

chicago citation examples for maps

The challenge of accurately citing visual and cartographic materials can be daunting, but understanding specific styles like the Chicago Manual of Style is crucial for academic and professional work. This article provides comprehensive chicago citation examples for maps, breaking down the intricacies of crediting these vital sources. We will explore how to cite various types of maps, from historical atlases to contemporary digital renderings, ensuring your bibliography is both precise and compliant with Chicago style. Proper attribution not only avoids plagiarism but also lends credibility to your research by acknowledging the origins of your visual data. Furthermore, we'll delve into the components of a standard map citation, including author, title, publication details, and scale, offering practical advice for navigating common citation scenarios.

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Understanding the Core Elements of Map Citations

When constructing a Chicago-style citation for a map, several key pieces of information are consistently required. These elements work together to clearly identify the source map and allow readers to locate it if necessary. Understanding these fundamental components is the first step to generating accurate Chicago citation examples for maps. The Chicago Manual of Style emphasizes clarity and completeness, ensuring that the reader has all the necessary information to track down the exact map you consulted. This often includes details that might seem minor but are critical for precision.

Essential Information for Map Citations

Regardless of whether the map is in print or digital format, certain core details remain paramount. These include the creator (if identifiable), the title of the map, the publisher or source, the date of publication or creation, and any relevant identifying information such as map series names or plate numbers. The scale of the map can also be an important detail to include, especially for historical or scholarly works where the spatial representation is critical to the analysis.

- **Creator/Author:** The individual or organization responsible for creating the map.

- **Title:** The official name of the map.
- **Publisher/Source:** The entity that published or made the map available.
- **Date:** The year of publication or creation.
- **Location:** For print maps, this might include city and state. For digital maps, a URL or DOI.
- **Scale:** The ratio of map distance to ground distance.
- **Edition/Version:** If applicable, to distinguish between different versions.

Citing Print Maps: Atlases, Wall Maps, and Individual Sheets

Citing print maps requires a slightly different approach depending on the map's format. Atlases, wall maps, and individual map sheets each have specific nuances that must be addressed within the Chicago citation examples for maps framework. The goal is always to provide enough information for a reader to find the exact cartographic item you referenced. This precision is especially important in academic research where the integrity of data and visual representation is under scrutiny.

Citing Maps from Atlases

When a map is part of a larger atlas, the citation needs to acknowledge both the individual map and the atlas itself. This involves identifying the specific map's title (if it has one distinct from the atlas section) or a descriptive title, followed by the atlas's title, editor or author, publication details, and page numbers. For Chicago citation examples for maps within atlases, clarity on where within the atlas the map resides is key.

The typical structure for citing a map from an atlas in Chicago style (Notes and Bibliography) would be:

- In a note: Author/Editor of Atlas, "Title of Map" (if applicable), in Title of Atlas, edition (if applicable), (Place of Publication: Publisher, Year), page number(s).
- In a bibliography: Author/Editor of Atlas. Title of Atlas. Edition (if applicable). Place of Publication: Publisher, Year. "Title of Map" (if applicable). Page number(s).

For example:

Note: John Smith, "The City of Chicago," in *Historical Atlas of Illinois*, 3rd ed. (Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 2005), 42.

Bibliography: Smith, John. *Historical Atlas of Illinois*. 3rd ed. Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 2005. "The City of Chicago." 42.

Citing Individual Print Maps (Wall Maps, Folded Maps)

For standalone print maps, such as wall maps or folded road maps, the citation focuses directly on the map itself. You'll need the title, the cartographer or surveying body, the publisher, the place and date of publication, and the scale. If no author or cartographer is listed, the publisher often serves as the primary identifying entity. These Chicago citation examples for maps highlight the map as a primary source document.

Example of a citation for an individual print map:

Note: Rand McNally, *Chicago Metropolitan Area Street Map* (Skokie, IL: Rand McNally, 2018), scale 1:50,000.

Bibliography: Rand McNally. *Chicago Metropolitan Area Street Map*. Skokie, IL: Rand McNally, 2018. Scale 1:50,000.

Citing Historical Maps

Historical maps, whether found in a book, an archive, or as a standalone reproduction, require careful attribution. The citation should reflect the original creation date and creator, as well as the details of the edition or collection in which you found it. Chicago citation examples for maps of historical significance demand attention to both the original source and its accessibility in your research context.

If citing a historical map that has been reproduced in a contemporary work:

Note: Abraham Ortelius, "Typus Orbis Terrarum," circa 1570, reproduced in Theatrum Orbis Terrarum (Antwerp: Jan Moretus, 1598), plate 1.

Bibliography: Ortelius, Abraham. "Typus Orbis Terrarum." Circa 1570. Reproduced in Theatrum Orbis Terrarum. Antwerp: Jan Moretus, 1598. Plate 1.

Citing Digital and Online Maps

The digital age has introduced new formats for maps, from interactive online maps to geographic information system (GIS) data. Citing these sources requires careful consideration of how to represent digital accessibility and versioning. Chicago citation examples for maps in digital formats prioritize providing a stable and accessible reference, often through URLs or DOIs.

Citing Online Interactive Maps (e.g., Google Maps, Bing Maps)

When you reference an online map service, such as Google Maps or Bing Maps, the citation should include the name of the service, the specific map or view you used, the date you accessed it, and the URL. Since these maps are dynamic and can change, the access date is particularly important. These Chicago citation examples for maps acknowledge the live nature of online cartography.

Example for an online interactive map:

Note: Google Maps, satellite view of Millennium Park, Chicago, accessed March 15, 2024, <https://maps.google.com/>.

Bibliography: Google Maps. Satellite view of Millennium Park, Chicago. Accessed March 15, 2024. <https://maps.google.com/>.

Citing Digital Datasets and GIS Maps

For more complex digital map data, such as GIS datasets or geospatial information systems, the citation should be as precise as possible. This might include the data creator, the dataset name, the version number, the date of creation or publication, and the source

or repository from which it was obtained, along with a URL or DOI. These Chicago citation examples for maps are crucial for reproducibility in data-driven research.

Example for a digital map dataset:

Note: U.S. Census Bureau, "TIGER/Line Shapefiles: 2020," accessed February 10, 2024, <https://www.census.gov/geographies/mapping-files/time-series/geo/tiger-line-file.html>.

Bibliography: U.S. Census Bureau. "TIGER/Line Shapefiles: 2020." Accessed February 10, 2024.

<https://www.census.gov/geographies/mapping-files/time-series/geo/tiger-line-file.html>.

Citing Maps from Digital Archives and Databases

Many libraries and archives now provide digitized historical maps online. When citing these, you should include information about the original map, its creator and date, and then the details of the digital collection and the archive where it resides. The URL is essential for retrieval. These Chicago citation examples for maps found in digital archives ensure proper credit to both the original cartographer and the institution preserving and digitizing the work.

Example for a digitized historical map from an archive:

Note: Library of Congress, "Map of the City of Chicago," circa 1890, digitized by the Library of Congress, accessed March 15, 2024, <https://www.loc.gov/item/gm70001010/>.

Bibliography: Library of Congress. "Map of the City of Chicago." Circa 1890. Digitized by the Library of Congress. Accessed March 15, 2024.

<https://www.loc.gov/item/gm70001010/>.

Special Cases in Map Citation

Beyond the standard print and digital formats, certain maps present unique challenges for citation. This can include maps created for specific projects, maps without clear authorship, or maps that are part of larger, complex visual materials. Applying Chicago citation examples for maps in these instances requires flexibility and a thorough understanding of the underlying principles of attribution.

Maps Created by Government Agencies

Maps produced by government bodies, such as national mapping agencies or municipal planning departments, are typically cited by the agency name as the author. The title of the map, publication details, and date are then provided. These Chicago citation examples for maps emphasize the official source of cartographic information.

Example:

Note: National Geographic Society, "Chicago," National Geographic Maps, 2022, scale 1:24,000.

Bibliography: National Geographic Society. "Chicago." National Geographic Maps, 2022. Scale 1:24,000.

Maps Without Clear Authorship or Publication Information

In cases where a map lacks a clear author or publication details, you should provide as much information as is available. If the map is from a specific publication or collection, cite that source. If it's an unattributed map found within a broader document, you might describe it contextually. Chicago citation examples for maps with missing information prioritize transparency about the limitations of the source.

Example:

Note: Unattributed map showing proposed railway lines, in "Report of the City Planning Committee," (Chicago, 1935), 15.

Bibliography: Unattributed map showing proposed railway lines. In "Report of the City Planning Committee," 15. Chicago, 1935.

Importance of Accurate Map Citation

The meticulous practice of citing maps, whether through detailed print references or

precise digital links, is fundamental to scholarly integrity. Accurate Chicago citation examples for maps not only prevent academic misconduct but also empower readers to trace the provenance of your visual data. This verification process is essential for the credibility and reproducibility of your research, allowing others to critically assess the information and the sources upon which your conclusions are based. Ultimately, a well-cited map contributes to the broader academic conversation by clearly defining its place within the existing body of knowledge.

FAQ

Q: What is the most crucial element to include in Chicago citation examples for maps?

A: The most crucial element is providing enough detail for the reader to locate the specific map you used. This usually involves the map's title, creator (if known), publisher/source, and date, along with location details like page numbers for print maps or URLs for digital maps.

Q: How do I cite a map I found online that doesn't have a clear author or publication date?

A: For online maps without clear authorship or publication dates, prioritize the name of the website or platform (e.g., Google Maps), a descriptive title of the map view or area, the date you accessed the map, and the full URL.

Q: Should I include the scale of a map in my Chicago citation?

A: Including the scale of a map is highly recommended, especially for academic or research purposes, as it provides essential context about the map's representation of space. It should be listed after the publication details.

Q: What is the difference between citing a map in a note versus in a bibliography for Chicago style?

A: In Chicago style, notes (footnotes or endnotes) provide immediate citation information for a specific reference within the text, often more detailed for the first citation. The bibliography provides a comprehensive list of all sources cited at the end of the work, typically in a more concise format.

Q: How do I cite a map that is part of a historical atlas?

A: When citing a map from a historical atlas, you need to cite both the individual map (if it has a specific title) and the atlas. The format typically includes the map's title, followed by the atlas title, editor/author, publication details, and the page number where the map appears.

Q: Are Chicago citation examples for maps different for print versus digital versions of the same map?

A: Yes, the citation format differs significantly. Print maps require details like publisher, place of publication, and page numbers. Digital maps require information about the online platform, access date, and a stable URL or DOI.

Q: What if the map I'm using is very old and has no clear publication date?

A: For historical maps without a precise date, use "circa" followed by the estimated year of creation (e.g., "circa 1850"). You should also note the source or collection where you found the map.

Q: How do I cite a custom map I created using GIS software?

A: If you created the map yourself using GIS data, you would cite the source of the data. If you are presenting your own compilation, you would describe it as such, noting the software used and the data sources. The specific format will depend on whether it's in print or digital form and the context of its use.

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