

chicago style citation examples

article in online journal citation

The Importance of Chicago Style Citation for Online Journal Articles

chicago style citation examples article in online journal citation are crucial for academic integrity and the proper attribution of scholarly work. Navigating the nuances of citing digital resources, particularly online journal articles, can present challenges for students and researchers alike. This comprehensive guide aims to demystify the process, providing clear, actionable examples and in-depth explanations for creating accurate Chicago-style citations. We will delve into the fundamental principles, explore both the notes-bibliography and author-date systems, and offer detailed breakdowns for common scenarios encountered when referencing online journals. Mastering these citation techniques ensures your work is credible and respects the intellectual contributions of others.

Table of Contents

Understanding Chicago Style: Notes-Bibliography vs. Author-Date

Core Components of a Chicago Style Online Journal Citation

Citing Online Journal Articles in the Notes-Bibliography System

Citing Online Journal Articles in the Author-Date System

Common Scenarios and Advanced Chicago Style Citation Examples for Online Journals

Best Practices for Chicago Style Online Journal Citation

Understanding Chicago Style: Notes-Bibliography vs. Author-Date

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) offers two primary citation systems: the notes-bibliography system and the author-date system. Understanding the distinction is the first step in correctly citing your sources. The notes-bibliography system is prevalent in fields such as literature, history, and the arts, while the author-date system is more commonly used in the social sciences and natural sciences. Both systems aim for clarity and precision in crediting original sources.

The Notes-Bibliography System

In the notes-bibliography system, superscript numbers are placed within the text of the paper, corresponding to detailed footnotes or endnotes. These notes provide the full citation information. At the end of the paper, a bibliography lists all sources cited, arranged alphabetically by the author's last name. This system allows for extensive parenthetical explanations within the notes, which can be particularly useful for complex sources or when direct quotations are interspersed with commentary.

The Author-Date System

The author-date system, as its name suggests, uses parenthetical citations within the text that include the author's last name and the year of publication. These in-text citations correspond to a reference list at the end of the paper, which also lists sources alphabetically by author's last name. The reference list includes more complete bibliographic information than a simple in-text citation but typically less than a full footnote or endnote. This method is favored for its conciseness and ease of cross-referencing, allowing readers to quickly locate the source of information.

Core Components of a Chicago Style Online Journal Citation

Regardless of which Chicago style system you employ, certain core pieces of information are essential for a complete and accurate citation of an online journal article. These elements allow readers to find the original source and verify your research. Missing even one crucial detail can hinder a reader's ability to locate the article, diminishing the credibility of your work.

Author(s)

The citation begins with the author's name(s). For the notes-bibliography system, the name is typically presented as "First Name Last Name" in the notes and "Last Name, First Name" in the bibliography. For the author-date system, it's "Last Name, First Name" for the reference list and "Last Name" or "Last Name and Last Name" in the in-text citation. If an article has multiple authors, follow specific rules for the number of authors listed.

Article Title

The title of the journal article itself is usually enclosed in quotation marks. Proper capitalization rules for titles should be followed. For example, in English, the first word, the last word, and all principal words are capitalized. Subtitles are typically preceded by a colon, with the first word of the subtitle capitalized.

Journal Title

The full title of the journal in which the article appears is italicized. This helps distinguish the journal title from the article title and other publication details. Ensure that the journal title is presented accurately, including any subtitles or volume indicators.

Volume and Issue Numbers

Journal articles are typically organized by volume and issue numbers. These are crucial for pinpointing the exact location of an article within a journal. The volume number is usually followed by the issue number, often presented in parentheses. For example, "vol. 25, no. 3."

Publication Date

The publication date is essential for understanding the timeliness of the research. This can include the year, month, or even day, depending on the journal's publication schedule. The format of the date should be consistent.

Page Numbers

The specific page range of the article within the journal is a critical piece of information. This helps readers locate the article quickly without having to sift through the entire issue. Use abbreviations like "pp." for multiple pages.

DOI or Permalink

For online journal articles, a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) is the most stable and preferred way to link to the article. If a DOI is not available, a stable URL or permalink provided by the journal or database should be used. This ensures that readers can access the article even if the original website structure changes.

Citing Online Journal Articles in the Notes-Bibliography System

The notes-bibliography system requires a detailed citation in the notes (footnotes or endnotes) and a more concise, alphabetized entry in the bibliography. For online journal articles, the information needed is similar, but the structure and presentation differ between these two components.

Footnote/Endnote Example

Here is a typical format for a footnote or endnote citation of an online journal article:

- 1. Author First Name Last Name, "Article Title," *Journal Title* Volume, no. Issue (Publication Date): Page Numbers, DOI or Permalink.

For instance:

- 1. Jane Doe, "The Impact of Social Media on Adolescent Development," *Journal of Psychology and Technology* 15, no. 2 (Spring 2023): 45-62, <https://doi.org/10.1080/12345678.2023.1234567>.

If the article is accessed through a specific database and a DOI is not available, you would include the database name and the URL, along with the date you accessed it.

- 2. John Smith, "Urban Planning Innovations," *Urban Studies Review* 8, no. 1 (January 2022): 10-25, accessed May 15, 2023, <https://www.urbanstudiesjournal.com/articles/urban-planning-innovations>.

Bibliography Example

The corresponding bibliography entry for the first example would be:

- Doe, Jane. "The Impact of Social Media on Adolescent Development." *Journal of Psychology and Technology* 15, no. 2 (Spring 2023): 45-62. <https://doi.org/10.1080/12345678.2023.1234567>.

Notice the author's last name comes first in the bibliography, and the citation is generally more compact than a footnote. The URL or DOI is still included to facilitate access.

Citing Online Journal Articles in the Author-Date System

The author-date system uses in-text citations and a reference list. This system is often preferred for its efficiency in longer academic papers where frequent source consultation is expected.

In-Text Citation Example

An in-text citation in the author-date system typically includes the author's last name and the publication year, often followed by a page number if a direct quotation is used.

- (Doe 2023)

For a direct quote:

- (Doe 2023, 50)

If there are two authors:

- (Smith and Jones 2022)

If there are three or more authors, you can list the first author followed by "et al.":

- (Brown et al. 2021)

Reference List Example

The corresponding reference list entry for the "Doe" example would look like this:

- Doe, Jane. 2023. "The Impact of Social Media on Adolescent Development." *Journal of Psychology and Technology* 15 (2): 45-62.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/12345678.2023.1234567>.

Key differences from the bibliography entry in the notes-bibliography system include the placement of the publication year immediately after the author's name, and the volume and issue numbers might be presented differently, often without the "no." abbreviation. The DOI or URL remains crucial for online access.

Common Scenarios and Advanced Chicago Style Citation Examples for Online Journals

While the basic structure for citing online journal articles is consistent, several common variations and complexities require specific attention to ensure accuracy.

Article from a Subscription Database

When an article is accessed through a paid subscription database (like JSTOR, Project MUSE, or EBSCOhost) and does not have a DOI, you should include the database name and the URL provided by the database, along with the date of access.

- Notes-Bibliography:
 - 3. Robert Johnson, "The Evolution of Renewable Energy," *Environmental Science Journal* 30, no. 4 (Winter 2021): 112-130, accessed May 15, 2023, ProQuest Central, <https://search.proquest.com/....>
- Bibliography:

- Johnson, Robert. "The Evolution of Renewable Energy." *Environmental Science Journal* 30, no. 4 (Winter 2021): 112-130. Accessed May 15, 2023. ProQuest Central. <https://search.proquest.com/....>
- Author-Date:
- In-text: (Johnson 2021)
- Reference List:
- Johnson, Robert. 2021. "The Evolution of Renewable Energy." *Environmental Science Journal* 30 (4): 112-130. Accessed May 15, 2023. ProQuest Central. <https://search.proquest.com/....>

Article with No Author

If an article lacks an author, begin the citation with the article title. The author's name is a primary identifier, so its absence necessitates reordering the citation elements.

- Notes-Bibliography:
- 4. "The Future of Artificial Intelligence," *Tech Trends Quarterly* 5, no. 1 (Spring 2023): 88-105, <https://doi.org/10.9876/ttq.2023.12345>.
- Bibliography:
- "The Future of Artificial Intelligence." *Tech Trends Quarterly* 5, no. 1 (Spring 2023): 88-105. <https://doi.org/10.9876/ttq.2023.12345>.
- Author-Date:
- In-text: ("Future of Artificial Intelligence" 2023)
- Reference List:
- "Future of Artificial Intelligence." 2023. *Tech Trends Quarterly* 5 (1): 88-105. <https://doi.org/10.9876/ttq.2023.12345>.

Article with Institutional Author

When an organization or institution is the author, use the full name of the institution.

- Notes-Bibliography:
- 5. World Health Organization, "Global Health Trends Report 2022," *WHO Publications*, December 2022, <https://www.who.int/publications/global-health-trends-2022>.
- Bibliography:

- World Health Organization. "Global Health Trends Report 2022." *WHO Publications*. December 2022.
<https://www.who.int/publications/global-health-trends-2022>.
- Author-Date:
- In-text: (World Health Organization 2022)
- Reference List:
- World Health Organization. 2022. "Global Health Trends Report 2022." *WHO Publications*. December 2022.
<https://www.who.int/publications/global-health-trends-2022>.

Best Practices for Chicago Style Online Journal Citation

Adhering to best practices will ensure your Chicago-style citations for online journal articles are consistently accurate and professional. These practices extend beyond just knowing the format; they involve a commitment to meticulousness and clarity.

- **Consult the Latest CMOS:** Always refer to the most current edition of The Chicago Manual of Style for definitive guidelines. Citation styles evolve, and staying updated is crucial for academic currency.
- **Prioritize DOIs:** When available, the DOI is the most reliable persistent identifier for online articles. Use it whenever possible instead of a standard URL.
- **Be Consistent:** Whichever system you choose (notes-bibliography or author-date), apply it consistently throughout your entire paper. Inconsistencies can detract from the professionalism of your work.
- **Accuracy is Paramount:** Double-check all details: author names, titles, journal names, volume/issue numbers, dates, and page numbers. Even minor errors can create confusion for your readers.
- **When in Doubt, Cite:** It is always better to over-cite than to under-cite. If you are unsure whether something needs a citation, err on the side of caution and include it.
- **Check Your Database's Citation Tools (with caution):** Many academic databases offer built-in citation generators. While helpful, these tools are not always perfect. Always review their output against the official CMOS guidelines for accuracy.

By diligently applying these principles and utilizing the examples provided, you can confidently cite online journal articles using Chicago style, enhancing the academic rigor and credibility of your research.

FAQ

Q: What is the main difference between the notes-bibliography and author-date systems in Chicago style?

A: The main difference lies in how sources are cited within the text and how the full bibliographic information is presented. The notes-bibliography system uses numbered footnotes or endnotes for citations and a bibliography at the end. The author-date system uses in-text parenthetical citations (author, year) and a reference list at the end.

Q: Is a DOI always required for online journal articles in Chicago style?

A: A DOI (Digital Object Identifier) is the preferred and most stable way to cite online journal articles when available. If a DOI is not present, you should use a stable URL or permalink provided by the journal or database.

Q: How do I cite an online journal article if I cannot find an author?

A: If an online journal article has no author, begin the citation with the title of the article. The rest of the citation elements will follow accordingly.

Q: What is the correct way to italicize journal titles in Chicago style?

A: Journal titles in Chicago style should always be italicized. This applies to both the notes-bibliography and author-date systems, in both footnotes/endnotes/in-text citations and the bibliography/reference list.

Q: Should I include the date I accessed an online journal article?

A: Including the date of access is generally recommended for online resources, especially if the content might be subject to change or if there is no stable DOI. It helps readers understand when you viewed the material.

Q: How do I handle multiple authors for an online journal article in Chicago style?

A: For the notes-bibliography system, you typically list all authors in the first note if there are two or three, and the first author followed by "et al." in subsequent notes. In the bibliography, list all authors up to ten. For the author-date system, you generally list all authors in the reference list, and in-text, use the first author followed by "et al." if there are three or more authors.

Q: What is the difference between a URL and a permalink for an online journal article?

A: A URL (Uniform Resource Locator) is the general web address. A permalink (permanent link) is a URL specifically designed to remain constant over time, making it ideal for citations. When citing online articles, prioritize DOIs, then permalinks, and finally, standard URLs if no other persistent identifier is available.

Q: Do I need to include the name of the database when citing an article found through one?

A: Yes, if you access an online journal article through a subscription database and a DOI is not available, you should include the name of the database in your citation to help the reader locate the source.

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