

chicago style citation examples

Mastering Chicago Style Citation: Examples and Best Practices

chicago style citation examples are crucial for academic integrity and clear communication, especially in fields like history, literature, and the arts. Understanding how to properly cite your sources in the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) is essential for avoiding plagiarism and giving credit where it's due. This comprehensive guide will break down the intricacies of Chicago style, offering clear, practical examples for various source types, including books, journal articles, websites, and more. We'll cover both the author-date and notes-bibliography systems, explaining the nuances of in-text citations and the full bibliography entries. Mastering these elements will not only enhance the credibility of your work but also ensure it adheres to the rigorous standards expected in scholarly writing.

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Understanding the Chicago Manual of Style

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS), often referred to as the Turabian style after its adaptors Kate L. Turabian, is a widely respected citation style developed by the University of Chicago Press. It provides comprehensive guidelines for manuscript preparation, punctuation, and citation. Unlike some other styles that are specific to particular disciplines, Chicago style is known for its flexibility and broad applicability across many academic fields. Its detailed instructions cover everything from the mechanics of grammar and punctuation to the specific formatting required for various types of sources. Familiarity with CMOS is paramount for students, researchers, and writers aiming for professional publication.

This manual is updated periodically to reflect evolving citation practices and the emergence of new technologies. While the core principles remain consistent, keeping up with the latest edition is advisable for ensuring adherence to current standards. The complexity of Chicago style arises from its detailed nature and the need to accurately represent information from diverse sources. Mastering it requires attention to detail and practice, but the payoff in terms of academic rigor and clarity is significant.

The Two Systems of Chicago Style Citation

The Chicago Manual of Style primarily offers two distinct systems for citing sources: the Notes-Bibliography system and the Author-Date system. The choice between these two often depends on the academic discipline, the publication venue, or the instructor's preference. Both systems aim to achieve the same goal: to accurately attribute sources and allow readers to locate the original material. Understanding the fundamental differences and appropriate uses of each system is the first step toward effective Chicago style citation.

The Notes-Bibliography system is more common in the humanities, particularly in history, literature, and art history. It uses footnotes or endnotes to provide citation information directly within the text, linked to a comprehensive bibliography at the end of the work. The Author-Date system, on the other hand, is prevalent in the social sciences and some natural sciences. It uses parenthetical in-text citations with author and year, and these are then listed in a reference list at the end of the document, typically alphabetized by author's last name.

Notes-Bibliography System: In-Text Citations

In the Notes-Bibliography system, in-text citations are handled through superscript numbers placed within the text, usually at the end of a sentence or clause. These numbers correspond to either footnotes (appearing at the bottom of the page) or endnotes (appearing at the end of the chapter or the entire document). The first time a source is cited, the note will contain full bibliographic information. Subsequent citations of the same source will use a shortened form, typically including the author's last name, a shortened title, and the page number. This system allows for extensive explanatory notes without disrupting the flow of the main text.

For example, if you are quoting a passage from a book by Jane Doe, published in 2020, the first time you refer to it, your text might read: "The research indicates a significant shift in consumer behavior."¹

At the bottom of the page or at the end of the document, the corresponding footnote or endnote would provide the full citation details.

Notes-Bibliography System: Bibliography Entries

The bibliography, or works cited list, appears at the end of your paper and provides a complete alphabetical listing of all sources consulted and cited in your work. Unlike the in-text citations which are sequential, the bibliography is alphabetized by the author's last name. Each entry in the bibliography should contain all the necessary information for a reader to identify and locate the source. The format for each entry varies depending on the type of source, but generally includes author, title, publication details, and location information.

Here's a general structure for a book entry in the bibliography using the notes-bibliography system:

- Author's Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. City of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication.

For a journal article, a typical entry would look like this:

- Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." *Title of Journal* Volume, no. Issue (Year):
Page numbers.

Author-Date System: In-Text Citations

The Author-Date system uses parenthetical citations inserted directly into the text. These citations typically include the author's last name and the year of publication. If a page number is relevant, it is usually included after the year, separated by a comma. This format is more concise within the

narrative and is favored in disciplines where the publication date is a significant factor in evaluating research. The parenthetical citation directly points the reader to the corresponding entry in the reference list at the end of the paper.

For instance, a direct quotation might be cited as: "The evidence suggests a strong correlation (Smith 2021, 45)." For paraphrased information, the page number might be omitted if the entire work or a substantial portion is being referenced, like: "Scholars have long debated this concept (Jones 2020)."

Author–Date System: Reference List Entries

The reference list in the Author-Date system functions similarly to the bibliography in the Notes-Bibliography system; it is a comprehensive alphabetical list of all sources cited in the text. The key difference lies in the formatting of the entries and the fact that it only includes sources that have been cited, not just consulted. Each entry in the reference list provides full publication details, allowing readers to easily find the original material. The organization of the reference list is strictly alphabetical by the author's last name.

An example of a book entry in the reference list for the Author-Date system would be:

- Author's Last Name, First Name. Year of Publication. *Title of Book*. City of Publication: Publisher.

And for a journal article:

- Author's Last Name, First Name. Year of Publication. "Title of Article." *Title of Journal* Volume (Issue): Page numbers.

Common Source Types and Chicago Style Citation Examples

Navigating the complexities of citation requires understanding how to format various types of sources accurately. Chicago style provides specific guidelines for a wide array of materials, from traditional print media to digital content. Mastering these variations ensures that your citations are not only correct but also consistently formatted throughout your work, reflecting a high level of academic professionalism.

The following sections will detail the correct formatting for some of the most frequently encountered source types, providing clear examples for both the Notes-Bibliography and Author-Date systems. Pay close attention to punctuation, capitalization, and the order of information, as these elements are critical to proper citation.

Citing Books in Chicago Style

Books are a fundamental source in academic writing, and Chicago style offers precise rules for their citation. Whether you are citing a whole book or a specific chapter, the details required are similar. The key is to accurately capture the author, title, publication place, publisher, and year. For edited volumes or books with multiple authors, specific conventions apply to ensure clarity and proper attribution.

Notes-Bibliography System:

- **Full Note (Book):** Author's First Name Last Name, *Title of Book* (City of Publication: Publisher, Year), page number(s).
- **Shortened Note (Book):** Author's Last Name, *Shortened Title*, page number(s).
- **Bibliography Entry (Book):** Author's Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. City of Publication:

Publisher, Year.

Author-Date System:

- **In-Text Citation:** (Author's Last Name Year, page number(s)).
- **Reference List Entry:** Author's Last Name, First Name. Year of Publication. *Title of Book*. City of Publication: Publisher.

Example:

- **Book:** John Smith, *The History of Chicago* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2019), 75.
- **Shortened Note:** Smith, *History of Chicago*, 76.
- **Bibliography Entry:** Smith, John. *The History of Chicago*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2019.
- **Author-Date In-Text:** (Smith 2019, 75).
- **Author-Date Reference List:** Smith, John. 2019. *The History of Chicago*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Citing Journal Articles in Chicago Style

Academic journals are a vital source of peer-reviewed research. Citing journal articles accurately involves including the author(s), article title, journal title, volume and issue numbers, publication year, and page range. For online articles, you will also need to include a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) or a URL if a DOI is not available.

Notes-Bibliography System:

- **Full Note (Journal Article):** Author's First Name Last Name, "Title of Article," *Title of Journal* Volume, no. Issue (Year): page number(s), DOI or URL.
- **Shortened Note (Journal Article):** Author's Last Name, "Shortened Title," page number(s).
- **Bibliography Entry (Journal Article):** Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." *Title of Journal* Volume, no. Issue (Year): page number(s). DOI or URL.

Author-Date System:

- **In-Text Citation:** (Author's Last Name Year, page number(s)).
- **Reference List Entry:** Author's Last Name, First Name. Year of Publication. "Title of Article." *Title of Journal* Volume (Issue): page number(s). DOI or URL.

Example:

- **Journal Article:** Emily Carter, "Urban Development in the 21st Century," *Journal of Urban Studies* 35, no. 2 (2020): 112, <https://doi.org/10.1080/12345678.2020.1789012>.
- **Shortened Note:** Carter, "Urban Development," 115.

- **Bibliography Entry:** Carter, Emily. "Urban Development in the 21st Century." *Journal of Urban Studies* 35, no. 2 (2020): 110–25. <https://doi.org/10.1080/12345678.2020.1789012>.
- **Author-Date In-Text:** (Carter 2020, 112).
- **Author-Date Reference List:** Carter, Emily. 2020. "Urban Development in the 21st Century." *Journal of Urban Studies* 35 (2): 110–25. <https://doi.org/10.1080/12345678.2020.1789012>.

Citing Websites and Online Resources in Chicago Style

The digital age presents unique challenges for citation, as online content can be dynamic and less formally structured. Chicago style provides guidelines for citing websites, web pages, and other online resources. It's crucial to capture as much identifying information as possible, including the author (if any), title of the page or site, name of the website, publication or last updated date, and the URL. If no specific author is listed, the entry may begin with the organization responsible for the content.

Notes-Bibliography System:

- **Full Note (Website):** Author's First Name Last Name (or Organization Name), "Title of Specific Page," Name of Website, last modified or publication date, accessed Date, URL.
- **Shortened Note (Website):** Author's Last Name, "Shortened Page Title."
- **Bibliography Entry (Website):** Author's Last Name, First Name (or Organization Name). "Title of Specific Page." Name of Website. Last modified or publication date. Accessed Date. URL.

Author-Date System:

- **In-Text Citation:** (Author's Last Name Year) or (Organization Name Year).
- **Reference List Entry:** Author's Last Name, First Name (or Organization Name). Year of Publication (or Last Modified Date). "Title of Specific Page." Name of Website. Accessed Date. URL.

Example:

- **Website:** National Museum of American History, "The Star-Spangled Banner," accessed June 15, 2023, <https://americanhistory.si.edu/star-spangled-banner>.
- **Shortened Note:** National Museum of American History, "Star-Spangled Banner."
- **Bibliography Entry:** National Museum of American History. "The Star-Spangled Banner." Accessed June 15, 2023. <https://americanhistory.si.edu/star-spangled-banner>.
- **Author-Date In-Text:** (National Museum of American History n.d.) or (National Museum of American History 2023). Note: 'n.d.' is used if no date is available.
- **Author-Date Reference List:** National Museum of American History. n.d. "The Star-Spangled Banner." Accessed June 15, 2023. <https://americanhistory.si.edu/star-spangled-banner>.

Citing Other Common Sources

Beyond books, journals, and websites, academic work frequently draws upon a variety of other sources, each requiring specific citation formats. These can include newspaper articles, magazine articles, book chapters, dissertations, interviews, and even unpublished materials. Adhering to Chicago

style for these diverse sources demonstrates a thorough understanding of academic conventions and enhances the reliability of your research.

Newspaper Articles: Include author, article title, newspaper title, date, and page number(s). For online articles, include the URL.

- **Notes-Bibliography:** Author, "Article Title," *Newspaper Title*, Month Day, Year, page number.
- **Author-Date:** (Author Year, page number).

Book Chapters: Include the chapter author, chapter title, book title, editor(s) of the book, publication details, and page range for the chapter.

- **Notes-Bibliography:** Author's First Name Last Name, "Chapter Title," in *Book Title*, ed. Editor's First Name Last Name, page number(s). City of Publication: Publisher, Year.
- **Author-Date:** (Author Year, page number).

Interviews: Cite interviews as personal communications or published works, depending on their availability.

- **Notes-Bibliography (Unpublished):** Interviewee's First Name Last Name (Type of Interview, Date).
- **Bibliography (Unpublished):** Interviewee's Last Name, First Name. Interview by Interviewer's First Name Last Name. Type of Interview, Date.
- **Author-Date (Unpublished):** (Interviewee's Last Name, personal communication, Date).

Dissertations and Theses: Include author, dissertation title, degree awarded (e.g., PhD diss., MA thesis), university, year, and archival information if applicable.

- **Notes-Bibliography:** Author's First Name Last Name, "Title of Dissertation" (PhD diss., University Name, Year), page number(s).
- **Author-Date:** (Author Year, page number).

Accurate citation of these varied sources is fundamental to producing polished and credible academic work, ensuring that all contributions are appropriately acknowledged. The meticulous application of Chicago style not only adheres to scholarly norms but also facilitates reader comprehension and research traceability.

The consistent application of these principles across all your sources is vital for maintaining academic integrity. Whether you are a seasoned scholar or a student new to academic writing, consulting the latest edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style* or reliable citation guides based on it will ensure your work meets the highest standards of accuracy and clarity. Proper citation is not merely a formality; it is an integral part of scholarly discourse, building upon and contributing to the collective body of knowledge.

Frequently Asked Questions About Chicago Style Citation

Examples

Q: What is the main difference between the Notes-Bibliography and Author-Date systems in Chicago style?

A: The main difference lies in how in-text citations are presented. The Notes-Bibliography system uses numbered footnotes or endnotes, while the Author-Date system uses parenthetical citations with the author's last name and year of publication. Both systems require a comprehensive list of all cited sources at the end of the paper (a bibliography or reference list, respectively).

Q: When should I use the Notes-Bibliography system versus the Author-Date system?

A: The Notes-Bibliography system is typically preferred in the humanities (like history, literature, and art history), where extensive explanatory notes might be useful. The Author-Date system is more common in the social sciences and some natural sciences, where emphasizing the publication date of sources is often important. Always check your instructor's or publisher's guidelines, as they will often specify which system to use.

Q: How do I cite a book that has an editor instead of an author?

A: For the Notes-Bibliography system, the editor is listed first in the bibliography entry, followed by "ed." or "eds." (for multiple editors). In the full note, the editor is also listed first. For the Author-Date system, the editor is listed first in the reference list entry, followed by "ed." or "eds."

Q: What if a source has no author listed?

A: In both systems, if there is no author, the entry begins with the title of the work. For the Notes-Bibliography system, this title would appear in the shortened note. For the Author-Date system, the title would be used for alphabetizing in the reference list.

Q: How do I cite a website in Chicago style?

A: Citing websites requires providing the author (if any), the title of the specific page or article, the name of the website, a publication or last modified date if available, an access date, and the URL. For the Notes-Bibliography system, you'll use full and shortened notes; for the Author-Date system, you'll use parenthetical in-text citations and a reference list entry.

Q: What is a DOI and why is it important for citing online articles?

A: DOI stands for Digital Object Identifier. It is a unique alphanumeric string that identifies a digital object, such as an online journal article. Including the DOI in your citation, when available, is crucial because it provides a persistent and stable link to the source, ensuring readers can locate it even if the URL changes.

Q: How do I cite multiple works by the same author in the same year?

A: When citing multiple works by the same author published in the same year, you should add lowercase letters to the year in both the in-text citations and the reference list/bibliography entries. For example, (Smith 2021a) and (Smith 2021b). The order of these letters is determined by the alphabetical order of the titles of the works.

Q: What is the correct way to format page numbers in Chicago style citations?

A: For the Notes-Bibliography system, you use "p." for a single page (e.g., p. 45) and "pp." for multiple consecutive pages (e.g., pp. 45–50). For non-consecutive pages, you might list them with commas (e.g., pp. 45, 67). In the Author-Date system, the format is typically (Author Year, page number) or (Author Year, pp. page numbers).

Q: Do I need to include the publisher's location for online books?

A: Generally, if you are citing an online version of a book that also has a print version, you would still include the publisher's location. However, if the book is only available online and was originally published in an electronic format, the publisher's location might be omitted, with more emphasis placed on the DOI or URL. Always follow the most current guidelines from CMOS.

Q: How do I abbreviate common words in Chicago style citations?

A: Chicago style has specific rules for abbreviations, particularly in the bibliography/reference list. For example, publishers and cities are sometimes abbreviated. However, the manual advises caution and consistency. For journal titles, it's common to use standard abbreviations, but always check a reliable source or the journal's guidelines. Common words in publisher names like "Press," "University," and "Company" are often abbreviated.

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