

chicago style examples for citing doctoral dissertations

Understanding Chicago Style Examples for Citing Doctoral Dissertations

chicago style examples for citing doctoral dissertations are crucial for academic integrity and ensuring proper attribution of scholarly work. Whether you are a student preparing your own dissertation or a researcher referencing one, mastering the nuances of the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) for these specific source types is essential. This article will provide a comprehensive guide to citing doctoral dissertations within the Chicago style, covering both notes-and-bibliography and author-date systems. We will delve into the specific elements required for accurate citations, address common challenges, and offer clear examples to illuminate the process, ensuring your academic work adheres to the highest standards of scholarly convention.

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Notes and Bibliography System: Citing Dissertations

The Notes and Bibliography system, prevalent in the humanities, requires detailed citations in both footnotes or endnotes and a comprehensive bibliography at the end of your work. When citing a doctoral dissertation, these formats ensure readers can precisely locate the source material.

Footnote/Endnote Format for Dissertations

The footnote or endnote citation for a doctoral dissertation should include the author's full name, the title of the dissertation (italicized), the degree designation, the university that granted the degree, and the year of completion. For unpublished dissertations, the terms "Ph.D. diss." or "master's thesis" are typically used, followed by the university and year. If the dissertation has been formally published by a university press or through a dissertation service, it is treated more like a book.

For an unpublished dissertation, the basic structure is as follows:

- Author's First Name Last Name, "Title of Dissertation" (Degree designation, University Name, Year of Publication).

This format provides immediate context for the reader regarding the source's origin and nature.

Bibliography Format for Dissertations

The bibliography entry for a dissertation, whether published or unpublished, follows a similar pattern to the footnote/endnote but with a slight inversion of the author's name and a period after each element. The author's last name appears first, followed by their first name. The title is still italicized, and the degree, university, and year are included. The primary difference lies in the punctuation and the overall structure designed for a list of sources.

The standard bibliography format for an unpublished dissertation is:

- Last Name, First Name. "Title of Dissertation." Degree designation, University Name, Year of Publication.

This consistent structure allows for easy scanning and identification of all consulted sources.

Key Components of a Dissertation Citation

Several key components are vital for constructing an accurate Chicago style citation for a doctoral dissertation. These include the author's name, the complete and accurate title of the dissertation, the type of degree awarded (e.g., Ph.D., Ed.D., M.A., M.S.), the name of the institution that conferred the degree, and the year the degree was granted. For online dissertations, the URL or database information is also crucial.

Understanding these elements ensures that the citation is complete and verifiable. Errors in any of these components can lead to ambiguity and hinder a reader's ability to find the original work. Precision is paramount in academic citation practices.

Dissertation Examples: Published vs. Unpublished

The distinction between published and unpublished dissertations significantly impacts their citation. An unpublished dissertation is one that has not undergone formal academic publishing by a press or a widely accessible dissertation repository. A published dissertation has been made available in a more formal manner, often through services like ProQuest Dissertations and Theses or by a university press.

Unpublished Dissertation Example (Footnote/Endnote):

- 1. Eleanor Vance, "The Impact of Urbanization on Nineteenth-Century American Literature" (Ph.D. diss., University of Chicago, 2018).

Unpublished Dissertation Example (Bibliography):

- Vance, Eleanor. "The Impact of Urbanization on Nineteenth-Century American Literature." Ph.D. diss., University of Chicago, 2018.

Published Dissertation Example (often treated as a book if formally published):

- 2. Marcus Thorne, *The Evolution of Jazz in Post-War America* (Ann Arbor, MI: University Microfilms International, 2019).

Published Dissertation Example (Bibliography):

- Thorne, Marcus. *The Evolution of Jazz in Post-War America*. Ann Arbor, MI: University Microfilms International, 2019.

Note that published dissertations, especially those available through services like UMI, might be cited as if they were published books if they have an ISBN and are distributed widely.

Author-Date System: Citing Dissertations

The Author-Date system, commonly used in the sciences and social sciences, relies on in-text citations that include the author's last name and the year of publication, with a full reference list at the end of the document. Citing dissertations in this system requires a slightly different approach to ensure clarity and conciseness.

In-Text Citation Format for Dissertations

In the Author-Date system, in-text citations for dissertations are brief and direct. They typically consist of the author's last name followed by the year of publication in parentheses. If you are quoting directly, you will also include the page number(s) after the year.

The general format is:

- (AuthorLastName Year)
- (AuthorLastName Year, PageNumber)

For example, a general reference to Vance's work might appear as (Vance 2018), and a specific quote would be (Vance 2018, 45).

Reference List Format for Dissertations

The reference list entry for a dissertation in the Author-Date system provides all the necessary information for the reader to locate the source. It begins with the author's last name, followed by their first initial and middle initial (if available). The year of publication is placed in parentheses immediately after the author's name. The title of the dissertation is then presented, followed by the degree designation, university, and publication information. If the dissertation is available online, the URL or database name should be included.

The structure for an unpublished dissertation in the reference list is:

- Last Name, First Initial. Middle Initial. (Year). "Title of dissertation." (Degree designation, University Name).

For published dissertations, especially those from dissertation services, the format may resemble a book citation, including publisher information. The key is to provide enough detail for retrieval.

Special Considerations for Dissertation Citations

Citing doctoral dissertations can sometimes present unique challenges. Factors such as how the dissertation was accessed, its country of origin, and the number of authors can all influence the

citation format. Addressing these special considerations ensures your citations are accurate and complete.

Dissertations Accessed Online

Many dissertations are now accessed online through university repositories, institutional archives, or commercial databases like ProQuest Dissertations & Theses. When citing an online dissertation, it is crucial to include the URL or the name of the database where it can be found. This allows readers to access the original document readily.

For an online unpublished dissertation in the Notes and Bibliography system (footnote/endnote):

- 1. Eleanor Vance, "The Impact of Urbanization on Nineteenth-Century American Literature" (Ph.D. diss., University of Chicago, 2018), ProQuest Dissertations & Theses.

For an online unpublished dissertation in the Notes and Bibliography system (bibliography):

- Vance, Eleanor. "The Impact of Urbanization on Nineteenth-Century American Literature." Ph.D. diss., University of Chicago, 2018. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses.

If a direct URL is available and stable, it can also be included, often preceded by "accessed [date]".

Dissertations from International Universities

The principles of Chicago style apply universally, but when citing dissertations from international universities, ensure you provide the full and correct name of the institution and its location. This includes the country if the university is not widely known internationally or if there is potential for confusion with similarly named institutions.

For a dissertation from an international university in the Notes and Bibliography system (footnote/endnote):

- 2. Kenji Tanaka, "A Study of Edo-Period Woodblock Prints" (Ph.D. diss., University of Tokyo, 2020).

In the bibliography:

- Tanaka, Kenji. "A Study of Edo-Period Woodblock Prints." Ph.D. diss., University of Tokyo, 2020.

The clarity of the institution's name and location is paramount for international sources.

Dissertations with Multiple Authors

While dissertations are typically individual works, in rare instances, there might be collaborative elements or a need to cite work that influences multiple authors. However, doctoral dissertations are almost always single-authored. If, hypothetically, a dissertation had multiple authors (which is highly unusual for a doctoral degree), the Chicago Manual of Style has specific rules for citing works with more than one author. For two authors, both names are listed, connected by "and." For three or more authors, only the first author's name is given, followed by "et al."

For the purposes of dissertation citation, it is important to remember that dissertations are individual scholarly achievements. Therefore, the standard practice is to cite a single author. If you encounter a situation where a collaborative dissertation exists, you would apply the general multi-author rules of Chicago style to that specific circumstance.

Common Pitfalls to Avoid

Navigating the intricacies of Chicago style for doctoral dissertations can lead to a few common errors if not approached with care. Awareness of these pitfalls can help you maintain accuracy and scholarly rigor in your citations.

One frequent mistake is misidentifying the type of source. A dissertation is an academic document submitted for a degree, distinct from a published book or a journal article. Ensure you use the correct terminology ("Ph.D. diss.," "master's thesis"). Another common issue is incomplete or incorrect information, such as omitting the university name, the year of completion, or the degree designation. Always double-check these fundamental details.

Furthermore, failing to differentiate between published and unpublished dissertations can lead to citation errors. Published dissertations may be treated more like books, especially if they have an ISBN and are widely distributed. Conversely, unpublished dissertations require specific formatting to indicate their status. Finally, incorrect punctuation and capitalization, particularly in the bibliography, can detract from the professional presentation of your work. Adhering strictly to the prescribed formats for both notes and the bibliography is essential.

Understanding and correctly applying Chicago style examples for citing doctoral dissertations is an integral part of scholarly communication. By meticulously following the guidelines for both the Notes and Bibliography and Author-Date systems, and by paying close attention to the specific elements required for dissertations, researchers can ensure their work is both well-supported and ethically sound. The detailed examples provided serve as a practical resource for navigating these sometimes complex citation requirements, contributing to the credibility and clarity of academic endeavors.

Q: What is the primary difference in Chicago style when citing a published versus an unpublished doctoral dissertation?

A: The primary difference lies in how the source is treated and the information provided. Unpublished dissertations are explicitly identified as such (e.g., "Ph.D. diss.") and include the university and year. Published dissertations, especially those available through major dissertation services or university presses, are often treated more like books in citation, potentially including

publisher information and an ISBN if available, and the term "dissertation" might be less prominent or even omitted if it functions as a standard published work.

Q: How do I cite a dissertation accessed through a university library's online portal in Chicago style?

A: When citing a dissertation accessed online through a university library portal, you should include the standard citation elements (author, title, degree, university, year) and then indicate how it was accessed. This typically involves noting the name of the database (e.g., ProQuest Dissertations & Theses) or providing a stable URL if one is readily available and is expected to remain active.

Q: What is the correct way to format the author's name in a Chicago style bibliography entry for a dissertation?

A: In a Chicago style bibliography entry for a dissertation, the author's last name is listed first, followed by their first name. For example, "Smith, John." This inverted format is standard for bibliography entries, distinguishing them from footnote/endnote citations where the first name typically precedes the last name.

Q: Should I italicize the title of a doctoral dissertation in Chicago style?

A: Yes, the title of a doctoral dissertation should be italicized in Chicago style citations, whether in footnotes/endnotes or the bibliography. This is consistent with how book titles are treated, indicating that the dissertation is a distinct, self-contained work.

Q: What if the dissertation I am citing was completed in a year prior to widespread online access?

A: If the dissertation predates common online accessibility, you will cite it as an unpublished work, providing the author, title, degree designation, university, and year. You would not include URL or database information as it is not relevant to how the source is accessed in such cases. The focus remains on providing enough information for someone to locate the physical or archival copy.

Q: Are there specific rules for citing a master's thesis versus a doctoral dissertation in Chicago style?

A: The fundamental structure for citing a master's thesis is very similar to that of a doctoral dissertation. You will still include the author, title, university, and year. The key difference is in the degree designation; you would specify "master's thesis" or the specific degree (e.g., "M.A. thesis," "M.S. thesis") instead of "Ph.D. diss." or "Ed.D. diss."

Q: How do I cite a dissertation that has been officially published as a book by a university press?

A: If a dissertation has been formally published by a university press and is distributed as a book (often with an ISBN), it should be cited as a book, not as a dissertation. This means you would include the author, the book title (italicized), the publisher, and the year of publication, following the standard Chicago style format for citing books.

Q: What if I need to cite a specific section or chapter of a dissertation?

A: When citing a specific section or chapter of a dissertation, you generally still cite the entire dissertation in your primary note or reference list entry. However, for direct quotes or paraphrases, you will include the page number(s) within that specific section or chapter. If the dissertation is very long and you are heavily relying on a particular section, you might consider treating it more like a chapter in a book if it is published as such, but for unpublished dissertations, page numbers within the full citation are the standard.

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