

chicago manual of style for citing magazines

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) provides a comprehensive framework for academic and professional writing, and mastering its guidelines for citing magazine articles is crucial for ensuring proper attribution and credibility. This detailed guide will demystify the process of citing magazines according to CMOS, covering both the Notes-Bibliography and Author-Date systems. We will explore the essential components of a magazine citation, including author, article title, magazine title, publication date, and page numbers, while also addressing variations such as citing online articles and special cases. Understanding these nuances will equip you to accurately reference magazine content, enhance your research papers, and adhere to scholarly standards.

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Understanding the Chicago Manual of Style for Citing Magazines

The Chicago Manual of Style, often abbreviated as CMOS or CMS, is a widely respected style guide that offers recommendations on grammar, usage, and citation. When it comes to referencing periodical literature, particularly magazines, CMOS provides clear instructions to ensure consistency and accuracy in academic work. The manual is primarily used in the humanities and social sciences, and its approach to citing magazines reflects a commitment to providing readers with sufficient information to locate the original source with ease.

There are two primary citation systems within CMOS: the Notes-Bibliography system and the Author-Date system. Both systems offer valid methods for citing magazine articles, but they differ in their presentation and emphasis. The Notes-Bibliography system uses footnotes or endnotes for citations, with a corresponding bibliography at the end of the work. The Author-Date system, as the name suggests, relies on in-text parenthetical citations that include the author's last name and the year of publication, followed by a reference list at the end.

This article will delve into the specifics of applying both CMOS systems to magazine citations. We will break down the necessary elements for each type of citation, ensuring you can confidently cite print and online magazine articles alike. The goal is to provide a practical, step-by-step approach to mastering this aspect of academic writing.

Core Components of a Magazine Citation in CMOS

Regardless of the specific CMOS system employed, certain pieces of information are fundamental to accurately citing a magazine article. These core components allow readers to identify and retrieve the source material. Missing any of these key elements can significantly hinder a reader's ability to locate the article, thus compromising the integrity of your research.

The essential elements for citing a magazine article in CMOS typically include:

- The author's full name (if available).
- The title of the article, enclosed in quotation marks.
- The title of the magazine, italicized.
- The publication date, usually including the month and day for weekly or bi-weekly publications, or just the month for monthly ones.
- The volume and issue numbers, if readily available, especially for academic or specialized magazines.
- The page numbers on which the article appears.
- For online articles, a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) or a stable URL.

Understanding how to format and present these components according to CMOS guidelines is the first step toward correct magazine citation.

Citing Print Magazine Articles: Notes-Bibliography System

The Notes-Bibliography system is favored in many humanities disciplines. When citing a print magazine article in a footnote or endnote, you provide a concise citation, with the full bibliographic details appearing in the bibliography. This system allows for a cleaner presentation of the main text while still offering complete source information.

Footnote/Endnote Format for Print Magazines

The basic structure for a footnote or endnote citation of a print magazine article is as

follows:

First Name Last Name, "Article Title," *Magazine Title*, Month Day, Year, Page Number(s).

For example:

1. Susan Orlean, "The Rainmaker," *The New Yorker*, April 8, 2019, 45.

If the article is paginated continuously across different sections or issues, you might need to specify the range more clearly. However, for most standard magazine articles, a single page number or a short range is sufficient.

Bibliography Format for Print Magazines

The bibliography entry expands on the footnote/endnote to provide complete publication details. The structure is slightly different, with the author's last name preceding their first name, and the page numbers appearing at the end.

Last Name, First Name. "Article Title." *Magazine Title*, Month Day, Year. Page Number(s).

For example:

Orlean, Susan. "The Rainmaker." *The New Yorker*, April 8, 2019. 45.

If there are multiple authors, CMOS has specific rules for how to list them, typically listing the first author's name in reverse order and subsequent authors in normal order. For magazines with no author listed, you would simply begin with the article title.

Citing Print Magazine Articles: Author-Date System

The Author-Date system is commonly used in the social sciences and natural sciences. Instead of footnotes or endnotes, this system uses parenthetical in-text citations that refer to a reference list at the end of the document.

In-Text Citation Format for Print Magazines

The in-text citation in the Author-Date system is brief, providing only the author's last name and the year of publication. Page numbers are optional for general reference but often included when quoting or paraphrasing specific information.

(Author Last Name Year, Page Number)

For example:

When discussing the impact of weather patterns, one might refer to a recent analysis of climate data (Orlean 2019, 45).

If you mention the author's name in your sentence, you only need to include the year in parentheses:

Susan Orlean's investigation into precipitation phenomena highlights the complexities of modern meteorology (2019, 45).

Reference List Format for Print Magazines

The reference list at the end of your paper contains full bibliographic details for all sources cited in the text. The format for a magazine article is similar to the bibliography format in the Notes-Bibliography system, but the date often appears earlier.

Last Name, First Name. Year. "Article Title." *Magazine Title*, Month Day (if applicable): Page Number(s).

For example:

Orlean, Susan. 2019. "The Rainmaker." *The New Yorker*, April 8: 45.

The inclusion of the month and day is standard for weekly or bi-weekly magazines. For monthly magazines, only the month is typically used. If the magazine is published quarterly, you would include the season or specific months.

Citing Online Magazine Articles: Digital Object Identifiers and URLs

Citing online magazine articles presents unique challenges, primarily concerning how to direct readers to the digital source. CMOS provides specific guidance for these situations, emphasizing the use of DOIs (Digital Object Identifiers) when available, as they are persistent and more reliable than URLs.

When to Use a DOI

A DOI is a unique alphanumeric string assigned to a digital object, such as an article, that guarantees its location on the internet. If a magazine article, especially one from an online edition of a print publication or an exclusively digital magazine, has a DOI, it should be included in your citation. This is the preferred method for citing online sources.

The format for citing an online magazine article with a DOI in the Notes-Bibliography system is:

First Name Last Name, "Article Title," *Magazine Title*, Month Day, Year, Page Number(s) (if applicable), doi:XXXXXXXXXX.

And in the bibliography:

Last Name, First Name. Year. "Article Title." *Magazine Title*, Month Day (if applicable):

Page Number(s) (if applicable). doi:XXXXXXXXXX.

For the Author-Date system, the DOI is included in the reference list entry.

When to Use a URL

If an article does not have a DOI, the next best option is to provide a stable URL. This URL should lead directly to the article. Avoid using general homepage URLs or links that might expire. When a URL is included, CMOS also recommends providing an access date, especially if the content is likely to change.

The format for a footnote/endnote with a URL:

First Name Last Name, "Article Title," *Magazine Title*, Month Day, Year, accessed Month Day, Year, URL.

The format for a bibliography entry with a URL:

Last Name, First Name. Year. "Article Title." *Magazine Title*, Month Day (if applicable): Page Number(s) (if applicable). Accessed Month Day, Year. URL.

For the Author-Date system, the access date and URL are included in the reference list entry.

Special Cases in Magazine Citation

CMOS also addresses less common scenarios that can arise when citing magazine articles. These might include articles without an author, issues with special numbering, or citing articles from magazines that no longer exist in print.

Articles Without an Author

If an article lacks a credited author, you begin the citation with the article title. This applies to both the Notes-Bibliography and Author-Date systems.

In the Notes-Bibliography system (footnote/endnote):

"Article Title," *Magazine Title*, Month Day, Year, Page Number(s).

In the bibliography:

"Article Title." *Magazine Title*, Month Day, Year. Page Number(s).

In the Author-Date system (reference list):

"Article Title." Year. *Magazine Title*, Month Day: Page Number(s).

Special Issues and Editions

If you are citing a special issue of a magazine that is dedicated to a particular theme or event, you might include information about the special issue. For example, you could note it in parentheses after the magazine title or as part of the article title if it's incorporated there.

Older Publications and Archival Material

For very old magazine articles or those found in archives, you may need to include additional information, such as the name of the archive or the collection where the material was found. Always strive to provide the most precise location information possible for your reader.

FAQ

Q: What are the main differences between citing magazines in the Notes-Bibliography system versus the Author-Date system in CMOS?

A: The primary difference lies in the presentation of citations. The Notes-Bibliography system uses footnotes or endnotes for in-text citations, with a detailed bibliography at the end. The Author-Date system uses brief parenthetical in-text citations (Author Last Name Year) and a corresponding reference list at the end.

Q: How do I format the author's name when citing a magazine article in a CMOS bibliography?

A: In a CMOS bibliography, the author's last name comes first, followed by their first name (e.g., Orlean, Susan). In footnotes and endnotes, the author's name is listed in normal order (e.g., Susan Orlean).

Q: What information is essential when citing an online magazine article using the Chicago Manual of Style?

A: When citing an online magazine article, it is crucial to include the author (if available), article title, magazine title, publication date, and either a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) or a stable URL. Access dates are also recommended for online sources.

Q: Should I italicize the magazine title when citing a magazine article in CMOS?

A: Yes, the title of the magazine should always be italicized in both the Notes-Bibliography and Author-Date systems when citing magazine articles according to the Chicago Manual of Style.

Q: What do I do if a magazine article does not have an author listed?

A: If a magazine article lacks an author, you begin the citation with the title of the article itself. This applies to both the footnote/endnote and the bibliography or reference list.

Q: How do I cite a magazine article that is spread across multiple pages in CMOS?

A: When citing a magazine article that spans multiple pages, you typically list the page range. For example, if an article starts on page 45 and ends on page 48, you would cite it as 45–48. For footnotes/endnotes, you might just cite the first page if the entire article is clearly identified by that page.

Q: Is it necessary to include the volume and issue number when citing magazine articles in CMOS?

A: For general interest magazines, volume and issue numbers are often omitted unless they are particularly significant or readily available. However, for more academic or specialized magazines, including volume and issue numbers is generally expected and helpful for locating the source.

Q: How important is it to include a DOI for online magazine articles in CMOS?

A: Including a DOI is highly important if one is available for an online magazine article. A DOI is a persistent identifier that ensures readers can access the article even if the URL changes. It is the preferred method for citing online resources when available.

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