

chicago style citation examples for maps

Navigating Cartographic References: Chicago Style Citation Examples for Maps

chicago style citation examples for maps are crucial for academic integrity and precise scholarship when incorporating cartographic materials into your work. Whether you're a student, researcher, or professional, understanding how to properly cite a map ensures that your readers can locate and verify the sources you've used. This guide provides a comprehensive breakdown of the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) guidelines for citing various types of maps, including physical maps, digital maps, and maps within larger works. We will explore the essential components of a map citation, demonstrate examples for different scenarios, and offer insights into best practices for clarity and accuracy. Mastering these citation examples will significantly enhance the credibility and usefulness of your research.

- Introduction to Chicago Style Citations for Maps
- Understanding the Core Components of a Map Citation
- Citing Physical Maps
- Citing Digital Maps and Online Cartographic Resources
- Citing Maps Within Books, Articles, or Other Larger Works
- Special Considerations for Map Citations
- Ensuring Accuracy and Consistency in Map Citations

Understanding the Essential Elements of Chicago Style Map Citations

When constructing a Chicago style citation for a map, several key pieces of information are typically required to provide sufficient detail for your reader. The specific elements can vary slightly depending on the type of map and its source, but a foundational understanding of these components is vital. These elements work together to uniquely identify the cartographic work and allow for its retrieval.

Key Components for Map Citations

The core components of a Chicago style citation for a map often include the following, though not all may be present or necessary for every map:

- **Author or Creator:** This can be an individual cartographer, a government agency, a commercial map publisher, or an organization responsible for its creation.
- **Title of the Map:** The official title of the map, usually italicized.
- **Publication Information:** This includes the publisher of the map, the place of publication, and the year of publication.
- **Scale:** Indicating the map's scale (e.g., 1:100,000) is often important for understanding its detail and scope.
- **Date or Edition:** The specific date or edition of the map, especially crucial for historical or frequently updated maps.
- **Access Information (for digital maps):** This includes the URL, DOI, or database name, and the date of access.
- **Location of the Original:** For maps found in archives or special collections, this would include the name of the institution and any relevant collection or accession number.

Citing Physical Maps: Traditional Cartography

Referencing a physical map, such as one found in an atlas, a wall map, or a folded road map, involves carefully documenting its publication details. The goal is to pinpoint the specific map and its origin as accurately as possible.

Maps from Atlases

When a map is part of a larger collection like an atlas, you will cite the atlas itself and then specify the map within it. The author of the atlas is often a publishing company or an editor. The title of the atlas is italicized.

Example:

National Geographic Society. "South America." In *National Geographic Atlas of the World*, 10th ed. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society, 2019. Scale 1:8,000,000.

Stand-alone Physical Maps

For a map that is published as an individual item, the citation will focus directly on its creator, title, and publication details. This is common for historical maps or specialized thematic maps.

Example:

U.S. Geological Survey. *San Francisco, California*. 1:24,000. Denver, CO: U.S. Geological Survey,

1995. Map.

Historical Maps

Citing historical maps requires careful attention to dates and the repository where the map is housed if it's an original or rare item. If citing a reproduction, include details of the reproduction's publication.

Example (Original Map in an Archive):

Mercator, Gerard. *Mappa Mundi, or Terra Australis Incognita*. 1569. Facsimile. Held in the Map Collections, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3200.ct000379/>

Example (Reprinted Historical Map):

Smith, John. "Virginia." 1612. In *Early Maps of North America*, edited by Francis Parkman, 45-46. New York: Dover Publications, 1978. Scale not given.

Citing Digital Maps and Online Cartographic Resources

The proliferation of digital mapping tools and online map repositories necessitates specific citation practices for these resources. Chicago style provides clear guidelines for citing everything from interactive web maps to static map images downloaded from the internet.

Interactive Web Maps (e.g., Google Maps, ArcGIS Online)

Citing interactive maps can be challenging because they are dynamic. Chicago style generally recommends treating them as online resources, focusing on the provider, the title of the map service or layer, and the access information. If you've taken a screenshot, note that as well.

Example:

Google Maps. "Street View, Eiffel Tower." Accessed January 15, 2024.
https://www.google.com/maps/@48.8584,2.2945,3a,75y,150.02h,90t/data=!3m8!1e1!3m6!1s-i-1q3J7_3z0Y%2FVi5b11-VjFI%2FAAAAAAAAVu8%2FG2eX2K0z8_A!2e4!3e2!7i8000!8i4000!6m1!1e1

When citing a specific layer or project within a platform like ArcGIS Online, include the project title and creator.

Example:

Smith, Jane. "Urban Development Zones, 2023." ArcGIS Online Story Map. Esri, 2023. Accessed January 15, 2024. https://www.arcgis.com/apps/storytelling/index.html?appid=your_app_id

Static Map Images from Online Databases or Websites

When you find a static map image online, whether it's a scanned historical map or a downloadable

image from a government agency, treat it as an online resource. Include the creator, title, publication details (if available), and access information.

Example:

Library of Congress. "Map of Philadelphia." 1873. <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3824p.ct002126/>

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Data and Maps

For data layers or maps generated from GIS software, cite the data source and the creator of the map product. This is particularly relevant in fields like environmental science or urban planning.

Example:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. "National Wetlands Inventory Data." Accessed January 15, 2024. <https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/mapper.html>

Citing Maps Within Books, Articles, or Other Larger Works

Frequently, maps are incorporated as illustrations or figures within scholarly articles, books, or dissertations. In these cases, you need to cite the map as it appears within the larger work, following Chicago style's conventions for figures.

Maps as Figures in Books or Articles

When citing a map that appears as a figure, you will note its figure number and the source work. This is distinct from citing the map if it were a stand-alone publication.

Example:

Jones, David. "Figure 3: Pre-Columbian Trade Routes." In *Ancient Civilizations of the Americas*, 112. New York: Oxford University Press, 2021. The map itself is a simplified representation and does not include cartographic details like scale or specific publisher.

Maps as Primary Source Material within a Larger Work

If the larger work is presenting the map as a primary source, or if the map is a central element of the work's argument, you might need to provide more detailed information about the map itself, even if it's embedded. This is often done in conjunction with a description within your text.

Example:

The cartography in [Author's Name]'s work, "Map of the Ottoman Empire," 1790, [Page Number], offers a glimpse into geopolitical understandings of the era. [Citation of the larger work follows standard book/article citation format].

Special Considerations for Map Citations

Certain types of maps or circumstances surrounding their use may require additional attention to detail in your Chicago style citations to ensure clarity and completeness. These nuances help avoid ambiguity for your readers.

Maps with No Clear Author or Title

In instances where an author or title is not explicitly provided on the map, you will need to describe the map as best as possible. You can use a descriptive phrase in place of a formal title and attribute the map to the publisher or a geographical area it depicts if that information is available.

Example:

Map of the City of Chicago with Wards and Districts. Chicago: Rand McNally & Company, 1910. Scale 1:20,000.

Maps Created by the Author

If you are creating your own map for your work, you must still cite the sources of the data you used to create it. The map itself can be presented as a figure, and you would provide a caption explaining its origin and data sources.

Example Caption:

Figure 5. Population density of Cook County, Illinois, 2020. Data compiled from the U.S. Census Bureau (2020) and processed using ArcGIS Pro.

When to Include Scale

Including the map's scale is generally good practice, especially for physical maps, as it provides context for the level of detail and accuracy. For digital maps, scale can be less relevant or may change depending on zoom level, so it's often omitted unless a specific scale is crucial for your argument.

Ensuring Accuracy and Consistency in Map Citations

The ultimate goal of any citation is to allow your reader to find the source material. This requires meticulous attention to detail and a commitment to consistency throughout your bibliography or footnotes.

Double-Checking Information

Before finalizing your citation, carefully re-examine the map or its digital source to confirm all details such as the spelling of names, dates, and publication information. Even small errors can hinder a reader's ability to locate the source.

Using Footnotes or Endnotes and a Bibliography

Remember that Chicago style allows for both the Notes-Bibliography system and the Author-Date system. If using the Notes-Bibliography system, you will typically have footnotes or endnotes for the first citation of a source and a corresponding entry in your bibliography. Subsequent citations of the same source can be shortened in the notes.

Consulting the Chicago Manual of Style

For the most authoritative guidance and to address any specific or unusual situations, always refer to the latest edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style*. Its comprehensive guidelines are the definitive resource for academic citation practices.

FAQ

Q: What are the most common components required for a Chicago style citation of a map?

A: The most common components include the author or creator, the title of the map (italicized), the publisher, place of publication, date of publication, and often the scale. For digital maps, access information such as a URL and access date are crucial.

Q: How do I cite a map that I found online and downloaded as an image?

A: For a static map image downloaded from an online source, you should cite it as an online resource. Include the creator of the map, the title of the map, the name of the website or database where you found it (if applicable), the publication date (if available), and the URL or DOI, along with the date you accessed it.

Q: What if a map doesn't have a clear author or title?

A: If a map lacks a clear author or title, use a descriptive phrase for the title, often enclosed in quotation marks or italicized depending on the context of the work it's within, and attribute it to the

publisher or geographical area it depicts if that information is available. For example, "Map of the District of Columbia, 1920."

Q: How do I cite a map that is included as a figure in a book or article?

A: When a map is presented as a figure within a larger work, you cite the larger work and then refer to the map by its figure number. For instance, "Figure 2. Early trade routes. In *Historical Geography of North America*, by John Smith, 45." The map itself is described as part of the larger source.

Q: Is it always necessary to include the map's scale in a Chicago style citation?

A: Including the map's scale is generally considered good practice for physical maps as it provides important context about the map's detail and coverage. For interactive or digital maps where the scale can change, it is often omitted unless a specific scale is critical to your analysis.

Q: How does citing a historical map differ from citing a contemporary map?

A: Citing historical maps often requires more detail about the repository where an original map is housed, especially if you are referencing a facsimile or an original archival item. If citing a modern reproduction of a historical map, you would cite the reproduction's publication details and note that it is a historical map.

Q: What if I create my own map for my research?

A: If you create your own map, you do not cite the map itself in the bibliography, but you must cite the sources of all the data used to create it. The map should be presented as a figure with a caption that explains its creation, data sources, and any relevant methodology.

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