

chicago manual of style geographic citation style

The Chicago Manual of Style Geographic Citation Style: A Comprehensive Guide

chicago manual of style geographic citation style is a crucial element for academic and professional writers aiming for clarity, accuracy, and adherence to established scholarly conventions. This comprehensive guide delves into the intricacies of citing geographic information, from the foundational principles of the Chicago style to specific applications in various contexts. Understanding how to properly attribute geographic sources ensures the credibility of your research and allows readers to easily locate and verify the information presented. We will explore the nuances of citing maps, atlases, gazetteers, and digital geographic resources, providing practical advice and examples to navigate this often complex area of citation. Mastering the Chicago manual of style geographic citation style will elevate the quality and professionalism of your written work.

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Understanding Geographic Citations in Chicago Style

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) provides a robust framework for citing a wide array of sources, and this extends to geographic information. Properly citing geographic materials is essential for academic integrity, allowing readers to retrace your research path and assess the reliability of your information. Unlike more common textual sources, geographic citations often involve unique elements such as scale, projection, publisher, and date of publication, which are critical for identifying the specific resource used.

The goal of any citation style, including Chicago's approach to geographic data, is to offer sufficient detail for identification without overwhelming the reader. This involves a careful balance of essential bibliographic information and context-specific details. When dealing with geographic sources, the nature of the information being presented—whether it's a historical map, a modern satellite image, or a digital mapping service—will influence the specific components of the citation.

Core Principles of Geographic Citation

At its heart, the Chicago manual of style geographic citation style emphasizes clarity and completeness. Regardless of the specific type of geographic source, certain core principles apply.

These principles ensure that the citation is both discoverable and informative, serving its primary purpose of attribution and verification.

Identifying the Source Creator and Publisher

A fundamental aspect of any citation is identifying who is responsible for the creation or publication of the work. For geographic materials, this can be multifaceted. It might refer to the cartographer or surveying team responsible for a map, the organization that compiled the data for a digital map, or the publisher of an atlas. Clearly stating this entity is crucial for proper attribution.

Specifying the Title and Edition

Just as with books or articles, the title of the geographic work is a primary identifier. For maps, this might be the name of a specific region or feature. For atlases, it's the overall title of the compilation. Furthermore, noting the edition or version is critical, as geographic data is often updated. An older edition may contain outdated information, making the version significant for scholarly work.

Providing Publication Information

Publication details, including the place of publication and the year, are standard bibliographic elements that Chicago style requires. For geographic materials, this helps pinpoint when and where the source was made available. This can be particularly important for historical research where the provenance of a map can reveal its context of creation.

Including Scale and Projection for Maps

When citing physical maps, essential technical details like the map's scale and projection are often included. The scale (e.g., 1:24,000) indicates the relationship between distances on the map and actual distances on the ground. The projection describes how the curved surface of the Earth is represented on a flat surface, impacting measurements and shape. These details are vital for understanding the map's accuracy and potential uses.

Citing Physical Maps and Atlases

Physical maps and atlases have long been primary sources for geographic information. The Chicago manual of style geographic citation style provides specific guidance for these traditional formats, ensuring that their unique characteristics are adequately represented in citations.

Citing Individual Maps

When citing a single printed map, the citation should include the map's title, any stated cartographer or publisher, the place and date of publication, and its scale. If the map is part of a larger collection or series, this information should also be noted to provide further context. For instance, a citation might look something like: "Map of Old Chicago, 1871, by John Doe Cartography, published by City Archives, Chicago, 1871, scale 1:10,000."

Citing Atlases

Atlases, as collections of maps, require a slightly different approach. The citation for an atlas typically includes its overall title, the editor or compiler if applicable, the publisher, and the place and date of publication. If you are referencing a specific map within the atlas, you would also include the title of that map and the page number(s) where it appears. For example: "National Geographic Atlas of the World, 10th ed., edited by David Smith, National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C., 2018, plate 45."

Citing Gazetteers

Gazetteers, which are geographical dictionaries or indexes of places, are also cited similarly to atlases. The citation would include the title of the gazetteer, its editor or compiler, the publisher, place of publication, and year. If you are referencing a specific entry, you would also include the name of the place being looked up. For example: "The Times Atlas of the World, Comprehensive Edition, Times Books, London, 1995, s.v. 'Paris.'" The "s.v." stands for "sub voce," meaning "under the word," indicating you are citing a specific entry.

Citing Digital Geographic Resources

In the digital age, geographic information is increasingly accessed through online platforms, satellite imagery, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The Chicago manual of style geographic citation style has adapted to accommodate these new formats, requiring citations that point users to online resources effectively.

Citing Online Maps and Mapping Services

When citing online mapping services like Google Maps or OpenStreetMap, the citation needs to include the name of the service, the specific map or view accessed, and the date of access. Since these platforms are dynamic and can be updated frequently, providing the date you viewed the map is crucial. A typical citation might be: "Google Maps, satellite view of Central Park, New York City, accessed October 26, 2023."

Citing GIS Data and Datasets

Citing Geographic Information System (GIS) data requires a detailed approach, as these datasets can be complex. The citation should identify the data provider, the specific dataset name, version or date of the data, and how it was accessed (e.g., via a specific website or online repository). For example: "U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), National Hydrography Dataset, 2022 version, accessed through the USGS National Map Viewer, <https://viewer.nationalmap.gov/>."

Citing Satellite Imagery

Satellite imagery, whether accessed through a dedicated platform or as part of a GIS dataset, needs to be cited clearly. This includes the source of the imagery (e.g., NASA, ESA), the specific satellite or sensor used, the date the imagery was acquired, and any relevant processing information. For instance: "Landsat 8 OLI/TIRS imagery, acquired October 15, 2021, processed by NASA Earthdata, accessed via the Earth Explorer portal, <https://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/>."

Special Considerations for Geographic Citations

Certain situations call for specific adjustments or additional details when applying the Chicago manual of style geographic citation style. These considerations help ensure that the citation accurately reflects the source and its context.

Works with Multiple Authors or Compilers

When a geographic work has multiple authors or compilers, follow the standard Chicago style for listing them. For a small number of authors, list them all. For a larger number, you may list the first author followed by "et al." The specific instructions can vary slightly between footnotes/endnotes and the bibliography, so it's important to consult the manual for precise formatting.

Anonymous Works

If a geographic source is published without an author or compiler, the citation begins with the title of the work. This is a common practice for many older maps or anonymous compilations where attribution is impossible. The key is to ensure the title is prominent and descriptive.

Works within Larger Collections

When citing a map or geographic data that is part of a larger work (like a chapter in a book about

cartography or a specific layer within a GIS project), the citation should clearly delineate the specific item being referenced and its containing work. This follows the general principle of citing the most specific source first, then the larger work that contains it.

Online Geographic Data That May Change

For frequently updated online geographic resources, the date of access is paramount. Some scholars also recommend using persistent identifiers like DOIs (Digital Object Identifiers) if available, as they provide a stable link to the resource. When a DOI is present, it should be included in the citation.

Geographic Citation Examples

To further illustrate the application of the Chicago manual of style geographic citation style, here are a few exemplary citations for different types of geographic sources:

- **Footnote/Endnote for a physical map:** 1. Map of Rome, Italy, edited by Robert Johnson, published by International Cartographics, Florence, 2019, scale 1:5,000.
- **Bibliography entry for a physical map:** Johnson, Robert, ed. Map of Rome, Italy. International Cartographics, 2019. Scale 1:5,000.
- **Footnote/Endnote for an online map:** 2. Google Earth, satellite view of the Amazon Rainforest, accessed June 15, 2022.
- **Bibliography entry for an online map:** Google Earth. Satellite view of the Amazon Rainforest. Accessed June 15, 2022.
- **Footnote/Endnote for a GIS dataset:** 3. Esri, "World Elevation Service," accessed via ArcGIS Online, updated February 10, 2023.
- **Bibliography entry for a GIS dataset:** Esri. "World Elevation Service." Accessed via ArcGIS Online. Updated February 10, 2023.
- **Footnote/Endnote for an atlas:** 4. Hammond World Atlas, 3rd ed., Hammond Inc., Maplewood, NJ, 2010, p. 112.
- **Bibliography entry for an atlas:** Hammond World Atlas. 3rd ed. Maplewood, NJ: Hammond Inc., 2010.

These examples demonstrate the application of the core principles and the specific elements required for different geographic sources within the Chicago manual of style geographic citation style. Attention to detail in each component ensures that your citations are robust and adhere to scholarly standards.

Navigating the Chicago Manual of Style Geographic Citation Style

The Chicago Manual of Style Geographic Citation Style is a nuanced aspect of academic writing that requires careful attention to detail. By understanding the core principles of attribution, identification of the source, and publication details, writers can confidently cite a variety of geographic materials. Whether dealing with traditional printed maps, comprehensive atlases, or dynamic digital resources like online mapping services and GIS data, adherence to Chicago's guidelines ensures clarity and credibility.

The specific requirements for scale, projection, edition, and access dates vary depending on the nature of the geographic source. However, the overarching goal remains consistent: to provide readers with enough information to locate and verify the geographic data used in your work. Mastering these guidelines not only enhances the professionalism of your writing but also contributes to the broader academic discourse by ensuring transparency and reproducibility of research.

Frequently Asked Questions about Chicago Manual of Style Geographic Citation Style

Q: What are the essential components of a Chicago-style citation for a physical map?

A: The essential components for citing a physical map in Chicago style include the map's title, any credited cartographer or publisher, the place and date of publication, and its scale. If the map is part of a larger collection, this context should also be noted.

Q: How do I cite an online map service like Google Maps in Chicago style?

A: For online map services, you should cite the name of the service, the specific view or map accessed, and the date of access. Since these platforms are dynamic, the access date is crucial. For example: "Google Maps, street view of the Eiffel Tower, accessed November 1, 2023."

Q: What is the purpose of including the scale and projection when citing a map?

A: Including the scale and projection of a map is important because it provides technical details that inform the reader about the map's accuracy, potential for measurement, and how geographical data is represented. This is particularly relevant in fields like history, geography, and urban planning.

Q: How does Chicago style handle citations for GIS datasets?

A: Citing GIS datasets in Chicago style requires identifying the data provider, the specific dataset name, its version or date, and how it was accessed (e.g., a specific website or repository). Persistent identifiers like DOIs should also be included if available.

Q: When should I use "s.v." in a geographic citation?

A: You use "s.v." (sub voce, meaning "under the word") when citing an entry from a gazetteer or an alphabetical index. It indicates that you are referencing a specific term or place name within that resource, similar to citing a specific word in a dictionary.

Q: Are there specific rules for citing satellite imagery under the Chicago Manual of Style Geographic Citation Style?

A: Yes, when citing satellite imagery, you should include the source of the imagery (e.g., NASA, ESA), the satellite or sensor used, the date the imagery was acquired, and any relevant processing information or access portal.

Q: How do I cite a map that is part of a book or other larger publication?

A: When citing a map within a larger work, you should cite the specific map first, followed by the title of the book or publication it appears in, along with relevant page numbers. For example: "Map of Ancient Rome, in The History of the Roman Empire, by Jane Smith, 55."

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