

citing psychological studies chicago style

Citing Psychological Studies Chicago Style: A Comprehensive Guide

citing psychological studies chicago style is crucial for academic integrity and clear communication within the field of psychology. Properly referencing research ensures that readers can locate the original sources, understand the context of your claims, and avoid plagiarism. This guide will delve into the intricacies of Chicago style for citing psychological studies, covering both the Notes-Bibliography and Author-Date systems. We will explore how to format various types of psychological research, from journal articles and books to dissertations and online resources, ensuring accuracy and adherence to established scholarly conventions. Understanding these citation rules is fundamental for students, researchers, and anyone presenting psychological findings.

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Understanding Chicago Style: Notes-Bibliography vs. Author-Date

The Chicago Manual of Style offers two primary citation systems: the Notes-Bibliography (NB) system and the Author-Date (AD) system. The NB system is widely used in the humanities and some social sciences, relying on footnotes or endnotes for citations and a bibliography at the end of the work. In contrast, the AD system, more common in the sciences and social sciences, uses parenthetical in-text citations keyed to a reference list. For psychological studies, the choice between these two systems often depends on the specific journal, publisher, or academic department's requirements. Both systems aim for clarity and traceability of sources, but they achieve this through different mechanisms.

The Notes-Bibliography system uses superscript numbers within the text to refer readers to corresponding notes at the bottom of the page or at the end of the document. These notes provide full bibliographic information upon

first mention and a shortened version for subsequent references. The final bibliography then lists all sources cited in the text alphabetically. This system can be particularly useful for works that require extensive commentary or explanation alongside the citations.

The Author-Date system, conversely, places author and year of publication directly within the text, for instance, (Smith 2020). This method is generally more concise for in-text referencing and allows readers to quickly identify the source and date of information without interrupting the flow of the main text as much. The reference list at the end of the paper then provides complete bibliographic details for each source cited. This system is favored for its efficiency, especially in fields where research builds rapidly on recent findings.

Core Principles of Citing Psychological Studies

Regardless of the specific Chicago style system employed, several core principles underpin the accurate citation of psychological studies. These principles ensure that your work is credible, allows readers to verify your information, and respects the intellectual property of the original researchers. Adherence to these standards is paramount for scholarly communication.

Author Identification

The primary identifier for any source is its author(s). In Chicago style, author names are listed in a consistent format. For the Notes-Bibliography system, full names are typically used in footnotes/endnotes and the bibliography, though the order might vary slightly. For the Author-Date system, the author's last name is used in the in-text citation. When there are multiple authors, specific rules apply, such as listing all authors up to a certain number (e.g., ten) or using "et al." after the first author's name for extensive authorship lists, depending on the specific Chicago edition guidelines.

Publication Details and Accuracy

Accurate publication details are non-negotiable. This includes the title of the work, the journal name (if applicable), the volume and issue numbers for journal articles, the publisher and place of publication for books, and the year of publication. Any inaccuracies in these details can make it impossible for a reader to locate the cited study. Psychological research is often highly specific, and referencing the precise edition or version of a study is

crucial for scholarly rigor.

Consistency in Formatting

Consistency is key to maintaining a professional and academic tone. Whichever Chicago style system you choose, apply its rules uniformly throughout your paper. This includes the punctuation, capitalization, and ordering of elements for each citation. Inconsistent citation can lead to confusion and detract from the overall quality of your writing.

Citing Journal Articles in Chicago Style

Journal articles are a cornerstone of psychological research, and citing them correctly in Chicago style is essential. The format will differ slightly depending on whether you are using the Notes-Bibliography or Author-Date system.

Notes-Bibliography System for Journal Articles

When citing a journal article in a footnote or endnote for the first time, you will include author(s), article title, journal title, volume number, issue number, publication year, and page numbers. Subsequent citations will be shortened.

- Full Note: John M. Smith, "The Impact of Sleep Deprivation on Cognitive Performance," *Journal of Experimental Psychology* 45, no. 3 (2021): 123-145.
- Shortened Note: Smith, "Sleep Deprivation," 130.

In the bibliography, the format is similar, but the author's last name comes first, and the article title is enclosed in quotation marks, while the journal title is italicized.

- Bibliography Entry: Smith, John M. "The Impact of Sleep Deprivation on Cognitive Performance." *Journal of Experimental Psychology* 45, no. 3 (2021): 123-145.

Author-Date System for Journal Articles

The Author-Date system is more streamlined for in-text citations. The parenthetical citation includes the author's last name and the year of publication. For the reference list, the format is similar to the bibliography entry in the NB system, but the year of publication immediately follows the author's name.

- In-Text Citation: (Smith 2021)
- Reference List Entry: Smith, John M. 2021. "The Impact of Sleep Deprivation on Cognitive Performance." *Journal of Experimental Psychology* 45, no. 3: 123-145.

Citing Books and Book Chapters in Chicago Style

Books and their individual chapters are also frequently referenced in psychological studies. The principles of accurate author, title, and publication information apply here as well.

Notes-Bibliography System for Books

For a book in a footnote or endnote, you would cite the author(s), book title, place of publication, publisher, and year. For specific page numbers, you include them after the year.

- Full Note: Sarah L. Johnson, *Understanding Social Cognition* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2019), 78.
- Shortened Note: Johnson, *Social Cognition*, 82.

The bibliography entry lists the author's last name first, italicizes the book title, and includes the place of publication, publisher, and year.

- Bibliography Entry: Johnson, Sarah L. *Understanding Social Cognition*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2019.

Author-Date System for Books

In the Author-Date system, the in-text citation includes the author's last name and the publication year. The reference list entry follows a similar structure to the bibliography but places the year directly after the author's name.

- In-Text Citation: (Johnson 2019)
- Reference List Entry: Johnson, Sarah L. 2019. *Understanding Social Cognition*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Citing Book Chapters

When referencing a specific chapter within an edited book, you need to cite both the chapter author(s) and the book editor(s).

- Full Note (NB): David Lee, "Developmental Stages of Memory," in *Handbook of Developmental Psychology*, ed. Emily Chen and Robert Williams (London: Psychology Press, 2020), 215.
- Reference List Entry (AD): Lee, David. 2020. "Developmental Stages of Memory." In *Handbook of Developmental Psychology*, edited by Emily Chen and Robert Williams, 215-240. London: Psychology Press.

Citing Dissertations and Theses in Chicago Style

Dissertations and theses represent original research and must be cited appropriately to give credit to the student researcher and allow others to access the work.

Notes-Bibliography System for Dissertations/Theses

For dissertations, you would typically include the author, dissertation title, institution where the degree was awarded, and the year. If available, include the ProQuest or university microfilm number. For unpublished dissertations, you may need to specify "Ph.D. dissertation" or "Master's thesis" and the university.

- Full Note: Maria Garcia, "The Role of Social Support in Resilience," Ph.D. dissertation, University of California, Berkeley, 2022.

In the bibliography, the format is similar, but the author's last name comes first.

- Bibliography Entry: Garcia, Maria. "The Role of Social Support in Resilience." Ph.D. dissertation, University of California, Berkeley, 2022.

Author-Date System for Dissertations/Theses

The in-text citation for dissertations and theses in the Author-Date system includes the author's last name and the year. The reference list entry places the year after the author's name and specifies the degree type and institution.

- In-Text Citation: (Garcia 2022)
- Reference List Entry: Garcia, Maria. 2022. "The Role of Social Support in Resilience." Ph.D. dissertation, University of California, Berkeley.

Citing Online Resources and Websites in Chicago Style

The digital age has brought a wealth of psychological information online. Citing websites and other online resources requires careful attention to details like URLs and access dates.

Notes-Bibliography System for Online Resources

When citing an online article or resource, include the author (if available), the title of the page or article, the name of the website, and the URL. Crucially, include the date you accessed the material.

- Full Note: "Understanding Anxiety Disorders," National Institute of Mental Health, accessed November 15, 2023, <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/anxiety-disorders>.

In the bibliography, the format is similar, with the author's last name first. If there is no author, the title comes first.

- Bibliography Entry: National Institute of Mental Health. "Understanding Anxiety Disorders." Accessed November 15, 2023.
<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/anxiety-disorders>.

Author-Date System for Online Resources

The in-text citation for online resources in the Author-Date system will typically include the author and year, if available. If no author or date is present, you might use a shortened title or a representative name.

- In-Text Citation: ("Understanding Anxiety Disorders" n.d.) or (National Institute of Mental Health n.d.)
- Reference List Entry: National Institute of Mental Health. n.d. "Understanding Anxiety Disorders." Accessed November 15, 2023.
<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/anxiety-disorders>.

Note: "n.d." signifies "no date" when the publication date is unknown.

In-Text Citations: Ensuring Accuracy

Accurate in-text citations are the backbone of a well-cited paper, connecting your claims directly to the original research. Whether using the Notes-Bibliography or Author-Date system, clarity and precision are paramount.

Notes-Bibliography In-Text Citations

In the Notes-Bibliography system, in-text citations are indicated by superscript numbers. These numbers correspond to footnotes at the bottom of the page or endnotes at the end of the document. The first citation of a source in a note provides full bibliographic information. Subsequent citations of the same source use a shortened form, typically including the author's last name, a shortened title, and the page number.

Author-Date In-Text Citations

The Author-Date system uses parenthetical citations directly within the text. These citations typically include the author's last name and the year of publication, for example, (Miller 2018). If you are referring to a specific page or range of pages, you include that information after the year, separated by a comma, such as (Miller 2018, 56). When paraphrasing, the citation typically follows the sentence or clause containing the information. When quoting directly, the citation must be placed immediately after the quoted material.

Common Pitfalls to Avoid When Citing Psychological Research

Navigating the complexities of Chicago style for psychological studies can present challenges. Being aware of common errors can help you maintain accuracy and professionalism.

Inconsistent Formatting

One of the most frequent mistakes is inconsistent application of Chicago style rules. This can manifest in variations in punctuation, capitalization of titles, or the order of bibliographic elements. Ensure you meticulously follow the chosen system (NB or AD) throughout your entire document.

Missing or Incorrect Information

Failing to include all necessary bibliographic details, such as volume and issue numbers for journal articles, or providing incorrect page numbers, can hinder readers from locating sources. Double-check every element of your citations against the original source.

Plagiarism Through Improper Paraphrasing

Even when citing, improper paraphrasing can lead to accusations of plagiarism. Ensure that when you rephrase a study's findings, you use your own words and sentence structure significantly, while still providing a clear citation to the original source. Avoid simply rearranging words from the original text.

Outdated Information or Sources

Psychological research evolves rapidly. Relying on outdated studies without acknowledging more recent findings can misrepresent the current state of knowledge. Ensure your citations reflect the most relevant and up-to-date research available, unless you are specifically analyzing historical perspectives.

Errors in "et al." Usage

The rules for using "et al." (and others) for multiple authors can be specific. Generally, Chicago style allows for listing all authors up to a certain number (often ten in the NB system for the bibliography, though this can vary) before using "et al." in subsequent notes or AD citations. Consult the latest Chicago Manual of Style for precise guidance.

The Importance of Consistent Application

The overarching principle when citing psychological studies in Chicago style, or any style for that matter, is consistent application. A well-formatted reference list or bibliography, coupled with accurate in-text citations, demonstrates your attention to detail and respect for scholarly conventions. It allows your readers to easily verify your sources and build upon your work. This rigor is not merely a formality; it is fundamental to the credibility and advancement of psychological research. By mastering these citation practices, you contribute to a more transparent and reliable academic discourse.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the primary difference between the Notes-Bibliography and Author-Date Chicago style systems for citing psychological studies?

A: The Notes-Bibliography (NB) system uses footnotes or endnotes for in-text citations and a bibliography at the end of the work. The Author-Date (AD) system uses parenthetical in-text citations (e.g., (Smith 2020)) linked to a reference list at the end.

Q: How do I cite a journal article with multiple authors in Chicago style using the Author-Date system?

A: For two authors, cite both names and the year in parentheses: (Smith and Jones 2021). For three or more authors, list the first author's last name followed by "et al." and the year: (Smith et al. 2021). In the reference list, all authors are typically listed up to a certain number (check the latest Chicago Manual of Style for specifics), followed by the year.

Q: When citing a book in Chicago style for a psychological study, what information is essential?

A: Essential information includes the author(s) of the book, the full title of the book (*italicized*), the place of publication, the publisher, and the year of publication. For specific references, you must also include the page number(s).

Q: How should I format a URL in a Chicago style citation for an online psychological resource?

A: In the Notes-Bibliography system, the URL is typically placed at the end of the citation, preceded by "accessed" and the date you retrieved the information. In the Author-Date system, the URL is also placed at the end, often after the access date.

Q: What is the purpose of the access date when citing online psychological studies in Chicago style?

A: The access date is crucial for online resources because web content can be updated or removed without notice. It tells readers when you viewed the material, providing a point of reference if the content changes or becomes unavailable later.

Q: Can I use a shortened title for subsequent footnotes or endnotes when citing psychological studies in the Notes-Bibliography system?

A: Yes, after the first full citation of a source in a note, subsequent citations of the same source can be shortened. Typically, this includes the author's last name, a shortened version of the title, and the specific page number being referenced.

Q: How do I cite a chapter in an edited book about psychology using the Author-Date Chicago style?

A: The reference list entry would include the chapter author(s), chapter title in quotation marks, followed by "In," the book title (italicized), editor(s) name(s) prefixed by "edited by," page range of the chapter, place of publication, and publisher. The in-text citation would be (ChapterAuthorLastName Year).

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

A: "Et al." is a Latin abbreviation meaning "and others." It is used to shorten citations when a work has multiple authors, typically for the third author onwards in the Author-Date system and for third or more authors in the Notes-Bibliography system depending on the specific guidelines.

Q: Should I italicize the titles of psychological journal articles when citing in Chicago style?

A: No, titles of journal articles are enclosed in quotation marks in Chicago style. The titles of the journals themselves (the periodicals) are italicized.

Q: How do I handle a psychological study found on a website with no author listed and no publication date?

A: If there's no author, start the citation with the title of the work. If there's no publication date, use "n.d." (no date) in place of the year. Always include the URL and the access date.

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