

chicago manual of style map citations

Mastering Chicago Manual of Style Map Citations: A Comprehensive Guide

chicago manual of style map citations are a crucial, yet often overlooked, element of academic and professional writing that requires precision and adherence to established guidelines. Whether you are citing a historical atlas, a modern street map, or a digital cartographic resource, understanding how to properly attribute these visual tools is essential for academic integrity and clarity. This comprehensive guide will navigate the intricacies of citing maps according to the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS), covering both the Notes-Bibliography system and the Author-Date system. We will explore the fundamental components of a map citation, the nuances of citing different types of maps, and best practices for ensuring your citations are both accurate and easily verifiable for your readers. Mastering these map citation principles will enhance the credibility of your work and facilitate deeper engagement with your visual sources.

Table of Contents

- Understanding the Purpose of Map Citations
- Key Elements of a Chicago Manual of Style Map Citation
- Citing Maps in the Notes-Bibliography System
 - First Reference Note for a Map
 - Subsequent Reference Notes
 - Bibliography Entry for a Map
- Citing Maps in the Author-Date System
 - In-Text Citation for a Map
 - Reference List Entry for a Map
- Specific Scenarios and Advanced Map Citations
 - Citing Maps within Larger Works
 - Citing Digital and Online Maps
 - Citing Maps from Atlases
 - Citing Historical Maps
 - Citing Maps Created by the Author
 - Common Pitfalls in Map Citation

Understanding the Purpose of Map Citations

The primary purpose of any citation, including those for maps, is to give credit where it is due. This means acknowledging the creators, publishers, and source of the information presented in the map. Proper citation prevents plagiarism, allowing readers to locate the original source material if they wish to consult it themselves. For maps, this is particularly important as they convey spatial information, historical context, and specific geographic data that might have been compiled or interpreted by particular individuals or organizations. A well-cited map in your work demonstrates thorough research and respect for intellectual property.

Furthermore, accurate map citations contribute to the overall credibility and authority of your research. When readers can easily verify the sources you have used, they are more likely to trust your findings and conclusions. This is especially true in disciplines where maps are integral to analysis, such as history, geography, urban planning, and social sciences.

Key Elements of a Chicago Manual of Style Map Citation

Regardless of which CMOS system you employ (Notes-Bibliography or Author-Date), several core pieces of information are generally required for a complete map citation. These elements ensure that the reader can identify and locate the specific map you have referenced. The exact order and formatting will vary slightly between the two systems, but the fundamental components remain consistent.

Here are the essential elements typically included in a Chicago Manual of Style map citation:

Title of the Map: This is the primary identifier of the map. It is usually presented in italics.

Scale: The scale of the map (e.g., 1:24,000) is important for understanding the level of detail and geographical scope.

Publisher or Issuing Body: This is the entity that produced or published the map.

Place of Publication: The city where the map was published.

Date of Publication: The year the map was published.

Edition or Series Information (if applicable): Details about specific editions or if the map is part of a larger series.

Cartographer or Author (if known and distinct from publisher): If a specific cartographer is credited with creating the map, their name should be included.

Geographic Area Depicted: While often clear from the title, sometimes it's useful to specify the region shown.

Source Information (if copied or reproduced): Details about where you accessed the map, such as a book title, a website, or an archive.

Citing Maps in the Notes-Bibliography System

The Notes-Bibliography system uses footnotes or endnotes for the first and subsequent references to a source, followed by a bibliography at the end of the work that provides a fuller citation. This system is common in the humanities.

First Reference Note for a Map

The first time you refer to a map in your text using the Notes-Bibliography system, you will provide a detailed footnote or endnote. The format generally includes the elements listed above, tailored for a note.

For a standalone map, a typical first reference note might look like this:

Title of Map, scale (if provided), edition (if applicable), Publisher, Year of Publication.

For example:

Map of the City of Chicago, 1:24,000, 1930, Chicago Planning Department.

If the map is part of a larger collection or work, you will need to provide additional information about that parent source.

Subsequent Reference Notes

After the first comprehensive note, subsequent references to the same map can be shortened. This usually involves using the author's last name (if applicable), a shortened title, and page number or map number if relevant.

A shortened note might look like this:

Last Name, Shortened Title, Map No. (if applicable).

For example:

Chicago Planning Department, Map of Chicago, Map 3.

The goal of subsequent notes is conciseness while still allowing the reader to easily identify the source.

Bibliography Entry for a Map

The bibliography entry provides a complete and formal citation for each source cited in notes. It is typically arranged alphabetically by author's last name or by title if no author is given.

A standard bibliography entry for a standalone map would be:

Title of Map. Scale. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication.

For example:

Map of the City of Chicago. 1:24,000. Chicago: Chicago Planning Department, 1930.

If the map is found within another work, the bibliography entry will reflect that, indicating the map's location within the larger source.

Citing Maps in the Author-Date System

The Author-Date system, often used in the social sciences and sciences, relies on parenthetical in-text citations that refer the reader to a corresponding reference list at the end of the document.

In-Text Citation for a Map

In-text citations for maps in the Author-Date system typically include the author's last name (or the name of the publishing body if no individual author is listed) and the year of publication, followed by a page number or other locator if the map appears within a larger work.

A typical in-text citation might look like this:

(Author Last Name Year, locator)

For example:

(Chicago Planning Department 1930)

If you are referencing a specific portion of a map within a book or report, you would include the page number:

(Chicago Planning Department 1930, 45)

Reference List Entry for a Map

The reference list provides a full citation for every source cited in the text, allowing readers to locate the original material. The format for maps in the reference list is similar to the bibliography entry but follows the author-date convention.

A standard reference list entry for a standalone map:

Author Last Name, First Name (or Publisher). Year. Title of Map. Scale. Place of Publication: Publisher.

For example:

Chicago Planning Department. 1930. Map of the City of Chicago. 1:24,000. Chicago: Chicago Planning Department.

If the map is within a larger work, such as a book or report, the entry will be structured to reflect this:

Author Last Name, First Name. Year. Title of Book or Report. Place of Publication: Publisher. Page numbers for map.

Specific Scenarios and Advanced Map Citations

Citing maps can become more complex depending on the nature of the map and its source. Understanding these specific scenarios will help you produce accurate and complete citations.

Citing Maps within Larger Works

When a map is reproduced or included as part of a book, journal article, or report, you must cite both the map and the larger work it appears in.

In the Notes-Bibliography system, the note might include:

Title of Map, in Title of Book/Article, by Author of Book/Article, page numbers of map. Publisher, Year of Publication.

For example:

Map of the Illinois Prairie, in Settlement Patterns in the Midwest, by Jane Doe, 78–79. University of Chicago Press, 2020.

The bibliography entry would follow a similar structure, listing the book first and then detailing the map's inclusion.

Citing Digital and Online Maps

The proliferation of digital maps requires specific citation approaches. For online maps, include the URL and the date you accessed the map.

For a Notes-Bibliography system note:

Title of Map, scale (if available), Publisher (if applicable), date of creation or last update (if available),

accessed Month Day, Year, URL.

For example:

Google Maps, satellite view of Millennium Park, Chicago, accessed January 15, 2024,
<https://www.google.com/maps>.

The reference list entry would be similar, structured according to the Author-Date system if that is the chosen method.

Citing Maps from Atlases

Atlases are collections of maps, and citing a specific map within an atlas requires referencing both the map and the atlas.

In a Notes-Bibliography system note:

Title of Map, in Title of Atlas, by Atlas Author(s), page numbers of map. Publisher, Year of Publication.

For example:

Map of Paris, in The Times Comprehensive Atlas of the World, edited by John Smith, 112. Times Books, 2018.

The bibliography entry would prioritize the atlas as the main source.

Citing Historical Maps

Historical maps, often found in archives or special collections, require detailed information about their origin and current location.

A note might include:

Title of Map, artist/cartographer (if known), date of creation, collection name, archive name, location of archive, and access details (e.g., map number).

For example:

Plan of Fort Dearborn, by John Smith (circa 1830), Smith Family Papers, Illinois State Historical Society Archives, Springfield, IL, Map File 4.

The bibliography entry would be similarly detailed.

Citing Maps Created by the Author

If you create your own map for a publication, it still needs to be cited, though the process differs. You will essentially be citing your own work, often with a note indicating it is an original creation.

A note might read:

Author, Title of Map, date created.

For example:

Author, Map of Proposed Community Garden Locations, 2023.

This allows readers to understand that the map is your own visual representation of data.

Common Pitfalls in Map Citation

Navigating map citations can present challenges. Being aware of common mistakes can help you avoid them and ensure your citations are robust.

Here are some common pitfalls:

Omitting the Scale: The scale provides crucial context about the map's detail and scope.

Incorrectly Identifying the Publisher: Distinguishing between the publisher, printer, and issuing body can be tricky.

Confusing Notes and Bibliography Entries: Understanding the different levels of detail required for each is key.

Failing to Cite Maps within Larger Works: Forgetting to mention the book or article the map is found in.

Varying Citation Styles: Inconsistently applying CMOS rules throughout the document.

Lack of Detail for Digital Maps: Not including URLs or access dates for online resources.

Overlooking Edition or Revision Information: For maps that have undergone updates, this information is important.

By paying close attention to these details and consulting the Chicago Manual of Style directly when in doubt, you can produce clear, accurate, and credible citations for all the maps you use.

FAQ about Chicago Manual of Style Map Citations

Q: What is the most important element to include when citing a map in Chicago style?

A: While all elements are important for a complete citation, the title of the map is arguably the most crucial, as it serves as the primary identifier for the reader to locate the specific map being referenced.

Q: How do I cite a map that is found within a book using the Chicago Manual of Style?

A: When citing a map within a book, you will need to cite both the map and the book it appears in. In a note, you would typically list the map's title, followed by its location within the book (e.g., page numbers), and then the full bibliographic details of the book. In the reference list (for Author-Date), you would list the book first, and then indicate the map's inclusion and page numbers.

Q: What information should I include for a digital map accessed online?

A: For digital maps, you must include the title of the map, the name of the website or platform, the date of access, and the full URL. If available, include the creator or publisher and the date the map was created or last updated.

Q: Is it necessary to include the map's scale in my Chicago style citation?

A: Yes, including the map's scale is generally recommended and often required by the Chicago Manual of Style, especially for standalone maps. The scale provides important context about the map's geographical scope and level of detail.

Q: How do I handle citations for historical maps that might have limited publication information?

A: For historical maps, focus on the most readily available and accurate information. This may include the cartographer's name (if known), the estimated date of creation, the name of the collection or archive where it is housed, and its location within that archive (e.g., map number or file designation).

Q: Can I create my own map and cite it in Chicago style?

A: Yes, you can cite a map you created yourself. In this case, you would generally list yourself as the author or creator, followed by the title of the map and the date of creation.

Q: What is the difference between a note citation and a bibliography entry for a map in the Notes-Bibliography system?

A: The first note citation for a map is typically more detailed, providing all essential bibliographic information. Subsequent notes can be shortened. The bibliography entry is always a complete and formal citation, presented alphabetically at the end of the document.

Q: Should I italicize the title of a map in Chicago style citations?

A: Yes, in Chicago style, the titles of standalone maps are generally italicized. If the map is part of a larger work, the title of the map itself might not be italicized but will be clearly distinguished from the title of the larger work, which would be italicized.

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