

chicago style sociology reference examples

chicago style sociology reference examples are crucial for academic integrity and clear communication within the discipline. When engaging in sociological research, accurately citing sources using the Chicago Manual of Style (CMS) is not just a requirement but a cornerstone of scholarly practice. This guide will delve deep into the intricacies of Chicago style sociology references, providing detailed examples for various source types. We will cover essential components of a citation, differentiate between the notes-bibliography and author-date systems, and offer practical guidance for common academic materials encountered in sociology, such as books, journal articles, websites, and even unpublished works. Mastering these examples will equip you with the confidence to navigate the complexities of academic referencing in your sociological endeavors.

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Understanding the Basics of Chicago Style Sociology References

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMS) offers two distinct systems for citation: the notes-bibliography system and the author-date system. Sociologists may encounter either, though the notes-bibliography system is often preferred in humanities and some social sciences, including many areas of sociology, for its flexibility in embedding explanatory notes. The author-date system, conversely, is more prevalent in the natural sciences and some social science disciplines, offering a more concise in-text citation. Regardless of the system chosen, the fundamental goal remains the same: to give credit to the original authors and allow readers to locate the sources easily. Key elements common to most citations include author names, publication titles, publication information (city, publisher, year), and page numbers.

Sociological research relies heavily on the work of past and present scholars, making accurate attribution paramount. Failure to properly cite sources can lead to accusations of plagiarism, undermining the credibility of the researcher and their work. Understanding the nuances of Chicago style sociology reference examples ensures that your arguments are supported by evidence and that you are engaging in a scholarly conversation with the existing body of sociological literature. This involves not only knowing the correct format but also understanding when and how to cite different types of information.

The Notes-Bibliography System: In-Text Citations and Bibliographies

In the notes-bibliography system, in-text citations are typically rendered as superscript numbers that correspond to numbered notes at the bottom of the page (footnotes) or at the end of the document (endnotes). These notes provide the full citation information for the first reference to a source, and subsequent references to the same source are abbreviated. This system allows for the inclusion of supplementary information or commentary within the notes without disrupting the flow of the main text.

The bibliography, which appears at the end of the paper, is an alphabetical list of all sources cited in the text. Unlike the notes, which can be verbose, bibliography entries are generally more concise and standardized. The purpose of the bibliography is to provide a comprehensive overview of the research material consulted and used, enabling readers to pursue further study on the topic. Sociologists often find this system allows for rich engagement with complex theoretical ideas and empirical data.

Footnotes and Endnotes in Sociology

Footnotes and endnotes serve as the primary method of in-text citation in this system. The first time a source is cited, the note will contain the full bibliographic details. For example, a footnote for a book would include the author's name, the title of the book (italicized), the place of publication, the publisher, the year of publication, and the specific page number(s) being referenced. Subsequent citations of the same source will use an abbreviated form, typically the author's last name, a shortened title, and the page number.

The Sociological Bibliography Entry

The bibliography in Chicago style is an alphabetical list of all sources consulted and cited in the paper. Entries are arranged alphabetically by the author's last name. For books, a typical entry includes the author's full name (last name first), the title of the book in italics, the place of publication, the publisher, and the year of publication. For journal articles, it includes the author's name, the article title (in quotation marks), the journal title (in italics), the volume and issue numbers, the year of publication, and the page range of the article.

The Author-Date System: Parenthetical Citations and Reference Lists

The author-date system, while less common in traditional sociology departments compared to the notes-bibliography system, is still utilized and is essential to understand. In this system, parenthetical citations are placed directly within the text, usually at the end of a sentence or clause, and include the author's last name and the year of publication. If a specific page number is being referenced, it is also included within the parentheses. This method is often favored for its conciseness and ease of scanning for source attribution.

The corresponding reference list, which replaces the bibliography, is also an alphabetical list of all sources cited. However, the format of the entries differs slightly. The author's last

name and first initial(s) are presented first, followed by the year of publication in parentheses. Then, the title of the work and publication details follow. This system provides a clear and direct link between the in-text citation and the full source information, facilitating quick checks for readers.

Parenthetical Citations in Sociological Texts

When using the author-date system, the in-text citation typically takes the form (Author Last Name Year, page number). For instance, a citation referring to a specific point made by sociologist Pierre Bourdieu in his work published in 1986 might appear as (Bourdieu 1986, 45). If no specific page is being cited, it would simply be (Bourdieu 1986). This method ensures that the reader can immediately identify the source of information within the narrative of the research paper.

The Sociological Reference List

The reference list in the author-date system is an alphabetized compilation of all works cited. Each entry begins with the author's last name and first initial(s), followed by the year of publication in parentheses. The title of the work then follows. For books, the place of publication and publisher are listed. For journal articles, the journal title (italicized), volume and issue numbers, and page range are provided. This format prioritizes the author and date, allowing readers to quickly ascertain the recency and origin of the cited research.

Chicago Style Sociology Reference Examples: Books

Books are fundamental resources in sociology, covering foundational theories, empirical studies, and historical analyses. Properly citing them in Chicago style is therefore a critical skill for any sociology student or researcher. The format for books varies slightly between the notes-bibliography and author-date systems, but the core information required remains consistent.

Notes-Bibliography System: Books

When citing a book in a footnote or endnote for the first time, the format is generally: Author First Name Last Name, Title of Book (Place of Publication: Publisher, Year), page number.

- Example Footnote: 1. Pierre Bourdieu, *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1984), 12.

For subsequent citations of the same book, an abbreviated note is used: Author Last Name, Shortened Title, page number.

- Example Abbreviated Footnote: 2. Bourdieu, *Distinction*, 35.

In the bibliography, the entry is: Author Last Name, First Name. Title of Book. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year.

- Example Bibliography Entry: Bourdieu, Pierre. *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1984.

Author-Date System: Books

In the author-date system, the in-text citation uses parenthetical notation: (Author Last Name Year, page number).

- Example In-Text Citation: (Bourdieu 1984, 12)

The reference list entry for a book is: Author Last Name, First Name. Year. Title of Book. Place of Publication: Publisher.

- Example Reference List Entry: Bourdieu, Pierre. 1984. *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Chicago Style Sociology Reference Examples: Journal Articles

Journal articles are vital for accessing the latest sociological research, theoretical debates, and empirical findings. Citing these accurately ensures that readers can follow the threads of academic inquiry. The structure of journal article citations in Chicago style emphasizes the author, article title, journal title, and publication details.

Notes-Bibliography System: Journal Articles

For the first footnote or endnote citation of a journal article: Author First Name Last Name, "Title of Article," Title of Journal Volume, no. Issue (Year of Publication): page number.

- Example Footnote: 3. Evelyn Nakano Glenn, "From Servitude to Labor Migration: Japanese American Women's Community in 1920," *Amerasia Journal* 13, no. 2 (1986-87): 17.

Subsequent citations follow the abbreviated format: Author Last Name, "Shortened Article Title," page number.

- Example Abbreviated Footnote: 4. Glenn, "From Servitude," 20.

In the bibliography, the entry is: Author Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." Title of Journal Volume, no. Issue (Year of Publication): page numbers.

- Example Bibliography Entry: Glenn, Evelyn Nakano. "From Servitude to Labor Migration: Japanese American Women's Community in 1920." *Amerasia Journal* 13, no. 2 (1986-87): 17-31.

Author-Date System: Journal Articles

The in-text citation uses parenthetical notation: (Author Last Name Year, page number).

- Example In-Text Citation: (Glenn 1986-87, 17)

The reference list entry for a journal article is: Author Last Name, First Name. Year. "Title of Article." Title of Journal Volume (Issue): page numbers.

- Example Reference List Entry: Glenn, Evelyn Nakano. 1986-87. "From Servitude to Labor Migration: Japanese American Women's Community in 1920." *Amerasia Journal* 13 (2): 17-31.

Chicago Style Sociology Reference Examples: Websites and Online Sources

The digital age has made websites and online articles indispensable resources for sociological research. Citing these sources accurately is crucial, as online information can be dynamic and sometimes lacks traditional publication metadata. Chicago style provides guidelines for citing various online materials, from academic journals accessed online to reports from organizations.

Notes-Bibliography System: Websites

For a webpage with a clear author and title: Author First Name Last Name, "Title of Page," Title of Website, Publication Date or Last Modified Date, accessed Access Date, URL.

- Example Footnote: 5. Manuel Castells, "The Information Age: Economy, Society and Culture," accessed October 26, 2023, <https://example.com/castells-infoage>.

For a website without a clear author, cite the organization:

- Example Footnote: 6. Pew Research Center, "Social Media Use in 2023," published January 15, 2023, accessed October 26, 2023, <https://www.pewresearch.org/social-media-2023>.

In the bibliography, the format is similar but without the specific page number from a note. For an undated page, you might use "n.d." for no date.

- Example Bibliography Entry: Castells, Manuel. "The Information Age: Economy, Society and Culture." Accessed October 26, 2023. <https://example.com/castells-infoage>.
- Example Bibliography Entry: Pew Research Center. "Social Media Use in 2023." Published January 15, 2023. Accessed October 26, 2023. <https://www.pewresearch.org/social-media-2023>.

Author-Date System: Websites

When citing a website in the author-date system, the in-text citation typically includes the author and year, if available. However, for many websites, a specific year might not be prominent. In such cases, the author and year might be omitted or adapted depending on the specific guidance from the CMS edition being used and the nature of the source.

- Example In-Text Citation (if year available): (Castells 2023)
- Example In-Text Citation (if no year, often the full citation is in the reference list): (Pew Research Center)

The reference list entry for a website: Author Last Name, First Name (if applicable). Year (if applicable). "Title of Page." Title of Website. Accessed Access Date. URL.

- Example Reference List Entry: Castells, Manuel. 2023. "The Information Age: Economy, Society and Culture." Accessed October 26, 2023. <https://example.com/castells-infoage>.
- Example Reference List Entry: Pew Research Center. n.d. "Social Media Use in 2023." Accessed October 26, 2023. <https://www.pewresearch.org/social-media-2023>.

Chicago Style Sociology Reference Examples: Other Common Sources

Sociological research often draws upon a diverse range of sources beyond traditional books and journal articles. These can include dissertations, conference papers, reports from

government agencies or non-profit organizations, and even interviews. Correctly formatting these less common, but often critical, sources ensures comprehensive and accurate academic practice.

Dissertations and Theses

For a dissertation in the notes-bibliography system:

- Example Footnote: 7. Jane Doe, "The Impact of Social Media on Political Polarization" (PhD diss., University of Chicago, 2022), 78.

In the bibliography:

- Example Bibliography Entry: Doe, Jane. "The Impact of Social Media on Political Polarization." PhD diss., University of Chicago, 2022.

In the author-date system, the in-text citation would be (Doe 2022, 78), and the reference list entry would be similar to the bibliography format, often including the author and year at the beginning.

Conference Papers and Presentations

For a conference paper in the notes-bibliography system:

- Example Footnote: 8. John Smith, "Urban Gentrification and Community Displacement" (paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Chicago, IL, August 10, 2023), 15.

In the bibliography:

- Example Bibliography Entry: Smith, John. "Urban Gentrification and Community Displacement." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Chicago, IL, August 10, 2023.

The author-date system would involve parenthetical citations like (Smith 2023, 15) and a reference list entry starting with the author and year.

Reports from Organizations

For a report in the notes-bibliography system:

- Example Footnote: 9. World Health Organization, Global Health Observatory Data Repository (Geneva: WHO, 2022), 45.

In the bibliography:

- Example Bibliography Entry: World Health Organization. Global Health Observatory Data Repository. Geneva: WHO, 2022.

For the author-date system, the in-text citation would be (World Health Organization 2022, 45) and the reference list entry would follow the established author-date format.

Key Differences and Considerations for Sociology

While both the notes-bibliography and author-date systems are governed by the Chicago Manual of Style, their application within sociology can vary based on departmental preferences, journal requirements, or the specific subfield. The notes-bibliography system, with its capacity for extensive footnotes, is often favored for its ability to incorporate theoretical discussions, methodological elaborations, and historical context without disrupting the main textual flow. This is particularly useful in sociological theory or historical sociology where detailed contextualization is essential.

Conversely, the author-date system offers a more streamlined approach to referencing, which can be beneficial in empirical research where concise citations are preferred to maintain readability. Many sociological journals, particularly those with a quantitative or empirical focus, may specify the author-date system. It is imperative for students and researchers to confirm which system is required for their specific assignment, thesis, or publication to ensure compliance and academic rigor.

The choice of system can also influence how the academic conversation is perceived. The notes-bibliography system can encourage a deeper engagement with the footnotes, potentially revealing more nuanced arguments or a broader range of influences. The author-date system, by contrast, provides an immediate chronological context for the cited work, allowing readers to quickly gauge the intellectual lineage of an argument. Regardless of the system, consistency and accuracy in applying the Chicago style sociology reference examples are paramount.

Common Pitfalls in Chicago Style Sociology Referencing

Navigating the complexities of Chicago style sociology reference examples can present challenges, leading to common errors that can impact the credibility of research. One frequent mistake is inconsistent formatting between the in-text citations and the final bibliography or reference list. For instance, a note might include an author's full first name, while the bibliography uses only initials, or vice versa. Another pitfall is the improper use of italics and quotation marks. Book titles, journal titles, and website titles are italicized, while article titles and chapter titles are enclosed in quotation marks. Errors in punctuation, such as missing commas, incorrect placement of periods, or the omission of essential publication details like the year or publisher, are also prevalent.

Misinterpreting when to cite is another significant issue. Students may forget to cite direct quotes, paraphrased ideas, or even borrowed statistics and data. This can inadvertently

lead to plagiarism. Furthermore, inaccuracies in page numbers, especially when citing multiple pages or a range of pages, can frustrate readers attempting to locate the referenced material. The distinction between the notes-bibliography and author-date systems can also be a source of confusion, leading to the application of the wrong formatting rules altogether. Careful attention to detail and regular consultation of the Chicago Manual of Style are essential to avoid these common errors.

Inconsistent Formatting

A primary pitfall is inconsistency. This can manifest in how author names are presented (full name vs. initials), the use of italics for titles, or the inclusion/exclusion of specific publication details across different citation types. Ensuring that every entry adheres strictly to the chosen system's guidelines is vital.

Incorrect Punctuation and Capitalization

Subtle errors in punctuation, such as misplaced commas, periods, or colons, can render a citation incorrect. Capitalization rules for titles also need careful adherence. For example, the first word of a title and subtitle, along with proper nouns, are capitalized in Chicago style.

Plagiarism and Misattribution

Failing to cite any information that is not common knowledge, whether it is a direct quote, a paraphrase, or a synthesized idea, constitutes plagiarism. This is a serious academic offense. Ensuring every borrowed piece of information is properly attributed is non-negotiable.

Errors in Page Numbering

When citing specific information, accurate page numbers are crucial. For direct quotes, the exact page is needed. For paraphrased material, the page number is often still required to help readers pinpoint the source of the idea, especially in dense academic texts.

Mixing Citation Systems

Confusing the notes-bibliography system with the author-date system is a significant error. Each system has distinct in-text citation methods and corresponding list formats. Using elements from both systems in a single paper is unacceptable.

Omitting Essential Publication Data

The Chicago Manual of Style requires specific pieces of information for each source type.

Omitting the publisher, publication year, journal volume, or URL when required can make a citation incomplete and unhelpful for readers.

Citing Secondary Sources Improperly

When a source is cited indirectly (i.e., you read about an idea in Author B's work that discusses Author A's original research), it must be cited correctly. Chicago style has specific guidelines for citing secondary sources to avoid confusion and maintain accuracy.

FAQ Section

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

A: The notes-bibliography system uses superscript numbers in the text that link to footnotes or endnotes for full citation details, and concludes with a bibliography. The author-date system uses parenthetical in-text citations (Author Year, page) and concludes with a reference list.

Q: When should I use italics versus quotation marks for titles in Chicago style sociology references?

A: Book titles, journal titles, magazine titles, newspaper titles, and website titles are italicized. Article titles (within journals, magazines, newspapers, or websites), chapter titles, and titles of shorter works like poems or essays are typically enclosed in quotation marks.

Q: How do I cite a book chapter in Chicago style if it was published in an edited volume?

A: For the notes-bibliography system, a footnote would typically include the chapter author, chapter title in quotation marks, "in" followed by the book title (italicized), editor's name, page range of the chapter, place of publication, publisher, and year. The bibliography entry follows a similar structure. For the author-date system, the reference list entry would start with the chapter author and year, followed by the chapter title and then the edited book details.

Q: What is the correct way to cite a website in Chicago style when no author is listed?

A: If no author is listed for a website, you should begin the citation with the title of the webpage. If there is no clear publication date, use "n.d." (no date). You should always

include the access date and the URL for online sources.

Q: Do I need to include page numbers when citing paraphrased material in Chicago style sociology?

A: Yes, it is generally recommended and often required to include page numbers when paraphrasing or summarizing material, even if you are not directly quoting. This helps readers locate the original source of the idea within the text, especially in dense academic works.

Q: How does Chicago style handle citations of online journal articles that have a DOI?

A: When citing an online journal article with a DOI (Digital Object Identifier), the DOI is preferred over the URL. The citation typically includes the author, article title, journal title, volume, issue, year, and the DOI. The DOI acts as a persistent link to the article.

Q: Can I cite social media posts in Chicago style for my sociology research?

A: Yes, Chicago style provides guidelines for citing social media posts. The format depends on the platform (e.g., Twitter, Facebook). Generally, it includes the author of the post, the content of the post or a description, the platform name, the date of the post, and the URL.

Q: What is the purpose of an abbreviated note in the notes-bibliography system for Chicago style sociology references?

A: Abbreviated notes are used for subsequent citations of a source that has already been fully cited. They help to avoid repetition and make the notes section more concise while still providing enough information for the reader to identify the source. The typical format includes the author's last name, a shortened title of the work, and the page number.

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