

chicago style footnote examples dissertation

chicago style footnote examples dissertation are a crucial element for any doctoral candidate aiming for academic rigor and clarity. Properly formatted footnotes not only provide essential citation information but also enhance the reader's ability to verify your sources and delve deeper into your research. This comprehensive guide will demystify the intricacies of Chicago style footnotes, offering detailed examples specifically tailored for dissertation writing. We will explore various source types, from books and journal articles to websites and archival materials, ensuring you can confidently cite your research accurately. Understanding the nuances of author-date versus notes-bibliography systems within the Chicago Manual of Style is paramount for maintaining consistency throughout your extensive doctoral work.

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Understanding the Chicago Manual of Style for Dissertations

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) is one of the most widely used citation styles in academic writing, particularly in the humanities and social sciences. For dissertations, adhering strictly to CMOS is not merely a stylistic choice but a requirement that signifies attention to detail and scholarly integrity. When preparing a dissertation, understanding the two primary systems within CMOS—the notes-bibliography system and the author-date system—is essential. For the purpose of this guide and its focus on detailed citation, we will concentrate on the notes-bibliography system, which utilizes footnotes or endnotes for referencing.

This system involves placing a superscript number within the text at the end of a sentence or clause where a source is mentioned. This number corresponds to a footnote at the bottom of the page or an endnote at the end of the chapter or document, containing the full citation information. The bibliography at the end of the dissertation then lists all cited sources alphabetically. Mastering the

construction of these footnotes is paramount for a well-polished dissertation.

The Notes-Bibliography System: Footnotes Explained

The notes-bibliography system, commonly referred to as the footnote system, is characterized by the use of superscript numbers embedded within the text to link to explanatory or bibliographical notes. For dissertations, this system offers a clear way to provide comprehensive source details without interrupting the flow of the main narrative as much as parenthetical citations might. Each footnote is meticulously crafted to provide enough information for a reader to locate the original source easily.

The primary advantage of footnotes in a dissertation is their ability to accommodate extensive citation details, including page numbers, specific editions, and even brief explanatory comments, directly where the information is referenced. This makes it particularly useful for disciplines that involve detailed textual analysis or require frequent reference to specific passages. The consistency in formatting these notes is a hallmark of a well-researched and professionally presented dissertation.

Basic Footnote Structure

A typical footnote follows a specific structure, beginning with the superscript number matching the one in the text. The note itself starts with the author's first name followed by their last name. Then comes the title of the work, italicized if it's a standalone publication like a book, or in quotation marks if it's a part of a larger work, such as an article. Publication details, including the city of publication, publisher, and year, follow, along with specific page numbers referenced in the text. The punctuation between these elements is crucial.

For example, a basic book footnote would look like this: 1. Author First Name Last Name, *Title of Book* (City of Publication: Publisher, Year), page number.

Common Source Types and Their Footnote Examples

Dissertations draw upon a wide array of sources, and each requires specific formatting within the Chicago style footnote system. Precision is key to avoiding errors that can detract from the credibility of your research. Below are examples for frequently encountered source types in doctoral research.

Books

Citing a book is foundational. Ensure you include the author's full name, the title in italics, and the publication details. For dissertations, it's common to cite specific editions if available, as variations can impact scholarly interpretation. The city of publication and publisher are essential for locating the exact edition.

- First citation: 1. Jane Doe, *The History of Academic Writing* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2020), 45.
- Subsequent citations (see Shortened Notes section): 2. Doe, *History of Academic Writing*, 112.

Chapters in Edited Books

When citing a chapter from an edited volume, you need to cite the specific chapter author, the chapter title, the editors of the book, the book title, and the publication details. This acknowledges the contribution of the chapter author while situating it within the larger published work.

- First citation: 3. John Smith, "The Evolution of Citation Styles," in *Academic Integrity in the Digital Age*, ed. Alice Brown and Robert Green (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018), 88.
- Subsequent citations: 4. Smith, "Evolution of Citation Styles," 95.

Journal Articles

Journal articles are a staple for dissertations. Include the author, article title (in quotation marks), the journal title (italicized), volume and issue numbers, and the year of publication, followed by the page range of the article and the specific page(s) cited.

- First citation: 5. Emily Carter, "Quantitative Methods in Sociological Research," *Journal of Social Sciences* 35, no. 2 (2021): 150, doi:10.1007/s11441-020-00372-2.
- Subsequent citations: 6. Carter, "Quantitative Methods," 155.

Websites

Citing online sources requires careful attention to detail, as web pages can change. Include the author or organization responsible, the title of the specific page or article, the website name, the date of publication or last update if available, and the URL. Always include a retrieval date to indicate when you accessed the information.

- First citation: 7. National Archives and Records Administration, "Researching Your Genealogy," accessed December 15, 2023, <https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy>.
- Subsequent citations: 8. National Archives and Records Administration, "Researching Your

Genealogy."

Archival Materials

Archival citations can be complex due to the unique organizational structures of archives. Specify the collection name, the specific item or document, the archive's name and location, and any finding aid or accession number. Clarity here is crucial for other researchers to locate the material.

- First citation: 9. "Letter from Marie Curie to Pierre Curie," October 12, 1905, Collection MS 1234, Box 5, Folder 2, Marie Curie Papers, Archives Division, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris.
- Subsequent citations: 10. "Letter from Marie Curie to Pierre Curie."

Interviews

For interviews conducted as part of your dissertation research, you'll need to provide the interviewee's name, the date of the interview, and information on where the interview is archived or if it's a personal interview. If it's a personal interview, you might indicate its location (e.g., "personal collection").

- First citation: 11. Interview with Professor Eleanor Vance, March 10, 2022, conducted by author, personal collection.
- Subsequent citations: 12. Interview with Eleanor Vance.

Dissertations and Theses

When citing another dissertation or thesis, you must include the author's name, the title (in italics), the type of work (e.g., PhD diss., MA thesis), the institution, and the year. If you accessed it online, include the database or URL and retrieval date.

- First citation: 13. David Lee, *The Impact of Globalization on Local Economies* (PhD diss., Stanford University, 2019), 78.
- Subsequent citations: 14. Lee, *Impact of Globalization*, 90.

Subsequent Citations: Shortened Notes

After the first full citation of a source in a footnote, subsequent references to the same source should use a shortened form. This keeps your footnotes concise without sacrificing essential information. The shortened note typically includes the author's last name, a shortened version of the title (if it's lengthy), and the specific page number. This practice is standard in the notes-bibliography system to improve readability.

The shortened title is generally derived from the first few significant words of the main title. It's important to maintain consistency in how you abbreviate titles throughout your dissertation. This rule applies regardless of whether the source is a book, journal article, or chapter.

Ibid. and Its Usage

The Latin abbreviation "ibid." (short for ibidem, meaning "in the same place") is used to refer to the immediately preceding source cited in the footnote. It is particularly useful when you are citing the same source consecutively. However, it should only be used when the preceding note refers to a single source. If the preceding note cites multiple sources, or if you are referring to a different page of the same source, then you must use the shortened note format.

- Example:
- 15. Jane Doe, *The History of Academic Writing* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2020), 45.
- 16. Ibid., 47. (This refers to page 47 of Jane Doe's book.)
- 17. Ibid. (This refers to page 47 of Jane Doe's book, as no page number is specified.)
- 18. Ibid., 50. (This refers to page 50 of Jane Doe's book.)
- 19. John Smith, "The Evolution of Citation Styles," in *Academic Integrity in the Digital Age*, ed. Alice Brown and Robert Green (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018), 88.
- 20. Ibid. (This refers to page 88 of John Smith's article, as it immediately follows Smith's citation.)

Citing Multiple Sources in One Note

It is permissible and often necessary to cite multiple sources within a single footnote. When this occurs, the sources are typically listed in alphabetical order by author's last name. Each citation

within the note follows the standard formatting rules for its respective source type, separated by semicolons. This is a common practice when a single point or statement is supported by evidence from several different publications.

For instance, if a particular theoretical concept is discussed by three different authors, you might combine their citations into one footnote for conciseness. Ensure that each individual citation within the combined note is correctly formatted according to CMOS guidelines. This demonstrates thorough research and provides readers with a comprehensive overview of the supporting literature for a given claim.

Common Pitfalls to Avoid

Several common errors can undermine the professionalism of your dissertation's footnotes. One of the most frequent is inconsistent formatting. Ensure that the punctuation, capitalization, and italicization are applied uniformly across all footnotes. Another pitfall is overusing "ibid." when the preceding note does not refer to the same single source. Additionally, failing to include essential publication details like the year or publisher can make it difficult for readers to find your sources.

Another area of concern is the incorrect citation of electronic sources. Always include URLs and access dates for online materials, as these are subject to change. For dissertations, it's also crucial to properly differentiate between first and subsequent citations by using shortened notes effectively. Paying close attention to these details will elevate the quality of your academic work.

Formatting Your Dissertation Footnotes

The physical formatting of footnotes in your dissertation is as important as their content. Consult your university's specific formatting guidelines, as they may have minor deviations from the general CMOS recommendations. Generally, footnotes are placed at the bottom of the page, clearly separated from the main text by a horizontal line. The superscript numbers in the text should correspond precisely with the numbers at the beginning of each footnote. Font size and spacing for footnotes should be slightly smaller than the main text to distinguish them visually while remaining legible.

Ensure that each footnote begins with a capital letter and ends with a period. For block quotes, the footnote number typically follows the closing punctuation of the quote. The overall presentation of your footnotes contributes significantly to the overall impression of your dissertation, reflecting your commitment to scholarly standards.

FAQ

Q: What is the primary difference between the notes-bibliography system and the author-date system in the Chicago Manual of Style for dissertations?

A: The notes-bibliography system uses footnotes or endnotes to provide citation information and includes a bibliography at the end of the work. The author-date system uses parenthetical citations in the text (Author Year, page) and also requires a reference list at the end. For detailed referencing and explanatory notes, the notes-bibliography system is often preferred for dissertations.

Q: Can I use "ibid." multiple times in a row for consecutive citations of the same source and page number in my dissertation?

A: Yes, you can use "ibid." multiple times consecutively if you are referring to the exact same source and page number as the immediately preceding footnote. However, once you refer to a different page of that source, you would still use "ibid." followed by the new page number. If you cite a different source, even if it's the same book, you must use the shortened note format.

Q: How do I cite a source that has multiple authors in a Chicago style footnote for my dissertation?

A: For the first footnote citation of a source with two authors, list both names as First Name Last Name and First Name Last Name. For sources with three or more authors, list only the first author's name followed by "et al." (and others) in subsequent citations. In the bibliography, this convention may differ slightly according to the latest CMOS edition.

Q: What is the correct way to cite an electronic book in a Chicago style dissertation footnote?

A: To cite an e-book, include the author, title, publication information, and then the DOI or URL. For dissertations, also include a retrieval date if the e-book is likely to be updated or changed. Example:
1. Author First Name Last Name, Title of E-book (City: Publisher, Year), page number, <http://www.example.com>.

Q: Should I include page numbers in all my Chicago style dissertation footnotes?

A: Yes, for source types where specific information is being referenced (like books, journal articles, or chapters), you should always include the specific page number(s) where the information was found. If the entire work is being referenced, or for certain types of online content without pagination, page numbers may be omitted, but this is less common in dissertation footnotes.

Q: How do I format the superscript numbers for footnotes in my dissertation according to Chicago style?

A: Superscript numbers should be placed directly after the punctuation of the clause or sentence to which they refer. They should not precede the text. Ensure that the numbering is continuous and sequential throughout your dissertation, starting from 1. Consult your university's style guide for specific font and size requirements for these numbers.

Q: What if I need to include a brief explanatory note along with a citation in my dissertation's Chicago style footnotes?

A: The notes-bibliography system in CMOS allows for explanatory notes. You can include a brief comment or clarification after the citation in the footnote, separated by a period. For example: 1. Jane Doe, *The History of Academic Writing* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2020), 45. This passage is foundational to her later work.

Q: How does the bibliography entry differ from the first footnote citation for a book in a Chicago style dissertation?

A: The primary difference is the order of the author's name and the punctuation. In the footnote, the author's name is First Name Last Name, and it's followed by a comma. In the bibliography, the author's last name comes first (Last Name, First Name), followed by a period. Also, the publication information in the footnote is enclosed in parentheses, while in the bibliography it is not.

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