

chicago manual of style footnotes for social sciences examples

Navigating Chicago Manual of Style Footnotes for Social Sciences: Examples and Best Practices

chicago manual of style footnotes for social sciences examples are essential for academic integrity and clear communication within these disciplines. Mastering the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) footnote system, particularly as it applies to the nuances of social science research, can significantly enhance the credibility and readability of your work. This comprehensive guide will delve into the fundamental principles of CMOS footnotes, providing detailed examples relevant to sociology, political science, anthropology, and psychology. We will explore how to properly cite books, journal articles, interviews, websites, and other common sources encountered in social science research, ensuring you can accurately attribute your sources and avoid common pitfalls. Understanding these examples will equip you to confidently apply CMOS footnote conventions to your own scholarly endeavors, thereby strengthening your arguments and adhering to established academic standards.

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Understanding the Purpose of Chicago Style Footnotes

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) offers two primary citation systems: the Notes-Bibliography system and the Author-Date system. For many social science disciplines, the Notes-Bibliography system, which utilizes footnotes or endnotes, is preferred. Footnotes serve a dual purpose in academic writing. Firstly,

they provide readers with precise attribution for all borrowed ideas, facts, and direct quotations, acknowledging the original authors and allowing for easy verification of sources. This is crucial for maintaining academic honesty and preventing plagiarism. Secondly, footnotes offer a space for supplementary information that might interrupt the flow of the main text but is still valuable to the reader, such as definitions, methodological explanations, or digressions. In the social sciences, where complex theories and empirical data are frequently discussed, this ability to elaborate without disrupting the narrative is particularly beneficial.

The clarity and precision of footnotes are paramount. A well-crafted footnote not only points the reader to the exact source but also often provides enough information for them to locate it themselves without needing to consult a separate bibliography for every reference. This efficiency is a hallmark of good scholarly practice. When engaging with diverse social science methodologies and theoretical frameworks, the ability to embed detailed source information directly within the text via footnotes streamlines the reader's experience. This makes understanding the lineage of an argument or the origin of a specific data point much more straightforward.

Basic Footnote Structure in Chicago Style

The fundamental structure of a Chicago style footnote involves a superscript number placed immediately after the relevant text, clause, or sentence, followed by the full citation information in the footnote area at the bottom of the page. The first time a source is cited, the footnote provides complete bibliographic details. Subsequent citations of the same source are typically shortened, using a "short-form" citation.

First Reference Footnote

The initial footnote for a source contains all the necessary information for a reader to identify and locate it. The order of elements and punctuation is specific. For a book, this generally includes the author's first and last name, the title (italicized), publication city, publisher, year of publication, and relevant page number(s). For journal articles, it includes the author's name, article title (in quotation marks), journal title (italicized), volume number, issue number, publication year, and page number(s).

Subsequent Reference Footnote (Short-Form)

After the first full citation, subsequent footnotes referring to the same source are significantly abbreviated. This avoids redundancy and keeps the footnotes concise. The short-form citation typically includes the author's last name, a shortened version of the title (if it's long), and the page number(s). If the author has multiple works cited, the shortened title becomes essential to distinguish between them. If there is only

one work by a particular author, the title may sometimes be omitted entirely, though it is good practice to include a shortened title for clarity.

Citing Common Social Science Sources

The social sciences draw upon a wide array of source materials, each requiring specific citation formats within the Chicago Manual of Style footnote system. Accurately representing these diverse sources is critical for scholarly rigor.

Books

Citing books is foundational to most academic research. For a first reference to a book in a footnote, the format is as follows:

- Author's First Name Last Name, *Book Title* (Publication City: Publisher, Year), Page Number(s).

For example:

1. Charles Tilly, *Contention and Democracy in Europe, 1650–2000* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004), 45.

Subsequent references would be shortened:

1. Tilly, *Contention and Democracy*, 78.

Journal Articles

Journal articles are a staple in social science research, providing access to the latest findings and theoretical debates. The first footnote citation for a journal article looks like this:

- Author's First Name Last Name, "Article Title," *Journal Title* Volume, no. Issue (Year): Page Number(s).

A concrete example would be:

1. Robert D. Putnam, "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital," *Journal of Democracy* 6, no. 1 (1995): 65–78.

For subsequent references:

1. Putnam, "Bowling Alone," 72.

Edited Volumes

When research draws on collections of essays or works compiled by an editor, the citation needs to reflect this structure. For the first reference to an edited volume, the footnote format is:

- Editor's First Name Last Name, ed., *Title of Edited Volume* (Publication City: Publisher, Year).

Example:

1. Saskia Sassen, ed., *Urban North America: The Technological City and the Third World City* (New York: New Press, 1997).

Chapters in Edited Volumes

Citing a specific chapter within an edited collection is common and requires including both the chapter author and the overall volume editor. The first footnote citation for a chapter appears as:

- Chapter Author's First Name Last Name, "Chapter Title," in *Title of Edited Volume*, ed. Editor's First Name Last Name, Page Number(s) of chapter (Publication City: Publisher, Year).

Here's an illustration:

1. Manuel Castells, "The Information Technology Revolution and Urban Development," in *Urban North America: The Technological City and the Third World City*, ed. Saskia Sassen, 25–54 (New York: New Press, 1997).

Interviews

Original research in social sciences often involves interviews. The citation format for an interview should capture the interviewee, the interviewer (if applicable), the date, and the nature of the interview (e.g., personal interview, phone interview).

- Interviewee's First Name Last Name, type of interview, Date of interview (if personal interview, mention location; if phone interview, specify).

Example:

1. Jane Doe, personal interview, October 26, 2023, Chicago, IL.
2. John Smith, phone interview, November 15, 2023.

If you are quoting directly from an interview that has been transcribed or published:

1. Jane Doe, interview by Author's First Name Last Name, October 26, 2023, transcript, author's personal collection.

Government Documents and Reports

Government publications and reports are crucial for many social science studies, particularly in fields like political science and public policy. The citation format depends on the specific document.

- Issuing Body, *Title of Document* (Publication City: Publisher, Year), Page Number(s).

For reports from agencies:

1. U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics—2021* (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2022), 112.

If the author is an individual within an agency, that is also noted:

1. Robert J. Sampson, "Race and Ethnicity in Chicago Crime," report prepared for the National Science Foundation, 2020.

Websites and Online Resources

In today's digital age, citing online materials is indispensable. The CMOS provides guidelines for various online sources, aiming to provide enough information to access the content.

- Author's First Name Last Name (if known), "Title of Web Page or Article," Name of Website, Publication Date (if available), URL. Accessed Date.

Example:

1. Pew Research Center, "Social Media Use in 2023," November 10, 2023, <https://www.pewresearch.org/social-media-use-in-2023>. Accessed December 1, 2023.

If no author or publication date is available, the entry might begin with the title of the page or the name of the organization responsible for the site.

Special Considerations for Social Sciences

Beyond standard publications, social science research often involves less conventional but equally important sources that require careful citation.

Archival Materials

Researchers working with historical documents, manuscripts, or collections in archives need to cite these materials meticulously. The format typically includes the collection name, box and folder numbers, and the archive's location.

- Name of Collection, Box Number, Folder Number, Name of Archive, Location.

Example:

1. Theodore Roosevelt Papers, Box 78, Folder: Speeches, 1901–1902, Library of Congress, Washington, DC.

When referring to a specific document within the archive:

1. Letter from Jane Addams to John Dewey, March 15, 1910, Box 5, Folder: Correspondence, Jane Addams, Hull-House Museum Archives, Chicago.

Unpublished Dissertations and Theses

When referencing doctoral dissertations or master's theses that have not been formally published, the citation should clearly indicate their status and the institution where they were completed.

- Author's First Name Last Name, "Title of Dissertation/Thesis" (type of degree, Department, University, Year).

Example:

1. Maria Garcia, "The Impact of Social Policy on Urban Poverty" (PhD diss., Department of Sociology, University of California, Berkeley, 2022).

Audiovisual Materials

Documentaries, films, audio recordings, and other audiovisual materials are frequently used in social science research. The citation should identify the creator, title, and format.

- Title of Film/Program, directed by Director's Name (if applicable), production company or distributor, Year of Release (or date of viewing).

Example:

1. *The Civil War*, directed by Ken Burns, produced by Florentine Films, 1990.

For citing a specific scene or quotation:

1. *The Civil War*, directed by Ken Burns, scene at Fort Wagner, 01:15:30–01:18:10, 1990.

Subsequent References

As mentioned earlier, consistently using short-form citations for sources that have already been fully cited is a key aspect of the Chicago Notes-Bibliography system. This practice not only streamlines the footnotes but also aids readers by providing a quick reminder of the source without overwhelming them with repeated full citations.

The principle is simple: once a source has been fully identified in a preceding footnote, any subsequent mention of that same source can be referenced using a reduced set of bibliographic information. This typically includes the author's last name, a shortened title (especially if the author has multiple works cited), and the specific page number being referenced. If the author has only one work cited in the entire paper, and the title is relatively short and clear, the title may occasionally be omitted, leaving just the author's last name and page number. However, it is generally advisable to retain a shortened title for absolute clarity.

For example, if the first footnote for Charles Tilly's book was footnote number 5, and you refer to the book again in footnote number 12 and then again in footnote number 25, the citations in footnotes 12 and 25 would both be short-form. This system ensures that the reader can easily follow the trail of sources without undue repetition, making the text more fluid and readable.

Formatting Guidelines for Footnotes

Beyond the content of the citation, the physical presentation of footnotes is governed by specific formatting rules within the Chicago Manual of Style. Adhering to these guidelines ensures consistency and professionalism across all academic works.

Footnotes are typically placed at the bottom of the page where the superscript number appears in the text. The footnote number itself should be slightly raised (superscript) and correspond exactly to the number in the main text. The footnote text begins with the same superscript number, followed by a period or a space, and then the citation information. There should be a clear separation between the main body of the text and the footnotes, often achieved with a horizontal line or increased spacing.

Indentation is also important. The first line of each footnote is usually indented, with subsequent lines aligning with the left margin. Conversely, the first line of the main text following a footnote would typically align to the left margin. Font size and style should generally match the main body of the text, though sometimes a slightly smaller font is used for footnotes to distinguish them visually. Consistency is key; once a formatting choice is made, it should be applied uniformly throughout the document.

FAQ

Q: What is the primary purpose of using Chicago Manual of Style footnotes in social sciences?

A: The primary purpose of using Chicago Manual of Style footnotes in the social sciences is to provide precise attribution for all borrowed ideas, facts, and quotations, allowing readers to verify sources. Additionally, footnotes offer a space to include supplementary information that might interrupt the main text, such as definitions or elaborations, thereby enhancing the clarity and flow of the scholarly argument.

Q: How does the first footnote citation for a book differ from subsequent citations in Chicago style?

A: The first footnote citation for a book in Chicago style includes the author's full name, the complete title of the book (italicized), the publication city, publisher, year of publication, and the specific page number(s) referenced. Subsequent citations use a shortened format, typically comprising the author's last name, a shortened version of the title, and the relevant page number(s).

Q: When citing a journal article in a Chicago style footnote, what are the essential elements to include for the first reference?

A: For the first reference to a journal article in a Chicago style footnote, you must include the author's full name, the full title of the article (in quotation marks), the full title of the journal (italicized), the volume and issue numbers, the year of publication, and the specific page number(s) being cited.

Q: How should an interview be cited in a Chicago Manual of Style footnote for social sciences research?

A: An interview in a Chicago Manual of Style footnote should include the interviewee's full name, the type of interview (e.g., personal interview, phone interview), and the date of the interview. If it's a personal interview, the location should also be noted. If the interview has been transcribed or published,

this detail should also be included in the citation.

Q: What is the correct Chicago style footnote format for citing a chapter within an edited volume?

A: When citing a chapter within an edited volume, the Chicago style footnote format requires the chapter author's full name, the chapter title (in quotation marks), followed by "in," the title of the edited volume (italicized), the editor's full name and role (e.g., "ed."), and then the page numbers of the chapter, followed by the publication city, publisher, and year.

Q: How are government documents and reports cited in Chicago style footnotes within the social sciences?

A: Citing government documents and reports in Chicago style footnotes depends on the specific document. Generally, it includes the issuing body, the title of the document (italicized), publication city, publisher, year, and page number(s). If an individual authored the report within an agency, that individual's name would be listed first.

Q: What are the key differences between citing a website and a printed book in Chicago style footnotes?

A: The key differences lie in the specific details required. For websites, you typically include the author (if known), the title of the web page or article, the name of the website, the publication date (if available), the URL, and the date the content was accessed. Books, on the other hand, rely on publication city, publisher, and a definitive publication year, with no access date necessary.

Q: Why is it important to use shortened citations for subsequent references to the same source in Chicago style footnotes?

A: Using shortened citations for subsequent references is crucial for the Chicago style to maintain conciseness and readability in footnotes. It avoids repetitive, lengthy citations, making the document easier to navigate for the reader while still providing enough information to identify the source clearly.

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