

chicago style sociology paper citation examples

Chicago Style Sociology Paper Citation Examples: A Comprehensive Guide

chicago style sociology paper citation examples are crucial for academic integrity and clear communication within the discipline of sociology. Properly citing sources ensures that you give credit to the original authors, avoid plagiarism, and allow your readers to locate the information you've used. This guide will delve into the intricacies of the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) as applied to sociology papers, covering both the author-date and notes-bibliography systems. We will explore common source types, explain how to format in-text citations and bibliographical entries, and provide clear examples to demystify the process. Mastering these citation examples will enhance the credibility and professionalism of your sociological research.

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Understanding Chicago Style for Sociology

The Chicago Manual of Style offers two primary citation systems: the notes-bibliography system and the author-date system. Sociologists often lean towards one system over the other depending on the specific journal, publisher, or instructor's preference. The notes-bibliography system is characterized by numbered footnotes or endnotes that provide citation details, with a corresponding bibliography at the end of the paper. The author-date system, conversely, uses parenthetical in-text citations that include the author's last name and the publication year, and a reference list at the end. Both systems require meticulous attention to detail to accurately reflect the source material.

Sociology, as a field, often engages with complex theoretical frameworks and empirical data. Therefore, precise citation is paramount to distinguishing between your own analysis and the work of others. It allows for the verification of claims and facilitates further research for your audience. Understanding the nuances of each system is the first step towards producing well-documented sociological scholarship.

The Notes-Bibliography System in Sociology Papers

The notes-bibliography system is frequently favored in history and the humanities, but it is also a viable option for sociology papers, especially in certain academic contexts. In this system, superscript numbers are placed in the text immediately after the relevant quotation, paraphrase, or piece of information. These numbers correspond to detailed notes at the bottom of the page (footnotes) or at the end of the document (endnotes). These notes provide the full bibliographic information for the source, and may also include supplementary commentary.

First Reference Notes

When a source is cited for the first time in a note, the full bibliographic information is provided. This includes the author's name (first and last), the full title of the work (italicized for books and articles in collections, or in quotation marks for standalone articles), publication details (city of publication, publisher, and year for books), and specific page numbers. For journal articles, the journal title, volume, issue, date, and page range are essential.

For a book:

- Javier Rodriguez, *The Urban Divide: Gentrification and Inequality in Chicago* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2021), 45.

For a journal article:

- Maria Chen, "Social Capital and Community Organizing," *American Journal of Sociology* 125, no. 3 (November 2020): 788.

Subsequent Reference Notes

After the first full citation, subsequent references to the same source are shortened. Typically, this includes the author's last name, a shortened version of the title, and the page number. If only one work by an author is cited, the title may be omitted, and only the author's last name and page number are needed.

Shortened note for a book:

- Rodriguez, *Urban Divide*, 112.

Shortened note for a journal article:

- Chen, "Social Capital," 795.

The Bibliography

The bibliography, or reference list, appears at the end of the paper and lists all sources cited in the notes. Entries are alphabetized by the author's last name. The formatting in the bibliography is similar to the first reference note but with a few key differences. For books, the author's last name comes first, followed by the first name. Titles are italicized, and publication information is presented in a standard order. For journal articles, the article title is placed in quotation marks, and the journal title is italicized.

Bibliography entry for a book:

- Rodriguez, Javier. *The Urban Divide: Gentrification and Inequality in Chicago*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2021.

Bibliography entry for a journal article:

- Chen, Maria. "Social Capital and Community Organizing." *American Journal of Sociology* 125, no. 3 (November 2020): 775-802.

Author-Date System for Sociology Citations

The author-date system is widely adopted in the social sciences, including sociology, due to its efficiency in providing immediate context for the reader within the text. In this system, in-text citations consist of the author's last name and the year of publication, enclosed in parentheses. This method is particularly useful for research that relies heavily on empirical data and theoretical discussions that build upon prior studies.

In-Text Citations

When you quote directly from a source, you must include the author's last name, the year of publication, and the specific page number(s) in the parenthetical citation. For paraphrased ideas or summaries, only the author's last name and the year are required.

Direct quote:

- The pervasive impact of social media on interpersonal relationships has been extensively documented (Smith 2019, 112).

Paraphrase:

- Researchers have explored the ways in which digital platforms alter traditional social interactions (Johnson 2022).

When the author's name is part of the sentence, only the year needs to be in parentheses:

- According to Davis (2018), the digital divide exacerbates existing inequalities.

The Reference List

The author-date system requires a "Reference List" at the end of the paper, which alphabetically lists all sources cited. Unlike the notes-bibliography system, the author's last name comes first, followed by their first name. All bibliographic details are provided, similar to the bibliography in the notes system, but the formatting for titles and publication information adheres to the author-date conventions.

Reference list entry for a book:

- Garcia, Elena. 2020. *Class Mobility in Post-Industrial Cities*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Reference list entry for a journal article:

- Lee, Ken. 2019. "The Sociology of Online Communities." *Sociological Quarterly* 60, no. 1 (Spring): 55–78.

Citing Books in Chicago Style for Sociology

Books are foundational to sociological research, and their citation must be precise. Whether you are using the notes-bibliography or author-date system, the core elements of a book citation remain consistent: author, title, place of publication, publisher, and year. The primary distinction lies in the punctuation and placement of these elements.

Books with One Author

For the notes-bibliography system, the first note for a book by a single author would appear as:

- First Name Last Name, *Book Title* (City of Publication: Publisher, Year), Page Number.

Example (Notes-Bibliography):

- Sarah Miller, *Sociological Theory: An Introduction* (London: Penguin Books, 2017), 205.

For the author-date system, the in-text citation would be (Miller 2017, 205) or simply (Miller 2017) for paraphrased ideas. The reference list entry would be:

- Miller, Sarah. 2017. *Sociological Theory: An Introduction*. London: Penguin Books.

Books with Multiple Authors

When a book has two authors, list both names. For three or more authors, list only the first author followed by "et al." (and others) in the notes-bibliography system's notes, but list all authors in the bibliography and reference list.

Example (Notes-Bibliography, three authors):

- First Author, Second Author, and Third Author, *Book Title* (City: Publisher, Year), Page Number.

Example (Notes-Bibliography, bibliography entry, three authors):

- First Author, Second Author, Third Author, and Fourth Author. *Another Book Title*. City: Publisher, Year.

Example (Author-Date, three authors, in-text citation):

- (Thompson et al. 2022, 78)

Example (Author-Date, reference list entry, three authors):

- Thompson, Anya, Ben Carter, and Clara Diaz. 2022. *Research Methods in Sociology*. New York: Routledge.

Edited Books

When citing a chapter in an edited book, you must cite the chapter author and then the book editor(s). The structure differs slightly between the two Chicago systems.

Example (Notes-Bibliography, chapter in an edited book):

- Author of Chapter, "Title of Chapter," in *Title of Edited Book*, ed. Editor's First Name Last Name, Page Range of Chapter (City: Publisher, Year).

Example (Notes-Bibliography, bibliography entry for chapter):

- Author of Chapter, "Title of Chapter." In *Title of Edited Book*, edited by Editor's First Name Last Name, Page Range of Chapter. City: Publisher, Year.

Example (Author-Date, chapter in an edited book):

- Author of Chapter. Year. "Title of Chapter." In *Title of Edited Book*, edited by Editor's First Name Last Name, Page Range of Chapter. City: Publisher.

Referencing Journal Articles in Chicago Style Sociology

Journal articles are vital for accessing the latest research and scholarly debates in sociology. Citing them accurately ensures that your work is grounded in current academic discourse. The key components for citing a journal article include the author, article title, journal title, volume, issue, publication date, and page numbers.

Journal Articles with One Author

Using the notes-bibliography system, a first note for a journal article would look like this:

- First Name Last Name, "Title of Article," *Title of Journal* Volume, no. Issue (Month/Season Year): Page Number.

Example (Notes-Bibliography):

- Emily Carter, "The Sociology of Urban Migration," *Journal of Social Research* 45, no. 2 (Spring

2018): 156.

For the author-date system, the in-text citation is (Carter 2018, 156), or (Carter 2018) for paraphrases. The reference list entry is:

- Carter, Emily. 2018. "The Sociology of Urban Migration." *Journal of Social Research* 45, no. 2 (Spring): 145–170.

Journal Articles with Multiple Authors

Similar to books, when a journal article has multiple authors, the convention for listing them differs slightly between notes and the bibliography or reference list. For notes-bibliography, list all authors in the first note, and in subsequent notes, use the first author's last name followed by "et al." In the bibliography, list all authors. For the author-date system, all authors are listed in the reference list, but in-text citations use "et al." for three or more authors.

Example (Author-Date, reference list entry, four authors):

- Rodriguez, Javier, Maria Chen, Ken Lee, and Elena Garcia. 2021. "Bridging the Digital Divide: Social Inclusion in Online Spaces." *Sociological Studies Quarterly* 30, no. 4 (Winter): 401–425.

Example (Author-Date, in-text citation for the above):

- (Rodriguez et al. 2021, 415)

Formatting Web Resources and Online Sources

In contemporary sociology, web resources and online articles are frequently used. Their citation requires careful attention to URLs, access dates, and the organization or author responsible for the content. The specific format can vary depending on whether the source is a formal online publication or a less structured web page.

Online Journal Articles and Databases

When citing journal articles accessed online, if the article has a stable URL or DOI (Digital Object Identifier), it should be included. The DOI is preferred as it is a permanent link.

Example (Notes-Bibliography):

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

Example (Notes-Bibliography):

- Smith, John. "Digital Natives and Social Capital." *New Media & Society* 22, no. 1 (January 2020): 100–115. doi:10.1177/1461444819878901. Accessed October 26, 2023.

Example (Author-Date):

- Smith, John. 2020. "Digital Natives and Social Capital." *New Media & Society* 22, no. 1 (January): 100–115. doi:10.1177/1461444819878901. Accessed October 26, 2023.

Websites and Online Reports

For websites and online reports without clear page numbers, focus on the author or sponsoring organization, the title of the specific page or document, the website name, and the URL. An access date is crucial because web content can change.

Example (Notes-Bibliography):

- Author or Organization. "Title of Web Page." Website Name. Last Modified Date (if available). Accessed Date. URL.

Example (Notes-Bibliography):

- Pew Research Center. "Social Media Use in 2022." Pew Research Center. Last modified March 15, 2022. Accessed October 26, 2023.
<https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2022/03/15/social-media-use-in-2022/>.

Example (Author-Date):

- Pew Research Center. 2022. "Social Media Use in 2022." Pew Research Center. Last modified March 15, 2022. Accessed October 26, 2023.
<https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2022/03/15/social-media-use-in-2022/>.

Common Challenges and Solutions in Chicago Style Sociology Citation

Navigating the Chicago Manual of Style can present challenges, especially with less common source types or when dealing with inconsistencies in original publication data. Understanding potential pitfalls and how to address them is key to producing accurate citations.

Inconsistent Publication Information

Sometimes books may have multiple publication dates or editions. Always cite the edition you used. If a city of publication is not readily available, use the publisher's headquarters location or abbreviate it if specified by CMOS. For older texts, ensure you are using a reliable modern edition.

Unpublished Works

Citing unpublished manuscripts, dissertations, or conference papers requires providing as much detail as possible. This includes author, title, date, and location or repository information. For dissertations, include the university and year of defense.

Citing Government Documents and Reports

Government documents often have complex authorship, typically being attributed to the department or agency responsible. Ensure you correctly identify the issuing body as the author. Report numbers should also be included when available.

When in Doubt, Consult the Manual

The Chicago Manual of Style is an extensive guide. For any citation scenario not covered here, or if you encounter ambiguity, the best recourse is to consult the latest edition of the Chicago Manual of Style itself or its online resources. Precision is paramount in academic writing.

Creating Your Bibliography or Reference List

A well-organized bibliography or reference list is the culmination of careful in-text citation. It serves as a vital tool for readers to explore the sources you've consulted. Ensure your list is alphabetized correctly by the author's last name. For the notes-bibliography system, the list is titled "Bibliography." For the author-date system, it is titled "Reference List."

Consistency is the watchword when creating these lists. Double-check every element—author names, titles, publication years, page numbers, and URLs—against your notes or in-text citations. Any discrepancy can lead to confusion or be perceived as a lack of academic rigor. Taking the time to meticulously format each entry will significantly enhance the professionalism and credibility of your sociology paper.

FAQ

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

A: The primary difference lies in how sources are cited within the text. The notes-bibliography system uses numbered footnotes or endnotes, while the author-date system uses parenthetical in-text citations with the author's last name and publication year. Both systems require a comprehensive list of sources at the end of the paper.

Q: When should I use the notes-bibliography system versus the author-date system in a sociology paper?

A: The choice often depends on the requirements of your instructor, department, or the specific journal or publisher you are submitting to. Historically, the notes-bibliography system has been more common in fields like history and art history, while the author-date system is prevalent in the social sciences, including much of sociology. Always clarify which system is preferred.

Q: How do I cite a book with three or more authors in Chicago style for sociology?

A: In the notes-bibliography system, for notes, you list the first author followed by "et al." (e.g., Smith et al.). In the bibliography itself, however, you list all authors. For the author-date system, the in-text citation uses "et al." for three or more authors, and the reference list includes all authors.

Q: What is a DOI, and why is it important for citing online journal articles in sociology?

A: DOI stands for Digital Object Identifier. It is a persistent, unique identifier for scholarly articles and other publications. Including the DOI in your citation, rather than a URL, is preferred because it provides a stable link that is less likely to become broken or change over time, ensuring your readers can reliably access the source.

Q: How do I format the title of a journal article versus the title of a journal in Chicago style?

A: In Chicago style, the title of a journal article is always placed in quotation marks (e.g., "The Impact of Social Media"). The title of the journal itself, in which the article appears, is italicized (e.g., *Journal of Sociology*).

Q: What is the correct way to cite a webpage with no author listed in Chicago style for a sociology paper?

A: If a webpage has no discernible author, you should use the name of the organization or sponsoring group as the author. If no organization is apparent either, you would start the citation with the title of the webpage itself. Always include the URL and the date you accessed the page.

Q: Should I include the publisher's location when citing a book in Chicago style sociology?

A: Yes, the city of publication is a required element for citing books in Chicago style, for both the notes-bibliography and author-date systems. If the book has multiple publication cities listed, use the first one. If no city is listed, consult the Chicago Manual of Style for specific guidance, which may involve using the publisher's headquarters or abbreviating.

Q: How do I handle citing a source that I accessed through a university library database?

A: When citing sources from library databases, if the article has a DOI, use that. If not, and if you accessed a PDF version that is an exact replica of the print version, you can often cite it as if it were the print version. If it is an HTML version or has unique database pagination, you should include the database name and potentially a stable URL or DOI if provided by the database.

Q: What does "et al." mean in Chicago style citations for sociology?

A: "Et al." is a Latin abbreviation meaning "and others." It is used in Chicago style citations when a source has multiple authors to save space and avoid listing every single author's name. The specific number of authors that triggers the use of "et al." varies slightly between notes and bibliographies/reference lists, and also between the two main Chicago systems.

Q: How do I create an alphabetized bibliography or reference list in Chicago style?

A: The bibliography or reference list is alphabetized according to the author's last name. If a source has no author, it is alphabetized by the first significant word of the title (ignoring articles like "A," "An," or "The"). Ensure that entries by the same author are then ordered chronologically by

publication year.

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