

chicago manual of style citing graphics examples

chicago manual of style citing graphics examples are essential for academic and professional writing to ensure proper attribution and avoid plagiarism when incorporating visual elements. This comprehensive guide delves into the nuances of citing various types of graphics, including photographs, illustrations, charts, graphs, and tables, according to the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS), 17th edition. We will explore the foundational principles of CMOS citation for graphics, differentiate between sourced and self-created graphics, and provide detailed examples for common scenarios. Understanding these principles is crucial for maintaining academic integrity and enhancing the credibility of your work by clearly acknowledging the origin of all visual data and artwork.

Table of Contents

Understanding Chicago Manual of Style Citation for Graphics

When to Cite Graphics

Types of Graphics and Their Citation Requirements

Sourced Graphics: Essential Elements of Citation

Photograph Citations

Illustration and Artwork Citations

Chart and Graph Citations

Table Citations

Self-Created Graphics: When and How to Cite

Placement of Citations for Graphics

Notes-Bibliography System Examples

Author-Note System Examples

Frequently Asked Questions

Understanding Chicago Manual of Style Citation for Graphics

The Chicago Manual of Style provides a robust framework for acknowledging the sources of all information presented in a document, including visual materials. Proper citation is not merely a formality; it is a fundamental aspect of scholarly communication that grants credit to creators, allows readers to locate original sources, and demonstrates the writer's diligence and integrity. When dealing with graphics, CMOS emphasizes clarity and consistency, ensuring that readers can easily identify the origin of every visual element used.

The core principle behind citing graphics in CMOS is to provide sufficient information for a reader to find the original source. This typically involves identifying the creator, the title of the work (if applicable), the publication or source where it was found, and relevant details like date and page number. The specific format will vary depending on whether the graphic is sourced from another publication, a website, a database, or if it's an original creation.

When to Cite Graphics

The necessity of citing a graphic hinges on its origin and whether it represents existing information or creative work. If a graphic was not created by you, or if it depicts data, an image, or artwork that originates from another source, it must be cited. This includes photographs, illustrations, maps, charts, graphs, and tables that you have found and incorporated into your document, regardless of whether they are from a book, journal, website, or digital archive.

Even if a graphic is modified, a citation is still required to acknowledge the original source. For instance, if you take a table from a report and alter some of its figures or reformat it for clarity, you must still cite the original source of the data. Similarly, if you reproduce a photograph, even a public domain one, noting its origin is good practice and often required for clarity and completeness in scholarly work.

Types of Graphics and Their Citation Requirements

Chicago Manual of Style treats different types of graphics with slightly varied citation approaches, though the underlying principles remain consistent. The goal is always to provide the necessary details for retrieval. The primary distinction often lies in whether the graphic has a distinct title and a named creator.

Sourced Graphics: Essential Elements of Citation

When you source a graphic from an existing publication, website, or database, your citation needs to capture key identifying information. This typically includes the creator's name (if available), the title of the graphic or the work it belongs to, the publication or website name, the publisher (if applicable), the date of publication or access, and a location identifier such as a page number, URL, or database name.

The specific elements and their order will depend on the format of the original source. For example, citing a photograph from a book will differ from citing a chart found on a government website. However, the intent is always to provide enough detail for a reader to find the exact graphic you used.

Photograph Citations

Citing a photograph involves identifying the photographer, the title of the photograph (if it has one), and the source where you found it. If the photograph is part of a larger work, like a book or an article, you will cite that work as well. For online photographs, the URL and access date are crucial.

A general format might look like this: Photographer's Name, "Title of Photograph," in Title of Publication, Date of Publication, page number or URL. For example: Ansel Adams, "Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico," in Ansel Adams: 400 Photographs (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1981), 152.

Illustration and Artwork Citations

Similar to photographs, illustrations and other artwork require attribution to the artist or illustrator. If the artwork has a title, include it. The source where the artwork was found—whether a book, journal, gallery website, or museum collection—must also be clearly indicated.

An example for an illustration in a book: Quentin Blake, illustration for Roald Dahl, *Matilda* (New York: Viking, 1988), 45. For online artwork: Artist Name, "Title of Artwork," Year Created, Collection Name, Museum/Gallery Name, accessed Month Day, Year, URL.

Chart and Graph Citations

When citing charts and graphs, it's important to identify the creator of the data or the graphic itself, and the source where it was published. Often, charts and graphs are presented within reports, articles, or websites. You should note the title of the chart/graph if it has one, and the source document.

Example: Central Intelligence Agency, "World Population Growth Rate, 2010-2020," *The World Factbook*, last modified September 2, 2021, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/graphics/growthrate.html>.

Table Citations

Citing tables follows similar principles. Identify the source of the data and the table itself. If the table has a specific title, include it. The citation should lead the reader to the original publication or location of the table.

Example: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, *World Population Prospects 2019: Highlights* (New York: United Nations, 2019), table 2.1.

Self-Created Graphics: When and How to Cite

If you create a graphic entirely yourself, such as a chart or graph generated from your own data, or a diagram drawn from your own conception, you generally do not need to cite a source in the same way you would for external materials. However, it is crucial to label these graphics clearly as your own work.

This is often done with a simple caption that states "Figure 1: [Your Title]" or similar, followed by a note indicating authorship. For instance, below your original graphic, you might add "(Author's own diagram)" or "(Data compiled by author)." This distinguishes your original work from sourced materials and maintains clarity for your readers.

Placement of Citations for Graphics

Chicago Manual of Style recommends placing citations for graphics in a way that is easily associated with the visual element. This is typically done directly below the graphic or in a caption accompanying it. The caption usually includes a figure number, a descriptive title,

and the source citation. The full bibliographic information for the source will then appear in the bibliography or reference list at the end of the document.

The specific format of the caption can vary slightly between the notes-bibliography system and the author-note system, but the principle of linking the graphic to its source remains paramount. Ensure the caption is clear and concise, providing all necessary identifying information.

Notes-Bibliography System Examples

In the notes-bibliography system, citations for graphics appear in footnotes or endnotes, and a condensed version is often included in the caption below the graphic. The bibliography then provides full details for all cited sources.

- **Caption:** Figure 1. Portrait of Jane Austen. By John Self, 1810. National Portrait Gallery.
- **Note:** 1. John Self, portrait of Jane Austen, 1810, National Portrait Gallery, accessed October 26, 2023, <https://www.npg.org.uk/collections/art-work/discover-artist/john-self/portrait-of-jane-austen>.

The bibliography entry would then provide the full details of the source, if it were from a book or a specific publication. For an artwork accessed online, the bibliography entry often mirrors the note, providing all retrieval information.

Author-Note System Examples

In the author-note system, the caption typically contains the essential citation information, and a condensed bibliography entry may also be included. The primary focus is on providing immediate recognition of the source beneath the graphic.

- **Caption:** Figure 2. Bar chart showing projected population growth. Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, World Population Prospects 2019: Highlights (New York: United Nations, 2019), chart 3.4.

The bibliography entry would then be a full citation of the UN report. For online sources in the author-note system, the caption would include the author, title, website name, and URL, along with the access date.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the primary purpose of citing graphics in Chicago Manual of Style?

A: The primary purpose is to give credit to the original creator of the graphic, to allow readers to locate the source for verification or further study, and to uphold academic integrity by avoiding plagiarism.

Q: Do I need to cite a graphic if I found it on a free image website like Unsplash or Pexels?

A: Yes, even though the images may be free to use, you must still cite the source as per Chicago Manual of Style guidelines, typically including the photographer's name and the website where it was found.

Q: How do I cite a chart or graph that I created myself using data from a published source?

A: You would cite the published source of the data. For your original chart, you would label it as your own creation, perhaps with a note like "(Author's own graph based on data from [Source])."

Q: What information should be included in a caption for a sourced graphic?

A: A caption generally includes a figure number, a descriptive title, the creator's name, the date, and the source from which the graphic was obtained. Full citation details are in the notes or bibliography.

Q: Is there a difference in how I cite a graphic in a book versus a graphic found online?

A: Yes, online graphics require a URL and an access date in addition to other identifying information, while print sources will have page numbers and publication details.

Q: When is a graphic considered to be in the public domain and does that affect citation?

A: Graphics in the public domain are not protected by copyright. While you may not need permission to use them, Chicago Manual of Style still requires citation to acknowledge the origin of the work and to allow readers to find it.

Q: Should I cite a graphic if I have significantly altered it from its original form?

A: Yes, even if you have modified a graphic, you must still cite the original source. You may also want to add a note indicating that the graphic has been adapted.

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