

chicago manual of style geographic research paper citation examples

Mastering Chicago Manual of Style Geographic Research Paper Citations: A Comprehensive Guide

chicago manual of style geographic research paper citation examples are crucial for any academic researcher delving into the intricacies of geographical studies. Proper citation ensures academic integrity, allows readers to trace your sources, and lends credibility to your findings. This article provides a detailed exploration of how to cite various geographic sources using the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS), covering essential formats for books, journal articles, websites, maps, and even archival materials. We will dissect the nuances of both the Notes-Bibliography system and the Author-Date system, offering clear examples to guide your scholarly work. Understanding these citation principles is fundamental for presenting a polished and authoritative geographic research paper.

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Understanding Chicago Style for Geographic Research

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) offers two distinct citation systems: the Notes-Bibliography system and the Author-Date system. Both are widely accepted in academic disciplines, but the Notes-Bibliography system is more common in history and the arts, while the Author-Date system is prevalent in the social sciences, including many areas of geography. For geographic research papers, understanding which system is preferred by your institution or journal is the first critical step. Regardless of the system, consistency and accuracy are paramount to avoid plagiarism and uphold scholarly standards.

The core principles of CMOS citation revolve around providing sufficient information for a reader to locate the original source. This includes author, title, publication details, and specific location information such as page numbers or URLs. For geographic research, this often extends to details like the scale of a map, the date of its creation, and the publisher. Mastering these elements ensures that your work is transparent and verifiable.

The Notes-Bibliography System: Citing Geographic Sources

The Notes-Bibliography system utilizes numbered footnotes or endnotes within the text, with a corresponding bibliography at the end of the paper. This system allows for detailed annotation and provides flexibility in conveying bibliographic information. For geographic research, this means that each citation in your notes will contain the necessary details, and the bibliography will offer a consolidated list of all consulted sources.

Footnotes and Endnotes in Geographic Research

When citing a geographic source for the first time in a footnote or endnote, you will typically provide a full citation. Subsequent citations of the same source can be shortened. The specific elements included will vary depending on the type of source, but always aim for clarity and completeness. For example, a footnote referencing a historical map might include the map title, creator, date of creation, publisher, and the archive where it is housed.

The Bibliography for Geographic Studies

The bibliography in the Notes-Bibliography system is an alphabetical list of all sources cited in your paper. The format for each entry closely mirrors the full note citation but often omits page numbers unless referencing a specific section. For geographic research, this section will meticulously list all books, articles, maps, and other materials that informed your study, allowing readers to explore your research foundation.

The Author-Date System: Citing Geographic Sources

The Author-Date system uses parenthetical citations within the text, typically including the author's last name and the year of publication. A comprehensive reference list at the end of the paper provides the full bibliographic details for each in-text citation. This system is often favored for its conciseness within the body of the text, allowing for a smoother reading experience while still providing immediate source attribution.

In-Text Citations for Geographic Works

In the Author-Date system, citations appear directly after the relevant information or quote. For instance, if you are discussing a particular geographical phenomenon described in a

book by Smith published in 2020, your in-text citation would look like (Smith 2020, 75). For geographic sources where a specific author might not be apparent, like a government report, the agency name would be used instead.

The Reference List in Geographic Research

The reference list, also known as the works cited or bibliography in this system, is an alphabetical list of all sources used. Entries are structured to include author, year, title, and publication information. This list is crucial for geographic research as it allows readers to easily identify and retrieve the foundational texts, maps, and data that underpin your arguments.

Citing Books on Geography

Books are fundamental to geographic research, whether they are foundational textbooks, specialized monographs, or edited collections. The citation format for books in CMOS, under both systems, requires specific details about the author, title, publisher, and publication year.

Books with Single Authors

For a book by a single author, the Notes-Bibliography system would format a footnote like this: Firstname Lastname, Title of Book (City of Publication: Publisher, Year), Page Number. The bibliography entry would be: Lastname, Firstname. Title of Book. City of Publication: Publisher, Year. Under the Author-Date system, the in-text citation is (Lastname Year, Page Number), and the reference list entry is: Lastname, Firstname. Year. Title of Book. City of Publication: Publisher.

Edited Volumes and Chapters

When citing a chapter within an edited volume, you need to include the chapter author, chapter title, editor(s), book title, and publication details. The complexity increases slightly, but CMOS provides clear guidelines. For example, in the Notes-Bibliography system, a footnote might read: Firstname Lastname, "Chapter Title," in Title of Book, ed. Firstname Lastname (City of Publication: Publisher, Year), Page Number. The corresponding bibliography entry would be: Lastname, Firstname. "Chapter Title." In Title of Book, edited by Firstname Lastname, Page Range of Chapter. City of Publication: Publisher, Year.

Citing Journal Articles in Geography

Geographic research frequently relies on peer-reviewed journal articles. CMOS provides a standardized format to ensure these are cited accurately. The key elements include the author(s), article title, journal title, volume and issue numbers, and publication date.

Journal Articles: Notes-Bibliography System

A footnote for a journal article would look like: Firstname Lastname, "Article Title," Journal Title Volume, no. Issue (Year): Page Number. The bibliography entry would be: Lastname, Firstname. "Article Title." Journal Title Volume, no. Issue (Year): Page Range. For articles accessed online, you would include a DOI or URL if available.

Journal Articles: Author-Date System

In the Author-Date system, the in-text citation is (Lastname Year, Page Number). The reference list entry for a journal article is: Lastname, Firstname. Year. "Article Title." Journal Title Volume (Issue): Page Range. If a DOI is present, it is often included in the reference list entry as well.

Citing Websites and Online Resources

The digital age has made online resources indispensable for geographic research. Citing websites requires careful attention to the available information, including author (if any), title of the specific page or article, the website name, and the access date.

Online Articles and Pages

For a webpage with a clear author and title, the Notes-Bibliography system footnote would be: Firstname Lastname, "Title of Webpage," Name of Website, Publication Date (if available), accessed Month Day, Year, URL. The bibliography entry would be: Lastname, Firstname. "Title of Webpage." Name of Website. Publication Date (if available). Accessed Month Day, Year. URL. The Author-Date system in-text citation would be (Lastname Year, Page Number), assuming stable pagination or if referencing a specific section. The reference list entry would follow a similar pattern to the bibliography entry above, with the year being the most crucial element for dating the source.

Websites Without Clear Authorship

When a website lacks a named author, the citation typically begins with the title of the webpage or article. For example, in the Notes-Bibliography system: "Title of Webpage," Name of Website, Publication Date (if available), accessed Month Day, Year, URL. The bibliography entry would mirror this structure. In the Author-Date system, the in-text citation might use the website name if it serves as a clear identifier, followed by the year, and the reference list entry would be structured similarly to the Notes-Bibliography format, prioritizing the date of access if no publication date is evident.

Citing Maps and Atlases

Maps are primary sources in geography, and their citation requires specific details about their creation and publication. CMOS provides guidance for both individual maps and entire atlases.

Individual Maps

For a map in the Notes-Bibliography system: Cartographer's Name (if known), Title of Map, Scale, Publication Information (Publisher, Year). For example: U.S. Geological Survey, Topographic Map of Yosemite Valley, California, 1:24,000, 1998. The bibliography entry would be: U.S. Geological Survey. Topographic Map of Yosemite Valley, California. 1:24,000. Publisher, 1998. The Author-Date system would use (Cartographer's Name Year) or (Publisher Year) in-text, and the reference list entry would mirror the bibliography format.

Atlases

Citing an entire atlas typically involves the editor or compiler, the atlas title, and publication details. For Notes-Bibliography: Editor/Compiler Lastname, Firstname, ed. or comp. Title of Atlas. City of Publication: Publisher, Year. For example: Erwin Raisz, Raisz's Landforms of the United States: Physiographic Diagram, 1957. The bibliography entry would be: Raisz, Erwin. Raisz's Landforms of the United States: Physiographic Diagram. 1957. In the Author-Date system, the in-text citation would be (Editor Lastname Year) and the reference list entry would follow the same structure as the bibliography entry.

Citing Government Documents and Reports

Government publications are vital for geographic research, providing data, policy information, and historical context. CMOS specifies how to cite these, often treating the government agency as the author.

U.S. Government Documents

For a report by a U.S. government agency in the Notes-Bibliography system: Name of Agency, Title of Report (City of Publication: Agency/Publisher, Year), Page Number. For example: U.S. Department of Commerce, County and City Data Book, 1994 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1997), 345. The bibliography entry would be: U.S. Department of Commerce. County and City Data Book, 1994. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1997. The Author-Date system in-text citation would be (U.S. Department of Commerce Year, Page Number).

International Government Documents

Similarly, reports from international organizations are cited with the organization as the author. The format will be consistent with the principles of CMOS, focusing on the issuing body, title, and publication details. Consistency in identifying the issuing body is key for accurate referencing.

Citing Archival Materials and Primary Sources

Archival materials, such as historical letters, diaries, or unpublished manuscripts, often form the bedrock of geographic history research. Their citation can be intricate due to the unique nature of archival collections.

Manuscripts and Letters

For a manuscript or letter in the Notes-Bibliography system: Author's Full Name, "Title of Document" (if any), Date of Document, Collection Name, Box Number, Folder Number, Archive Name, Location of Archive. Example: John Smith to Jane Doe, October 15, 1888, John Smith Papers, Box 12, Folder 3, Chicago Historical Society, Chicago, IL. The bibliography entry would be: Smith, John. Letter to Jane Doe, October 15, 1888. John Smith Papers, Box 12, Folder 3. Chicago Historical Society, Chicago, IL. The Author-Date system is less common for detailed archival citations; however, if used, it would require a consistent format for the reference list, clearly identifying the author and date of the document.

Collection-Level Citations

When referencing an entire archival collection without citing a specific item, you would provide the collection name and repository details. This is useful for indicating that you have consulted a broad range of materials from a particular source.

Common Challenges in Geographic Citation

Researchers in geography often encounter unique citation challenges. One significant hurdle is the availability of consistent metadata for older maps or government documents. Another is citing data sets, which may require specific formatting depending on the data source and its accessibility. Understanding the flexibility within CMOS and consulting style guides for specific disciplines can help overcome these obstacles.

The dynamic nature of online resources also presents ongoing challenges, as URLs can change or content can be removed. Diligent record-keeping and citing the date of access are crucial strategies to mitigate these issues. Furthermore, ensuring clarity and completeness in every citation, regardless of the source type, remains the overarching goal of effective academic referencing in geographic research.

Ensuring Accuracy and Consistency

The most critical aspect of any citation system, including Chicago style for geographic research, is accuracy and consistency. Double-checking names, dates, titles, and publication details can prevent errors that might undermine your credibility. Adhering strictly to the chosen CMOS system (Notes-Bibliography or Author-Date) throughout your paper is non-negotiable.

Navigating Digital Geographic Data

Citing digital geographic data, such as GIS layers or remote sensing imagery, requires specialized approaches. CMOS provides general guidance for citing electronic resources, but specific data repositories may offer their own citation recommendations. Researchers should always consult these if available and adapt them to the broader CMOS framework, ensuring all necessary metadata for data retrieval is included.

Q: What is the primary difference between the Notes-Bibliography and Author-Date systems in Chicago style for geographic research?

A: The primary difference lies in how citations are presented within the text. The Notes-Bibliography system uses numbered footnotes or endnotes, while

the Author-Date system uses parenthetical in-text citations (e.g., (Smith 2020)). Both systems have a corresponding bibliography or reference list at the end of the paper.

Q: How do I cite a historical map in a Chicago-style geographic research paper?

A: When citing a historical map, you should include the cartographer's name (if known), the title of the map, its scale, and publication information (publisher and year). For example, in a footnote: John Smith, Map of the City of Boston, 1:10,000, Boston Cartographic Society, 1910.

Q: What are the essential elements for citing a journal article on geography using the Author-Date system?

A: For the Author-Date system, an in-text citation would be (Author Lastname Year, page number). The reference list entry would be: Author Lastname, Firstname. Year. "Article Title." Journal Title Volume (Issue): Page Range. For example: Davis, Sarah. 2021. "Urban Sprawl Patterns in the Midwest." Journal of Geography 120 (3): 245-260.

Q: How should I cite a website that provides geographic data or statistics in Chicago style?

A: For a website, include the author (if identifiable), title of the specific page or article, the name of the website, the publication date (if available), and the date of access, along with the URL. For example, in a note: U.S. Census Bureau, "Demographic Data for Chicago," accessed October 26, 2023, <https://www.census.gov/data/....> The bibliography entry would follow a similar structure.

Q: What is the best practice for citing an atlas that is frequently referenced in geographic research?

A: When citing an entire atlas, provide the editor or compiler's name, followed by the title of the atlas and publication details. For example, in a bibliography entry: Miller, George, ed. The National Atlas of the United States. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Geological Survey, 2003.

Q: How do I cite a government report that discusses geographic trends using the Chicago Manual of Style?

A: Treat the government agency as the author. For example, in a footnote: Environmental Protection Agency, Report on Air Quality in Metropolitan Areas (Washington, D.C.: EPA, 2019), 45. The bibliography entry would be: Environmental Protection Agency. Report on Air Quality in Metropolitan Areas. Washington, D.C.: EPA, 2019.

Q: Is there a specific way to cite GIS data or spatial datasets in Chicago style for geographic research papers?

A: Citing GIS data often requires adapting general electronic resource guidelines. Include the creator of the data, the title or description of the dataset, the date of creation or publication, and its source (e.g., repository name and URL). The specific format may vary, but accuracy in identifying the data's origin and accessibility is key.

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