

chicago manual of style geographic citation examples

Mastering Geographic Citations in the Chicago Manual of Style

chicago manual of style geographic citation examples are crucial for academic and professional writers to ensure accuracy, credibility, and proper attribution when referencing locations. Whether you are citing a historical map, a contemporary travel guide, or a government report detailing geographical data, understanding the nuances of the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) is paramount. This comprehensive guide will delve into the various scenarios requiring geographic citations, offering detailed examples and explanations to help you navigate the complexities of CMOS. We will cover how to cite different types of geographic sources, the specific elements required for each, and common pitfalls to avoid, ultimately empowering you to produce well-documented and authoritative work.

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Understanding Geographic Citations in CMOS

The Chicago Manual of Style provides a robust framework for citing a wide array of sources, and geographic information is no exception. Proper citation is not merely a stylistic choice; it's an ethical imperative that allows readers to verify your information, explore your sources further, and understand the context of your research. Geographic citations, in particular, help establish the provenance of locational data, historical boundaries, or geographical analyses. The fundamental principle is to provide enough information for the reader to locate the original source material with reasonable ease.

When dealing with geographic information, consider the nature of the source. Is it a static printed document like a map, or a dynamic digital resource? Is the information presented in a narrative format, or is it primarily data-driven? Each of these factors will influence how you construct your citation. CMOS emphasizes clarity and consistency, and while specific examples are invaluable, understanding the underlying logic behind the citation rules will allow you to adapt them to less common or novel source types.

Key Components of Geographic Citations

While the exact format will vary, most geographic citations in CMOS will include several core components. These are designed to provide a complete picture of the source. When constructing any

citation, always aim to include the following, if applicable and available:

- Author(s) or Creator(s)
- Title of the work
- Publisher or Issuing Body
- Date of publication or creation
- Location of publication (for print sources)
- Edition or version
- Access information (for digital sources, including URLs and access dates)
- Specific details about the geographic element being cited (e.g., map title, scale, geographic area covered)

Citing Maps and Atlases

Maps and atlases are fundamental geographic resources and require specific citation practices within the Chicago Manual of Style. The level of detail needed depends on whether you are citing the entire map or a specific feature or section of it. For a complete map or atlas, you will provide information that identifies the entire work.

Citing a Complete Map

When citing an entire map, treat it much like you would a book or a standalone publication. The goal is to identify the map clearly so that a reader could find that specific map, perhaps in a library collection or a cartographic archive.

- Author(s)/Cartographer(s): If known.
- Title of the Map: This is often italicized.
- Scale: Including the scale (e.g., 1:50,000) is often crucial for geographic accuracy.
- Place of Publication: Where the map was published.
- Publisher: The entity that produced or distributed the map.
- Date of Publication: The year the map was created or published.

Example Footnote:

1. John Smith, *Map of the City of Chicago*, scale 1:10,000 (Chicago: City Planning Department, 2022).

Example Bibliography:

Smith, John. *Map of the City of Chicago*. Scale 1:10,000. Chicago: City Planning Department, 2022.

Citing an Atlas

Citing an atlas follows similar principles to citing a book, with an emphasis on the atlas itself. If you are referencing a specific map within an atlas, you would also include the map's title and page number(s) where it appears.

Example Footnote (referencing an entire atlas):

2. Rand McNally. *The New International Atlas*. Chicago: Rand McNally & Company, 2018.

Example Bibliography (referencing an entire atlas):

Rand McNally. *The New International Atlas*. Chicago: Rand McNally & Company, 2018.

Example Footnote (referencing a specific map within an atlas):

3. National Geographic Society, "North America," in *National Geographic Atlas of the World*, 10th ed., plate 32 (Washington, DC: National Geographic Society, 2018).

Example Bibliography (referencing a specific map within an atlas):

National Geographic Society. "North America." In *National Geographic Atlas of the World*, 10th ed., plate 32. Washington, DC: National Geographic Society, 2018.

Citing Online Geographic Resources

The digital landscape offers an ever-increasing number of geographic resources, from interactive maps and satellite imagery to geospatial databases and online gazetteers. Citing these sources requires careful attention to capture all necessary details for retrieval.

Websites with Geographic Information

When citing a website that provides geographic information, treat it as a web source. Key elements include the author or organization, the title of the specific page or resource, the website name, and the URL, along with the date of access.

Example Footnote:

4. U.S. Geological Survey, "Topographic Maps," accessed January 15, 2024, <https://www.usgs.gov/core-science-systems/ngp/topographic-maps>.

Example Bibliography:

U.S. Geological Survey. "Topographic Maps." Accessed January 15, 2024. <https://www.usgs.gov/core-science-systems/ngp/topographic-maps>.

Interactive Maps and Geospatial Data

Interactive maps and raw geospatial data present unique challenges. It's essential to provide enough information for the reader to understand the specific dataset or view you are referencing. This might include the name of the platform, the specific layer or dataset, and the geographic extent.

Example Footnote:

5. Google Maps, "Street View of Millennium Park, Chicago," accessed January 15, 2024, https://www.google.com/maps/@41.879518,-87.624185,3a,75y,280.12h,90t/data=!3m7!1e1!3m5!1sAF1QipOzrJ7n2f21p4v_0MvU64w5r2h20j0R5f9yF2a0!2e2!3e2!7i11264!8i5632?entry=ttu.

Example Bibliography:

Google Maps. "Street View of Millennium Park, Chicago." Accessed January 15, 2024. https://www.google.com/maps/@41.879518,-87.624185,3a,75y,280.12h,90t/data=!3m7!1e1!3m5!1sAF1QipOzrJ7n2f21p4v_0MvU64w5r2h20j0R5f9yF2a0!2e2!3e2!7i11264!8i5632?entry=ttu.

Citing Government and Institutional Reports with Geographic Data

Government agencies and academic institutions often produce reports containing valuable geographic data, such as census information, environmental studies, or urban planning documents. These reports are typically well-documented, making citation straightforward, but require attention to detail.

Official Government Publications

When citing official reports, identify the issuing agency as the author, followed by the title of the report, any report numbers, the publisher (often the agency itself), and the date.

Example Footnote:

6. U.S. Census Bureau, *2020 Census Summary File 1*, Technical Documentation (Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau, 2021).

Example Bibliography:

U.S. Census Bureau. *2020 Census Summary File 1*. Technical Documentation. Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau, 2021.

Institutional Research and Studies

Similar to government reports, academic or research institution publications should be cited with the institution or specific department as the author, followed by the title, any relevant identifiers, and publication details.

Example Footnote:

7. Urban Institute, "Housing Affordability in Major U.S. Cities," Research Report, September 2023, <https://www.urban.org/housing-affordability-report-2023>.

Example Bibliography:

Urban Institute. "Housing Affordability in Major U.S. Cities." Research Report, September 2023.
<https://www.urban.org/housing-affordability-report-2023>.

Citing Geographic Information from Books and Articles

Often, geographic information is embedded within broader academic works, such as books or journal articles. In these cases, you are primarily citing the book or article itself, but you may need to specify the exact location within the text where the geographic information is found.

Books Containing Geographic Content

If you are referencing a book that focuses on geography or contains significant geographic information, the citation will follow standard book citation format. However, if you are citing a specific map, diagram, or data table within the book, you'll need to include the page number.

Example Footnote (referencing a specific page):

8. David Harvey, *The Condition of Postmodernity: An Enquiry into the Origins of Cultural Change* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1990), 238-240.

Example Bibliography:

Harvey, David. *The Condition of Postmodernity: An Enquiry into the Origins of Cultural Change*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1990.

Journal Articles with Geographic Focus

Citing journal articles follows the standard CMOS format for periodicals. If you are referencing specific geographic data, maps, or analyses within the article, ensure you note the relevant page numbers.

Example Footnote:

9. Emily Carter, "The Evolution of Urban Sprawl in Los Angeles," *Journal of Urban Geography* 45, no. 2 (2021): 115.

Example Bibliography:

Carter, Emily. "The Evolution of Urban Sprawl in Los Angeles." *Journal of Urban Geography* 45, no. 2 (2021): 115.

Footnote vs. Bibliography: Geographic Citation Format

The Chicago Manual of Style offers two primary systems for citation: notes and bibliography, and author-date. This article focuses on the notes and bibliography system, which is common in humanities and history. Within this system, there are distinct formats for footnotes (or endnotes) and the bibliography.

Footnotes/Endnotes for Geographic Sources

Footnotes (or endnotes, which appear at the end of the text) provide the first, complete citation. Subsequent references to the same source are shortened. The level of detail in the first note should be sufficient for identification.

- Full Author Name(s). *Title of Work*. Publication details (Place: Publisher, Year), page number(s).
- For online sources: Author/Organization. "Title of Page/Resource." Website Name. Access date. URL.

Bibliography Entries for Geographic Sources

The bibliography, appearing at the end of the work, lists all sources cited. Entries are alphabetized by the author's last name (or by title if no author is given). Bibliography entries are generally shorter than the first footnote citation, omitting page numbers unless referencing a specific chapter or section.

- Author Last Name, First Name. *Title of Work*. Publication details (Place: Publisher, Year).
- For online sources: Author/Organization. "Title of Page/Resource." Website Name. Access date. URL.

The key difference is that the bibliography entry is more concise, and for books, the order of first name and last name is reversed for alphabetization.

Common Challenges in Geographic Citation

While the principles of CMOS are clear, applying them to geographic sources can sometimes present unique challenges. Understanding these common issues can help you avoid errors and ensure accurate citation.

Attribution of Authorship

Determining authorship for maps or geographic data can be complex. Sometimes, a cartographer is credited, while other times, the issuing agency or organization is the primary entity. For historical maps, authorship might be unclear or attributed to a surveying team.

Describing Specific Geographic Features

When citing a specific landmark, region, or geographic feature depicted on a map or described in a text, ensure your citation clearly identifies that feature within the broader source. This might involve

mentioning the specific map sheet, the coordinates, or the section of the text.

Dynamic Online Resources

Websites, interactive maps, and datasets are constantly updated. CMOS emphasizes providing an access date for online sources to account for this fluidity. If a specific version or archive of a dynamic resource is available, it is best to cite that.

By meticulously adhering to the principles outlined in the Chicago Manual of Style, writers can effectively cite a vast array of geographic resources, thereby enhancing the credibility and accessibility of their work. Precision in geographic citation is not just about following rules; it's about respecting the work of those who created the original geographic information and enabling your readers to trace your research journey.

Q: How do I cite a historical map in the Chicago Manual of Style?

A: For historical maps, you'll want to identify the cartographer if known, the title of the map (often italicized), the date of its creation or publication, and its current location if it's in a specific archive or collection. If the map is reproduced in a book or article, cite the reproduction as you would a map within a book or article, including the source publication details and page numbers.

Q: What if I am citing coordinates for a specific location?

A: If you are citing coordinates as the primary geographic identifier, you would typically mention the source from which you obtained these coordinates, for example, a GPS device, a mapping service, or a scientific paper. The citation would then focus on that source, noting the coordinates within your text or as part of a description of the data.

Q: How do I cite a specific region on a map that doesn't have a title of its own?

A: If you are referring to a specific region on a map that is not separately titled, you would cite the map itself and then refer to the region by its geographical name or descriptive location within your text, clarifying it with a page number or map grid reference if available. For instance, you might write: "As depicted on the 'Central Park' map (Map 5), the specific area of the Conservatory Garden..."

Q: What is the difference between citing a map as a whole and citing a map within a book?

A: Citing a map as a whole treats it as an independent publication, requiring details like the map's title, publisher, and date. Citing a map within a book means you are referencing the book that contains the map, so you'll cite the book's author, title, and publication details, along with the specific map's title (if any) and the page number(s) where it appears in the book.

Q: How do I cite an online map service like Google Maps or OpenStreetMap?

A: For online map services, cite the service name (e.g., Google Maps), the specific feature or view you accessed (e.g., "Street View of the Eiffel Tower"), the access date, and the full URL. Since these are dynamic, the access date is crucial.

Q: Should I include the scale of a map in my citation?

A: Yes, including the scale of a map (e.g., scale 1:50,000) is highly recommended for geographic citations, especially when accuracy and detail are important. It provides crucial context for the map's representation of physical space.

Q: What if the geographic information I'm citing is from a table in a report?

A: If the geographic information is in a table within a report, you cite the report first, following standard report citation format. Then, in your text or footnote, you would refer to the specific table number and the relevant data within it. For example, "According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2020 data, Table 3 shows population density for Chicago neighborhoods."

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