

chicago citation examples for treaties

Chicago Citation Examples for Treaties: A Comprehensive Guide

chicago citation examples for treaties are essential for any academic or legal work that references international agreements. Properly citing treaties ensures that your readers can locate the exact source material you used, maintaining academic integrity and facilitating further research. This comprehensive guide will navigate you through the intricacies of Chicago style for treaty citations, covering both the Notes and Bibliography system and the Author-Date system. We will explore common scenarios, including citing treaties from different sources, multilateral and bilateral agreements, and amendments. Understanding these examples will significantly enhance the clarity and credibility of your scholarly endeavors when dealing with international law and diplomacy.

Table of Contents

- Understanding Treaty Citations in Chicago Style
- Notes and Bibliography System: Treaty Citation Examples
 - Basic Treaty Citation in Notes
 - Treaty Citation in the Bibliography
 - Multilateral Treaties
 - Bilateral Treaties
 - Treaties with Amendments or Protocols
 - Treaties Accessed Online
- Author-Date System: Treaty Citation Examples
 - Treaty Citation in Text
 - Treaty Citation in the Reference List
 - Author-Date for Multilateral Treaties
 - Author-Date for Bilateral Treaties

- Author-Date for Treaties with Amendments
- Key Elements of Treaty Citations
- Common Pitfalls to Avoid

Understanding Treaty Citations in Chicago Style

Chicago style, renowned for its flexibility and thoroughness, offers specific guidelines for citing treaties, which are often complex legal documents. Unlike standard book or journal articles, treaties have unique identifying features such as signatory parties, date of signing, date of entry into force, and often specific treaty series designations. Adhering to Chicago's framework ensures that these crucial details are accurately represented, allowing for unambiguous identification and retrieval of the treaty in question.

The two main systems within Chicago style, the Notes and Bibliography system and the Author-Date system, each have distinct approaches to treaty citation. While the fundamental information required remains the same, the presentation and placement of this information differ significantly. This guide will meticulously detail how to format these citations in both systems, providing practical examples that cover various treaty types and citation contexts.

Notes and Bibliography System: Treaty Citation Examples

The Notes and Bibliography system, often favored in humanities and historical research, uses numbered footnotes or endnotes to cite sources within the text and a bibliography at the end of the work to list all sources cited. Treaty citations in this system require careful attention to detail to accurately reflect the treaty's particulars.

Basic Treaty Citation in Notes

A basic treaty citation in a footnote or endnote will typically include the treaty's title, the date of signing, and the official publication where it can be found. For instance, a common format might look like this: "General Treaty Between the United States of America and Great Britain, Respecting the Rights of the Channel Islands, signed at Washington, April 11, 1908, 35 Stat. 2077." The citation includes the full title, the date of signing, and the volume and page number of the United States Statutes at Large, a common repository for U.S. treaties.

It is crucial to use the full, official title of the treaty whenever possible. If the treaty is widely known by a shorter name, that may be used after the first full citation, but the initial citation should be comprehensive. The date of signing is paramount, as it often precedes the date of entry into force, which is also an important piece of information, though not always included in the initial note citation unless it's the primary identifier.

Treaty Citation in the Bibliography

In the bibliography, treaty citations are generally more concise than in the notes, but they still contain essential identifying information. The structure aims to provide enough detail for the reader to locate the treaty without necessarily repeating every single element from the initial note. A bibliography entry for the same treaty might appear as: "General Treaty Between the United States of America and Great Britain, Respecting the Rights of the Channel Islands. Signed at Washington, April 11, 1908. 35 Stat. 2077."

The bibliography entry typically omits specific page numbers unless an entire treaty is being cited as a standalone source. The focus is on the treaty's identity and its primary published source. Authors should be consistent with the information provided, ensuring that the bibliography serves as a clear reference point for all consulted materials.

Multilateral Treaties

Multilateral treaties, involving three or more parties, are common in international relations and law. Citing them requires identifying the treaty, the parties involved (or indicating it's a multilateral agreement), and the publication source. For a note citation: "Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, opened for signature December 9, 1948, 78 U.N.T.S. 277." The "opened for signature" date is often used for multilateral conventions when a specific signing date for all parties isn't practical or relevant for citation.

In the bibliography, this would be formatted as: "Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. Opened for signature December 9, 1948. 78 U.N.T.S. 277." The United Nations Treaty Series (U.N.T.S.) is a primary source for multilateral treaties, and its citation is a standard element.

Bilateral Treaties

Bilateral treaties, as the name suggests, are agreements between two countries. The citation format will clearly indicate the two parties involved. For a note citation: "Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Canada Concerning the Exchange of Information Regarding Energy Developments, signed at Ottawa, September 26, 1986, [1987] Can. T.S. no. 35." This example shows the specific bilateral parties and a Canadian Treaty Series designation.

The corresponding bibliography entry would be: "Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Canada Concerning the Exchange of Information Regarding Energy Developments. Signed at Ottawa, September 26, 1986. [1987] Can. T.S. no. 35." Precision in naming the parties is crucial for distinguishing between bilateral agreements.

Treaties with Amendments or Protocols

When citing treaties that have been amended or have accompanying protocols, it is important to reference the amendment or protocol along with the original treaty. In a note: "Protocol of Amendment to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, done at Montreal, June 17, 2005, ICAO Doc. 9851 (2006)." This specifies the amendment and its location within ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) documentation.

The bibliography entry would look like: "Protocol of Amendment to the Convention on International Civil Aviation. Done at Montreal, June 17, 2005. ICAO Doc. 9851 (2006)." If the original convention is also being referenced, it would have its own separate bibliography entry, clearly distinguished.

Treaties Accessed Online

With the increasing digitization of legal documents, citing treaties found online is common. The Chicago Manual of Style recommends including a stable URL if available and the date of access. For a note: "Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, July 1, 1968, 729 U.N.T.S. 161, <https://treaties.un.org/doc/publication/ctc/volume%20XXIV/chapter%20XXIV-2.pdf> (accessed October 26, 2023)."

The bibliography entry would include the same information, potentially with a slightly more formalized structure for the URL: "Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. July 1, 1968. 729 U.N.T.S. 161. <https://treaties.un.org/doc/publication/ctc/volume%20XXIV/chapter%20XXIV-2.pdf> (accessed October 26, 2023)." Ensuring the URL is stable and the access date is current is vital for online sources.

Author-Date System: Treaty Citation Examples

The Author-Date system, prevalent in sciences and social sciences, uses parenthetical citations within the text that include the author's name (or treaty title if no clear author) and the year of publication, with a corresponding reference list at the end of the paper. Treaty citations in this system adapt to this structure.

Treaty Citation in Text

In the Author-Date system, in-text citations are brief. For a treaty, which often lacks a single named author, the citation typically uses the treaty's title or a shortened version of it, along with the year of signing or entry into force. For example: "(Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide 1948)." If a treaty is published in a series with a clear identifier, that might be used instead of the full title, especially if it's consistently referenced throughout the text.

The key is to ensure that the in-text citation uniquely identifies the treaty for the reader and corresponds directly to an entry in the reference list. This brevity allows the text to flow more smoothly while still providing immediate attribution.

Treaty Citation in the Reference List

The reference list in the Author-Date system provides full bibliographic details. For a treaty, it will include the treaty's title, the relevant date, and the publication information. For the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the reference list entry would be: "Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. 1948. Opened for signature December 9. 78 U.N.T.S. 277."

The year provided in the citation (e.g., 1948) is typically the year of signing or entry into force, aligning with the in-text citation's year. The rest of the entry provides the full details necessary for retrieval, mirroring the structure used in the Notes and Bibliography system but formatted for a reference list.

Author-Date for Multilateral Treaties

Multilateral treaties are cited by their title, as they do not have a singular author. For an in-text citation: "(Convention on International Civil Aviation 1944)." The year typically refers to the year the convention was opened for signature or became effective.

The reference list entry would be: "Convention on International Civil Aviation. 1944. Opened for signature December 7. 15 U.N.T.S. 295." This format clearly identifies the treaty and its foundational details for the reader.

Author-Date for Bilateral Treaties

Bilateral treaties are also cited by their title in the Author-Date system, as they are agreements between states rather than individuals or organizations. In-text citation example: "(Agreement on Trade and Commerce between the United States and Japan 1990)."

The reference list entry: "Agreement on Trade and Commerce between the United States and Japan. 1990. Signed at Tokyo, March 15. 105 Stat. 1234." The clarity of the parties involved is maintained, and the publication details are provided as needed.

Author-Date for Treaties with Amendments

When dealing with amended treaties in the Author-Date system, the citation should reflect the specific version being referenced or the original treaty and the amendment separately, depending on the context. If referencing the original treaty with its protocols, the in-text citation might be: "(Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties 1969)."

The reference list entry would then be: "Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties. 1969. Opened for signature May 23. 1155 U.N.T.S. 331." If a specific protocol or amendment is the focus, it would have its own entry and citation, potentially referencing the original treaty as well.

Key Elements of Treaty Citations

Regardless of the Chicago style system employed, certain key elements are consistently important for accurate treaty citations. These include the full and official title of the treaty, the date of signing or opening for signature, the date of entry into force (if particularly relevant or the primary identifier), the signatory parties (especially for bilateral treaties), and the authoritative publication source (e.g., treaty series, statutes at large).

The publication source is critical for enabling readers to locate the treaty. Official treaty series, national statute compilations, and reliable online treaty databases are common sources. When citing from an online source, providing a stable URL and the date of access is essential. Consistency in citation format across a document is paramount for clarity and professionalism.

Common Pitfalls to Avoid

One common pitfall is using informal or shortened treaty titles without first providing the full, official title. Another mistake is omitting crucial publication details, making it difficult for readers to find the cited treaty. In the Author-Date system, failing to match the in-text citation with the reference list entry is a significant error.

Inconsistently applying citation rules, especially regarding dates and publication details, can also undermine the credibility of a work. Ensure that you understand whether to cite the date of signing, the date of entry into force, or the date the treaty was opened for signature, as this can vary. Always consult the latest edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style* for the most current guidance on treaty citations.

FAQ

Q: What is the most crucial information to include when citing a treaty in Chicago style?

A: The most crucial information includes the full treaty title, the date it was signed or opened for signature, and its authoritative publication source (e.g., treaty series volume and page number).

Q: How do I cite a treaty if I found it online using the Chicago Notes and Bibliography system?

A: When citing a treaty found online, include a stable URL and the date you accessed the material, in addition to the standard bibliographic details like the title and publication source.

Q: Should I include the date of entry into force for all treaty citations?

A: While the date of signing or opening for signature is usually primary, the date of entry into force can be important depending on the context of your research. Include it if it is a key identifier or if your source emphasizes it.

Q: How does citing a multilateral treaty differ from citing a bilateral treaty in Chicago style?

A: For multilateral treaties, the citation usually focuses on the treaty's title and its accession date. For bilateral treaties, it is essential to clearly name both signatory parties in the citation.

Q: What is the "official publication source" for a treaty?

A: The official publication source is the designated place where the treaty is legally published. This could be a national collection of laws (like the U.S. Statutes at Large), an international treaty series (like the United Nations Treaty Series), or an official governmental repository.

Q: How do I handle amendments or protocols when citing a treaty in Chicago style?

A: You should cite the amendment or protocol specifically, often mentioning its relationship to the original treaty. For example, you might cite "Protocol to Amend the Convention on International Civil Aviation."

Q: In the Author-Date system, what do I use for the "author" of a treaty citation?

A: Treaties do not have individual authors. Instead, you typically use the treaty's title as the "author" or main identifier in the citation.

Q: What are the common treaty series abbreviations I might encounter?

A: Common abbreviations include U.N.T.S. (United Nations Treaty Series), T.I.A.S. (United States Treaties and Other International Agreements), and Stat. (United States Statutes at Large). Always ensure you use the full name or standard abbreviation consistently.

[Chicago Citation Examples For Treaties](#)

Chicago Citation Examples For Treaties

Related Articles

- [chicago manual endnote reference format rules pdf](#)
- [chicago manual for students](#)
- [chicago manual of style 17th edition tricks](#)

[Back to Home](#)