, Sarah, ed. *Historical Perspectives*. 3rd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018.

Example in Author-Date (reference list):

Miller, Sarah, ed. 2018. *Historical Perspectives*. 3rd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

## Editors as Authors

Occasionally, an editor might also contribute an essay or chapter to the volume they are editing. In such cases, CMOS recommends treating that contribution as a separate work within the larger edited collection. When citing the editor's own contribution, you would cite them as the author of that specific piece, and then cite the book under the editors' names as usual.

For example, if John Smith edited the book *Theories of Modern Art* and also wrote a chapter within it titled "Artistic Movements," you would cite his chapter as authored by him.

Footnote:

4. John Smith, "Artistic Movements," in *Theories of Modern Art*, ed. John Smith, 15-30 (New York: Oxford University Press, 1998).

Bibliography:

Smith, John. "Artistic Movements." In *Theories of Modern Art*, edited by John Smith, 15-30. New York: Oxford University Press, 1998.

Reference List (Author-Date):

Smith, John. 1998. "Artistic Movements." In *Theories of Modern Art*, edited by John Smith, 15-30. New York: Oxford University Press.

## When a Book Has No Author but Has Editors

In instances where a book is compiled and edited but does not have a primary author for the entire work, the editors are treated as the primary responsible parties for the compilation. Their names will appear first in the citation, followed by the title of the book. This is a common format for collections of primary source documents or thematic anthologies.

Example in Notes-Bibliography (bibliography):

Williams, Eleanor, and David Lee, eds. *Primary Sources on the American Revolution*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2005.

Example in Author-Date (reference list):

Williams, Eleanor, and David Lee, eds. 2005. *Primary Sources on the American Revolution*. Boston: Beacon Press.

## The Importance of Consistency

Regardless of whether you are using the Notes-Bibliography or Author-Date system, the most critical aspect of citing books with editors, or any source for that matter, is consistency. Adhering to a single citation style throughout your entire work is paramount. Inconsistent formatting can lead to confusion for your readers, undermine your credibility, and potentially result in deductions by instructors or reviewers. Familiarize yourself with the specific requirements of the Chicago Manual of Style for your chosen system and apply them diligently to every source you include.

The Chicago Manual of Style provides detailed guidelines to ensure that all scholarly work is presented with clarity and integrity. Properly citing books with editors is a key component of this system, allowing readers to trace the origins of information and appreciate the editorial contributions that shape a collection. By understanding and applying these rules, you demonstrate a commitment to academic rigor and enhance the overall quality of your writing. Always refer to the latest edition of the Chicago Manual of Style for the most up-to-

date and definitive guidance.

## **Q: How do I cite a book with three editors in the Chicago Manual of Style?**

A: In the Chicago Manual of Style's Notes-Bibliography system, for a book with three editors, you would list all three editors in the order they appear on the title page, separated by commas, with "and" before the last editor's name. The abbreviation "eds." follows the last editor's name. For example, in a bibliography entry: Brown, Alice, Clara Davis, and Robert Green, eds. *Essays on Contemporary Literature*. London: Penguin Books, 2010. In the Author-Date system, the reference list entry would be similar: Brown, Alice, Clara Davis, and Robert Green, eds. 2010. *Essays on Contemporary Literature*. London: Penguin Books.

## **Q: What is the difference between citing a book with editors and citing a book with authors in CMOS?**

A: The primary difference lies in how the individuals responsible for the content are identified. For books with authors, the author's name(s) appear first. For books with editors, the editor(s) are listed first, signifying their role in compiling and curating the collection. When citing a specific chapter within an edited book, you would cite the chapter's author first, followed by the details of the edited book, including its editors.

## **Q: When should I use "ed." versus "eds." for editors in CMOS citations?**

A: You use "ed." when there is a single editor for the book. You use "eds." when there are two or more editors. This distinction is made directly after the editor's or editors' names in both the Notes-Bibliography and Author-Date systems.

## **Q: How does CMOS handle citing a chapter from an edited book in the Notes-Bibliography system?**

A: To cite a chapter from an edited book in the Notes-Bibliography system, you first cite the author of the chapter, followed by the title of the chapter in quotation marks. Then, you introduce the editors of the book using "ed." or "eds." and their names, followed by the italicized title of the book and its publication details. For example: Jane Doe, "The Evolution of Narratives," in *Literary Studies Today*, ed. Peter Jones, 78-95 (London: Academic Press, 2020).

## **Q: What are the rules for citing a book with four or more editors in CMOS?**

A: For books with four or more editors, CMOS suggests a practical approach for brevity, especially in footnotes or endnotes. You can list the first editor's name followed by "et al."

(meaning "and others"). However, in the bibliography or reference list, it is generally preferred to list all editors if space allows and if it enhances clarity. If choosing the abbreviated format for the bibliography, it would follow the same "et al." convention.

## **Q: Do I italicize the editor's name in a Chicago style citation?**

A: No, you do not italicize the editor's name in a Chicago style citation. The book title is italicized, and the editor's name appears in regular typeface. The abbreviation "ed." or "eds." follows their name in regular typeface as well.

## **Q: How do I cite a specific page or range of pages from an edited book in CMOS?**

A: To cite a specific page or range of pages from an edited book, you simply add the page number(s) after the publication details. For example, in a footnote: John Smith, ed., *Theories of Modern Art* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1998), 45. For a range of pages for a chapter: Jane Doe, "The Evolution of Narratives," in *Literary Studies Today*, ed. Peter Jones, 78-95 (London: Academic Press, 2020). In the Author-Date system, page numbers are also added parenthetically after the year, e.g., (Smith 1998, 45).

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