

chicago manual of style geographic bibliography examples

Chicago Manual of Style Geographic Bibliography Examples: A Comprehensive Guide

chicago manual of style geographic bibliography examples are crucial for accurately citing sources that pertain to specific locations, regions, or geographical phenomena within academic and professional writing. This comprehensive guide delves into the intricacies of formatting these bibliographical entries according to the widely respected Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS), offering detailed explanations and practical illustrations. We will explore the foundational principles of citing various geographic materials, from atlases and maps to gazetteers and location-specific databases. Understanding these nuances ensures clarity, credibility, and adherence to scholarly standards, empowering writers to present their research on geographical topics with precision.

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Understanding the Fundamentals of Chicago Manual of Style Geographic Bibliography

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) provides a robust framework for citing a wide array of sources, and its principles extend seamlessly to the realm of geographic bibliography. When constructing a bibliographic entry for a geographic source, the primary goal remains consistent: to provide enough information for a reader to locate and verify the source independently. This involves identifying the author or issuing body, the title of the work, publication details (such as publisher and date), and any relevant identifying information like edition, scale, or specific geographical coordinates.

The specific format for a geographic bibliography entry will vary depending on the type of material being cited. For instance, a printed map will require different details than an online geographic information system (GIS) dataset. However, core elements like author (or corporate author), title, and publication information are universally important. CMOS emphasizes consistency, so once a style for a particular type of

geographic source is chosen, it should be applied uniformly throughout the bibliography. This attention to detail distinguishes professional academic work and ensures the integrity of the research presented.

Citing Maps and Atlases in Geographic Bibliographies

Maps and atlases, as fundamental geographic resources, require specific citation formats within a Chicago-style bibliography. The key is to identify the creator, the title, and the publisher, along with crucial publication details that define the map or atlas's scope and context.

Citing Printed Maps

When citing a printed map, begin with the cartographer or issuing agency as the author. If no specific cartographer is named, the publisher or issuing body serves this role. The title of the map should be italicized. Essential publication details include the city of publication, the publisher's name, and the year of publication. For maps with specific scales, it is good practice to include this information as well, especially if it is critical to understanding the map's utility or detail.

For example, a citation for a printed map might look like this:

- Smith, John. "Map of the Rocky Mountains." Chicago: Atlas Publishing, 2020. Scale 1:1,000,000.

If the map is part of a larger collection or series, that information should also be included to provide further context and aid in retrieval.

Citing Atlases

Citing an atlas follows a similar pattern to citing a printed map, with the primary distinction being the comprehensive nature of an atlas. The author or editor of the atlas is listed first, followed by the italicized title of the atlas. Publication details typically include the city, publisher, and copyright year.

An example of an atlas citation:

- Jones, Mary, and David Lee, eds. *The Historical Atlas of Europe*. New York: Global Press, 2018.

If you are referencing a specific map within an atlas, you would cite the atlas as the overall work and then

specify the map's title and page number (or plate number) within the atlas. This ensures clarity about the precise source of your information.

Citing Gazetteers and Dictionaries of Place Names

Gazetteers and dictionaries of place names are invaluable resources for geographers and researchers, providing concise information about locations. Their citation within a Chicago-style bibliography requires careful attention to detail.

Formatting Gazetteer Entries

When citing a printed gazetteer, treat it much like a reference book. List the author (if an individual or named editorial group) or the issuing body. The title of the gazetteer should be italicized. Include the city of publication, the publisher, and the year of publication. If the gazetteer is organized by region or theme, this organizational structure might be relevant to include in a note if not in the bibliography itself.

Here's a sample citation for a gazetteer:

- United States. Geographic Names Board. *Supplement to the Names in the United States Official Standard Names Gazetteer*. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1985.

For digital gazetteers, the principles remain similar, but the access information (URL and access date) becomes crucial.

Citing Geographic Databases and Online Resources

The digital age has revolutionized access to geographic data, leading to a proliferation of online databases and geographic information systems (GIS) datasets. Citing these dynamic and often updated resources requires specific formatting conventions in CMOS.

Citing Online GIS Data

When citing GIS data accessed online, the author (often a government agency, research institution, or

private company) is listed first. This is followed by the title of the dataset, italicized. Crucially, you must include the version or update date of the dataset if available, as geographic data can change frequently. Provide the name of the website or platform where the data was accessed, followed by the URL and the date you accessed the information.

A typical citation for online GIS data might appear as:

- Esri. *WorldStreetMap*. Last modified March 15, 2023.
<https://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=d3044c2211f5430994d970201869a741> (accessed April 10, 2023).

The "last modified" date is important because it indicates the currency of the data. The access date is vital for online resources that may be updated or removed without notice.

Citing Online Geographic Databases

Similar to GIS data, online geographic databases, such as those containing demographic information or environmental statistics, require careful citation. Identify the authoring organization, the title of the database, and provide the URL along with the access date. If a specific report or table was generated from the database, the citation might need to be more specific to that particular output.

Example of an online geographic database citation:

- World Bank. "Population Data by Country." *World Development Indicators*. Accessed April 15, 2023.
<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL>.

In this case, the "Population Data by Country" is treated as a specific component within the larger "World Development Indicators" database.

Citing Government and Organizational Geographic Publications

Government agencies and various organizations frequently publish geographic reports, surveys, and datasets. These official publications are critical for many research endeavors and require accurate citation within a Chicago-style bibliography.

Government Agency Reports

For publications from government agencies, the agency itself often serves as the author. The title of the report should be italicized. Include the place of publication, the name of the issuing agency (if it differs from the author), and the year of publication. If the report is a numbered series, include the series number.

An example of a government report citation:

- United States. Geological Survey. *Topographic Map of Yellowstone National Park*. Reston, VA: U.S. Geological Survey, 2015.

When the author and publisher are the same, CMOS often advises omitting the publisher's name to avoid redundancy, but clarity is paramount.

Organizational Publications

Similar to government publications, reports from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or private research institutions are cited with the organization as the author, followed by the italicized title of the publication. Include the city of publication, the organization's name (if not already the author), and the publication year.

Example citation for an organizational publication:

- National Geographic Society. *Atlas of Endangered Species*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society, 2019.

It is essential to distinguish between different types of publications from the same organization, such as a journal article versus a standalone report, by their respective formatting requirements.

Special Considerations for Geographic Bibliographies

Certain aspects of geographic sources present unique challenges for bibliographic entries, requiring special attention to ensure accuracy and completeness.

Citing Historical Maps and Documents

Historical maps and geographic documents often have complex publication histories or may be held in archival collections. When citing these, it is crucial to provide as much information as possible about the original creation and its current location. This might include the original date of creation, the name of the mapmaker if known, and the archival repository where the document is housed.

Example of a historical map citation:

- Mercator, Gerardus. *Nova et Aucta Orbis Terrae Typus*. 1569. Map. Held in the National Archives, London.

The date of creation is primary here, followed by the medium and location. For very old documents, the language of the original title may be retained, with an English translation in parentheses if necessary.

Citing Aerial Photography and Satellite Imagery

Aerial photographs and satellite imagery are increasingly used in geographic research. These sources are typically attributed to the agency or company that acquired them. The title should reflect the area and date of acquisition. Include the platform (e.g., satellite name, aircraft type), the acquisition date, and information on where the imagery can be accessed or obtained.

A citation for satellite imagery might look like this:

- NASA. Landsat 8 OLI/TIRS Collection 2 Level-1 data. Acquired March 20, 2022. USGS Earth Resources Observation and Science Center. <https://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/>.

Specifying the "Level" of data (e.g., Level-1) is important for users to understand the processing status of the imagery.

Tips for Crafting Effective Geographic Bibliography Entries

Creating accurate and useful geographic bibliography entries involves more than just following a template; it requires a keen eye for detail and an understanding of the source's nature.

- **Be Consistent:** Once you establish a format for a particular type of geographic source (e.g., a printed map), maintain that format throughout your bibliography.
- **Prioritize Retrieval:** The ultimate goal is for your reader to find your source. Include all information that would aid in this, such as specific edition numbers, series titles, or unique identifiers.
- **Attribute Clearly:** Identify the author, cartographer, or issuing body definitively. If there's ambiguity, choose the most authoritative or widely recognized entity.
- **Use Italics Appropriately:** Titles of maps, atlases, and distinct datasets should generally be italicized in Chicago style.
- **Include Access Information for Online Sources:** For any digital geographic resource, the URL and the date of access are non-negotiable.
- **Note Special Characteristics:** If a map's scale, projection, or historical context is vital to your work, consider how best to convey this within the citation or in a note.

By adhering to these tips, writers can ensure their geographic bibliography entries are not only compliant with CMOS but also serve as a valuable aid to their readers and contribute to the overall credibility of their research.

FAQ Section

Q: What is the primary difference in citing a printed map versus an online map in Chicago style?

A: The main difference lies in the inclusion of access information. For printed maps, you focus on physical publication details like city, publisher, and year. For online maps, you must include the URL and the date of access, as these resources are dynamic and can change or disappear.

Q: Should I italicize the title of a geographic database?

A: Yes, in Chicago style, the titles of distinct databases and specific datasets are generally italicized, similar to the titles of books or reports.

Q: How do I cite a map that has no named author or cartographer?

A: If a map has no named author or cartographer, you would typically use the name of the publisher or the

issuing organization as the author. For example, if a government agency produced the map, the agency's name would be listed first.

Q: What if I am citing a specific feature or dataset from a larger GIS application?

A: You should cite the specific dataset or feature as your primary source, but also include the name of the larger GIS application or platform from which it was accessed, along with the relevant URLs and access dates.

Q: How specific should I be with dates for geographic sources?

A: For printed sources, the publication date is usually sufficient. For online geographic data or frequently updated resources, it is crucial to include both the last modified date (if available) and the date you accessed the information to ensure reproducibility.

Q: What is the role of the "scale" in citing a map?

A: The scale of a map (e.g., 1:100,000) is important geographical information that provides context for the level of detail and the area covered by the map. While not always mandatory in every citation style, including it in a Chicago-style bibliography can enhance the accuracy and utility of the entry, especially if the scale is critical to your research.

Q: How do I cite a chapter or section from a geographic atlas?

A: When citing a specific chapter or map within an atlas, you would list the author(s) or editor(s) of the atlas, followed by the italicized title of the atlas. Then, you would specify the title of the chapter or map and the page number(s) or plate number(s) where it appears within the atlas.

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