

chicago citation examples for dissertations

chicago citation examples for dissertations are crucial for academic integrity and clear communication of research. Navigating the nuances of the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) for doctoral and master's theses can be complex, especially when dealing with diverse source types. This comprehensive guide will demystify the process, providing clear Chicago citation examples for dissertations, covering both the Notes-Bibliography and Author-Date systems. We will explore how to cite various materials, from books and journal articles to dissertations, websites, and even archival materials, ensuring your scholarly work adheres to the highest standards of academic citation. Mastering these Chicago citation examples for dissertations will not only prevent plagiarism but also enhance the credibility and readability of your research.

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Understanding Chicago Style for Dissertations

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) is a widely respected and comprehensive style guide used in many academic disciplines, particularly in the humanities and social sciences. When preparing a dissertation, adhering to a specific citation style is not merely a matter of formatting; it's fundamental to scholarly practice. It establishes a transparent record of your research sources, allowing readers to locate and verify the information you present. For dissertations, Chicago style offers two primary systems: the Notes-Bibliography system and the Author-Date system. Each system has its own conventions for in-text citations and the compilation of reference lists or bibliographies, and the choice between them often depends on the requirements of the institution or department.

Choosing the correct system and applying its principles consistently throughout your dissertation is paramount. Both systems aim to give credit to original authors, avoid plagiarism, and facilitate readers' access to your sources. Understanding the core components of each system, particularly the distinctions between footnotes/endnotes and author-date parenthetical citations, is the first step toward mastering Chicago citation examples for dissertations.

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

The Notes-Bibliography system, often preferred in fields like history, literature, and art history, uses footnotes or endnotes for in-text citations, supplemented by a comprehensive bibliography at the end of the work. This system allows for detailed commentary and explanation within the notes without disrupting the flow of the main text. For dissertation writers, this means each piece of information drawn from an external source needs a corresponding note, providing full bibliographic details upon first mention and shortened versions for subsequent references.

Footnotes and Endnotes

In the Notes-Bibliography system, superscript numbers are placed at the end of a sentence or clause

that contains borrowed material. These numbers correspond to either footnotes at the bottom of the page or endnotes collected at the end of each chapter or the entire dissertation. The first note for a source typically includes full bibliographic information, while subsequent notes for the same source can be shortened. This detailed referencing is crucial for academic rigor in dissertations.

Here are examples of first-time notes for common source types:

- **Book:** 1. Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*, trans. Alan Sheridan (New York: Vintage Books, 1995), 3.
- **Journal Article:** 2. Judith Butler, "Performative Acts and Gender Constitution: Beyond the Speech/Act Distinction," *Theatre Journal* 40, no. 4 (1988): 519.
- **Website:** 3. "About the National Archives," National Archives, accessed October 26, 2023, <https://www.archives.gov/about>.

Bibliography Entries

The bibliography, appearing at the end of the dissertation, provides a complete alphabetical list of all sources cited in the notes. Unlike footnotes, bibliography entries are not numbered. They are typically presented in a block format, with authors' last names appearing first, followed by titles and publication information. This section serves as a comprehensive reference for your readers, allowing them to easily identify and access the full details of every source consulted and cited.

Here are examples of bibliography entries corresponding to the notes above:

- **Book:** Foucault, Michel. *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. Translated by Alan Sheridan. New York: Vintage Books, 1995.
- **Journal Article:** Butler, Judith. "Performative Acts and Gender Constitution: Beyond the Speech/Act Distinction." *Theatre Journal* 40, no. 4 (1988): 515-531.
- **Website:** "About the National Archives." National Archives. Accessed October 26, 2023. <https://www.archives.gov/about>.

The Author-Date System: In-Text Citations and Reference Lists

The Author-Date system, often favored in social sciences and some natural sciences, uses brief parenthetical citations within the text, immediately followed by a comprehensive reference list at the end of the dissertation. This system is known for its conciseness in the body of the text, making it

easier for readers to quickly identify the source of specific information without interruption from footnotes or endnotes. The reference list functions similarly to the bibliography in the Notes-Bibliography system, providing full details for all cited sources.

In-Text Citations

In the Author-Date system, in-text citations consist of the author's last name and the year of publication, enclosed in parentheses. If a direct quote is used, the page number(s) are also included. These citations are typically placed at the end of a sentence or clause containing the cited information.

Here are examples of in-text citations:

- For a general reference: (Foucault 1995).
- For a direct quote: (Butler 1988, 519).
- For a website where an author is not explicitly stated: ("About the National Archives" National Archives).

Reference List Entries

The reference list, positioned at the end of the dissertation, contains full bibliographic details for every source cited in the text, arranged alphabetically by author's last name. Each entry provides enough information for the reader to locate the original source. The formatting of entries in the reference list is similar to that of the bibliography in the Notes-Bibliography system, though subtle differences in punctuation and arrangement may exist depending on the source type and specific Chicago edition guidelines.

Here are examples of reference list entries corresponding to the in-text citations above:

- **Book:** Foucault, Michel. 1995. *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. Translated by Alan Sheridan. New York: Vintage Books.
- **Journal Article:** Butler, Judith. 1988. "Performative Acts and Gender Constitution: Beyond the Speech/Act Distinction." *Theatre Journal* 40 (4): 515-531.
- **Website:** "About the National Archives." National Archives. 2023. Accessed October 26, 2023. <https://www.archives.gov/about>.

Common Source Types and Chicago Citation Examples for Dissertations

Dissertations frequently incorporate a wide array of source materials, and correctly citing each type is essential for maintaining academic integrity and demonstrating thorough research. Familiarizing yourself with Chicago citation examples for dissertations for various formats will streamline the citation process and ensure accuracy across your manuscript. This section will detail how to cite several common sources encountered in doctoral and master's research, providing examples for both the Notes-Bibliography and Author-Date systems.

Books

Books are foundational sources in most academic research. Whether a monograph, edited volume, or a chapter within an edited book, precise citation is required. The primary elements include the author(s), title, publisher, publication location, and year. For translated works, translator information is also included.

- **Notes-Bibliography (Book):**

1. Jane Doe, *The History of Ideas* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2020), 45.
2. John Smith and Mary Jones, eds., *Modern Literary Theory* (New York: Routledge, 2018), 112-130.

- **Bibliography (Book):**

1. Doe, Jane. *The History of Ideas*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2020.
2. Smith, John, and Mary Jones, eds. *Modern Literary Theory*. New York: Routledge, 2018.

- **Author-Date (Book):**

1. (Doe 2020, 45)
2. (Smith and Jones 2018, 112-130)

- **Reference List (Book):**

1. Doe, Jane. 2020. *The History of Ideas*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

2. Smith, John, and Mary Jones, eds. 2018. *Modern Literary Theory*. New York: Routledge.

Journal Articles

Scholarly journal articles are vital for staying current in your field. Citing them correctly involves providing author(s), article title, journal title, volume and issue numbers, year, and page range. For online articles, a DOI or URL is also necessary.

- **Notes-Bibliography (Journal Article):**

1. Alice Brown, "The Evolution of Scientific Thought," *Journal of Academic Research* 35, no. 2 (2021): 220.
2. Bob White, "Digital Humanities and Textual Analysis," *Literary Quarterly* 10, no. 1 (2019): 55, doi:10.1080/12345678.2019.987654.

- **Bibliography (Journal Article):**

1. Brown, Alice. "The Evolution of Scientific Thought." *Journal of Academic Research* 35, no. 2 (2021): 215-230.
2. White, Bob. "Digital Humanities and Textual Analysis." *Literary Quarterly* 10, no. 1 (2019): 50-65. doi:10.1080/12345678.2019.987654.

- **Author-Date (Journal Article):**

1. (Brown 2021, 220)
2. (White 2019, 55)

- **Reference List (Journal Article):**

1. Brown, Alice. 2021. "The Evolution of Scientific Thought." *Journal of Academic Research* 35 (2): 215-230.
2. White, Bob. 2019. "Digital Humanities and Textual Analysis." *Literary Quarterly* 10 (1): 50-65. doi:10.1080/12345678.2019.987654.

Published Dissertations and Theses

When citing a dissertation or thesis that has been published and is available through a database (like ProQuest Dissertations & Theses), it should be treated similarly to a book or journal article, depending on its format. Include the author, title, publication information, and importantly, the database name and the dissertation/thesis number if available.

- **Notes-Bibliography (Published Dissertation):**

1. Charles Davis, *The Impact of Social Media on Political Discourse* (Ph.D. diss., University of California, Berkeley, 2019), ProQuest Dissertations Publishing, AAT 1234567.

- **Bibliography (Published Dissertation):**

1. Davis, Charles. *The Impact of Social Media on Political Discourse*. Ph.D. diss., University of California, Berkeley, 2019. ProQuest Dissertations Publishing, AAT 1234567.

- **Author-Date (Published Dissertation):**

1. (Davis 2019)

- **Reference List (Published Dissertation):**

1. Davis, Charles. 2019. *The Impact of Social Media on Political Discourse*. Ph.D. diss., University of California, Berkeley. ProQuest Dissertations Publishing, AAT 1234567.

Unpublished Dissertations and Theses

If a dissertation or thesis has not been published and is only accessible through a university archive or personal collection, it requires a specific citation format. You'll need to indicate that it is an unpublished work and provide its institutional origin and year.

- **Notes-Bibliography (Unpublished Dissertation):**

1. Emily Green, "Urban Development in Post-War America" (Ph.D. diss., Harvard University, 2015), 88.

- **Bibliography (Unpublished Dissertation):**

1. Green, Emily. "Urban Development in Post-War America." Ph.D. diss., Harvard University, 2015.

- **Author-Date (Unpublished Dissertation):**

1. (Green 2015, 88)

- **Reference List (Unpublished Dissertation):**

1. Green, Emily. 2015. "Urban Development in Post-War America." Ph.D. diss., Harvard University.

Websites and Online Resources

Citing online sources can be challenging due to their dynamic nature and varying information. Chicago style requires you to provide as much identifying information as possible, including the author (if identifiable), title of the specific page or document, name of the website, publication or last updated date, and the URL. An access date is also crucial for archival purposes.

- **Notes-Bibliography (Website):**

1. "Climate Change Impacts," Environmental Protection Agency, last modified October 15, 2023, <https://www.epa.gov/climate-change>.
2. Sarah Lee, "The Future of AI in Medicine," *Tech Innovations Blog*, October 20, 2023, <https://www.techinnovations.com/ai-medicine>.

- **Bibliography (Website):**

1. "Climate Change Impacts." Environmental Protection Agency. Last modified October 15, 2023. <https://www.epa.gov/climate-change>.
2. Lee, Sarah. "The Future of AI in Medicine." *Tech Innovations Blog*. October 20, 2023. <https://www.techinnovations.com/ai-medicine>.

- **Author-Date (Website):**

1. ("Climate Change Impacts" Environmental Protection Agency)
2. (Lee 2023)

- **Reference List (Website):**

1. "Climate Change Impacts." Environmental Protection Agency. Last modified October 15, 2023. <https://www.epa.gov/climate-change>.
2. Lee, Sarah. 2023. "The Future of AI in Medicine." *Tech Innovations Blog*. October 20, 2023. <https://www.techinnovations.com/ai-medicine>.

Archival Materials

Archival materials, such as manuscripts, letters, and official documents, require specific citation practices that clearly identify the collection, item, and repository. These citations help researchers locate the exact physical or digital item within the archive.

- **Notes-Bibliography (Archival Material):**

1. Letter from Eleanor Roosevelt to Franklin D. Roosevelt, June 14, 1945, Eleanor Roosevelt Papers, Hyde Park, NY, Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum.
2. United States, Department of Justice, Case File 123-456, Records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.

- **Bibliography (Archival Material):**

1. Eleanor Roosevelt. Letter to Franklin D. Roosevelt, June 14, 1945. Eleanor Roosevelt

Papers. Hyde Park, NY. Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum.

2. United States. Department of Justice. Case File 123-456. Records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.

- **Author-Date (Archival Material):**

1. (Roosevelt, June 14, 1945)
2. (United States, Department of Justice)

- **Reference List (Archival Material):**

1. Eleanor Roosevelt. 1945. Letter to Franklin D. Roosevelt, June 14. Eleanor Roosevelt Papers. Hyde Park, NY. Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum.
2. United States. Department of Justice. Case File 123-456. Records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.

Edited Book Chapters

When you cite a chapter written by someone other than the editor of an anthology, you must cite both the chapter author and the editor of the larger work. This acknowledges the specific contribution of the chapter author while also crediting the editor for compiling the collection.

- **Notes-Bibliography (Chapter):**

1. Michael Brownstein, "Existentialism and the Modern Novel," in *Readings in Philosophy*, ed. Arthur Miller (New York: Oxford University Press, 2019), 175.

- **Bibliography (Chapter):**

1. Brownstein, Michael. "Existentialism and the Modern Novel." In *Readings in Philosophy*, edited by Arthur Miller, 170-190. New York: Oxford University Press, 2019.

- **Author-Date (Chapter):**

1. (Brownstein 2019, 175)

• **Reference List (Chapter):**

1. Brownstein, Michael. 2019. "Existentialism and the Modern Novel." In *Readings in Philosophy*, edited by Arthur Miller, 170-190. New York: Oxford University Press.

Formatting Considerations for Dissertations

Beyond the specific rules for citing individual sources, the overall formatting of citations within a dissertation is critical for presenting a polished and professional document. Adhering to Chicago style guidelines for footnotes, endnotes, bibliographies, and reference lists ensures that your work meets academic standards and is easily navigable for your committee and future readers.

Consistency is Key

The most important formatting rule for any dissertation is consistency. Whichever Chicago system you use (Notes-Bibliography or Author-Date), apply its rules uniformly throughout the entire document. This includes the way you format dates, punctuation, capitalization, and the general arrangement of bibliographic information. Inconsistent formatting can distract readers and signal a lack of attention to detail, which can detract from the quality of your research.

Key areas for consistent formatting include:

- The use of italics for titles of books and journals.
- The placement and style of punctuation (e.g., periods, commas, colons).
- The capitalization of titles and headings.
- The format of dates.
- The structure of footnotes/endnotes versus bibliography/reference list entries.

Page Numbering and Placement

The placement of footnotes and the presentation of the bibliography or reference list are governed by specific Chicago style rules. Footnotes typically appear at the bottom of the page where the reference is made, while endnotes are gathered at the end of the document or chapter.

Bibliographies and reference lists are conventionally placed at the very end of the dissertation, after the main body of text and any appendices. Ensure that your page numbering is correct and that all citation elements are placed according to Chicago Manual of Style specifications.

Best Practices for Citing in Your Dissertation

Successfully integrating Chicago citation examples for dissertations into your work involves more than just knowing the rules; it requires a proactive and organized approach. Developing good habits early in the research and writing process will save considerable time and prevent errors later on. Staying organized will also help you manage the sheer volume of sources typically encountered in doctoral or master's research.

Here are some best practices:

- **Start Early:** Begin citing your sources as you write. Don't wait until the end to compile your bibliography or reference list.
- **Use Citation Management Software:** Tools like Zotero, Mendeley, or EndNote can automate much of the citation formatting process and help you keep track of your sources. Ensure they are configured to follow the Chicago Manual of Style.
- **Consult the Official Manual:** Always refer to the latest edition of The Chicago Manual of Style for definitive guidance, especially for less common source types or complex situations.
- **Review Your Institution's Guidelines:** Universities and departments may have specific requirements or preferences that supplement Chicago style. Always check your program's dissertation manual.
- **Proofread Meticulously:** After drafting, thoroughly proofread all your citations and bibliographic entries for accuracy and consistency.
- **Seek Feedback:** Have your advisor or colleagues review your citations for any errors or inconsistencies.

FAQ

Q: What is the difference between the Notes-Bibliography and Author-Date systems in Chicago style for dissertations?

A: The Notes-Bibliography system uses footnotes or endnotes for in-text citations and a bibliography at the end. The Author-Date system uses parenthetical in-text citations (author, year) and a reference list at the end. The choice often depends on the discipline or institutional preference.

Q: How do I cite a book that has been translated in my dissertation using Chicago style?

A: For the Notes-Bibliography system, the note would include the original author, title, translator, publication information, and page number. The bibliography entry would follow a similar structure. For the Author-Date system, the parenthetical citation includes the author and year, and the reference list entry would include translator information. Example (Notes-Bibliography): 1. Italo Calvino, *Invisible Cities*, trans. William Weaver (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1974), 10.

Q: What is the correct way to cite a website in a Chicago-style dissertation?

A: You should include the author (if known), title of the specific page or document, name of the website, publication or last updated date, and the URL. For the Notes-Bibliography system, the note would look like: "Article Title," Website Name, last modified Month Day, Year, URL. For Author-Date, it would be (Article Title Website Name).

Q: How do I cite my own unpublished dissertation in another work?

A: If citing your own unpublished dissertation, treat it as an unpublished work. Include your name, the title of the dissertation, indicate it is an unpublished dissertation, and the institution where it was completed, along with the year. Example (Notes-Bibliography): 1. Your Name, "Your Dissertation Title" (Ph.D. diss., Your University, Year), page number.

Q: Do I need to cite a source if I only paraphrase it in my dissertation using Chicago style?

A: Yes, you absolutely must cite a source even if you are paraphrasing. Paraphrasing involves restating someone else's ideas in your own words, but the original ideas still belong to the original author and require attribution to avoid plagiarism. Both the Notes-Bibliography and Author-Date systems require in-text citations for paraphrased material.

Q: What if a source has no author listed for a Chicago citation

example for my dissertation?

A: If a source lacks an author, you can start the citation with the title of the work. For the Notes-Bibliography system, the note begins with the title, and the bibliography entry begins with the title. For the Author-Date system, the in-text citation uses a shortened version of the title, and the reference list entry also starts with the title. For online sources, the website name might be used if it effectively stands in for an author.

Q: How do I cite a government document in a Chicago-style dissertation?

A: Citing government documents depends on their format. For the Notes-Bibliography system, you generally start with the name of the government body, then the specific agency, the title of the document, and publication details. For the Author-Date system, the government body often serves as the author. Example (Notes-Bibliography): United States, Congressional Budget Office, *The Economic Outlook for 2024* (Washington, D.C.: CBO, 2023), 15.

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