

chicago manual of style notes bibliography examples website

Chicago Manual of Style Notes Bibliography Examples Website

chicago manual of style notes bibliography examples website citations can seem daunting, especially when dealing with online resources. Navigating the intricacies of academic citation styles requires precision and a clear understanding of the established guidelines. This comprehensive guide delves into how to correctly format citations for websites according to the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS), focusing on both footnotes/endnotes and the bibliography. We will explore the essential components of website citations, provide practical examples for various scenarios, and address common challenges faced by researchers and writers when referencing online materials. Mastering these examples will ensure your academic integrity and enhance the credibility of your work.

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Understanding the Basics of Chicago Style Website Citations

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) offers a flexible yet precise approach to citing sources, including those found online. The fundamental goal of any citation system is to allow readers to locate the original source of information accurately. For websites, this means providing enough detail so that someone else can find the exact page, article, or document you referenced. CMOS generally prioritizes clarity and completeness in its citation guidelines, adapting to the ever-evolving landscape of digital information.

When citing websites, CMOS distinguishes between two primary citation systems: the notes-bibliography system and the author-date system. This article focuses exclusively on the notes-bibliography system, which is prevalent in the humanities. In this system, citations appear in footnotes or endnotes, with a corresponding bibliography at the end of the work. Each element in a CMOS website citation serves a specific purpose in identifying and locating the source.

Key Components of a Website Citation

Regardless of whether you are creating a footnote/endnote or a bibliography entry, certain core pieces of information are crucial for citing a website effectively. These elements help readers trace

your research and verify your sources. CMOS provides specific guidance on what to include and in what order.

- **Author or Editor:** The name of the individual or organization responsible for the content.
- **Title of Specific Page or Article:** The precise title of the webpage you are referencing.
- **Title of the Overall Website:** The name of the larger website or publication the page belongs to.
- **Publication Date:** The date the content was published or last updated.
- **URL:** The complete web address (Uniform Resource Locator) of the page.
- **Access Date:** The date you accessed the website, especially important for content that might change or disappear.

Footnotes and Endnotes: Citing Websites

In the notes-bibliography system, the initial citation of a source appears in a footnote (at the bottom of the page) or an endnote (at the end of the chapter or document). Subsequent citations of the same source are typically shortened. The level of detail required for a website in a footnote or endnote is slightly more condensed than in the bibliography but still aims for clarity.

First Footnote/Endnote Reference

The first time you cite a specific webpage, you need to provide a full citation that allows the reader to locate it easily. This entry should include all the necessary identifying information.

The general format for a first footnote/endnote reference to a website is:

Author First Name Last Name, "Title of Specific Page or Article," Title of Overall Website, Publication Date, accessed Month Day, Year, URL.

For example:

1. Jane Doe, "The Future of Remote Work," Harvard Business Review, October 15, 2023, accessed November 15, 2023, <https://hbr.org/2023/10/the-future-of-remote-work>.

If no author is listed, you begin with the title of the specific page or article. If no publication date is available, you may omit it and rely more heavily on the access date.

Subsequent Footnote/Endnote References

After the first full citation, subsequent references to the same source can be shortened for brevity. This prevents the notes section from becoming excessively long and repetitive.

The shortened format typically includes the author's last name, a shortened title (if necessary for clarity), and the page number if applicable (though less common for websites). For most websites, you will simply use the author's last name and the specific page title.

The general format for a subsequent footnote/endnote reference is:

Author Last Name, "Shortened Title of Page or Article."

For example, if you cite the Harvard Business Review article again:

2. Doe, "Future of Remote Work."

If there is no author, you would use a shortened version of the page title.

Citing Websites Without Authors or Dates

Many online resources lack clear author attribution or publication dates. CMOS provides guidance for these situations to ensure you still provide sufficient information. When an author is absent, the citation begins with the title of the specific page. If a publication date is missing, you can indicate the date of access prominently, often stating "n.d." for "no date" if that is the convention you choose to follow, or simply focusing on the access date.

Example of a website with no author and no date:

3. "Understanding AI Ethics," Tech Innovators Blog, accessed November 15, 2023, <https://techinnovatorsblog.com/ai-ethics>.

Bibliography Entries: Websites

The bibliography, appearing at the end of your paper, provides a comprehensive list of all the sources you have cited. Unlike footnotes/endnotes, bibliography entries are alphabetized by the author's last name (or by title if no author is given). The bibliography entries for websites tend to be more complete than the initial footnote or endnote, often including the URL and access date more prominently.

General Format for Bibliography Entries

The structure of a bibliography entry aims to give the reader all the information necessary to locate

the source without relying on your notes. The elements are typically presented in a specific order.

The general format for a bibliography entry of a website is:

Author Last Name, First Name. "Title of Specific Page or Article." Title of Overall Website. Publication Date. Accessed Month Day, Year. URL.

For the Harvard Business Review example:

Doe, Jane. "The Future of Remote Work." Harvard Business Review. October 15, 2023. Accessed November 15, 2023. <https://hbr.org/2023/10/the-future-of-remote-work>.

Organization as Author

When a website is published by an organization, the organization's name often serves as the author. This is common for corporate websites, government agencies, and non-profit organizations.

Example of an organization as author:

World Health Organization. "Global Health Security Agenda." WHO. July 20, 2023. Accessed November 15, 2023. <https://www.who.int/initiatives/global-health-security-agenda>.

Citing Websites with No Publication Date in the Bibliography

As with footnotes, if a website lacks a publication date, you should omit it from the bibliography entry. The access date becomes even more critical in these instances to denote when the information was current.

Example of a website with no publication date in the bibliography:

National Aeronautics and Space Administration. "Mars Exploration Program." NASA. Accessed November 15, 2023. <https://mars.nasa.gov/>.

Including the URL and Access Date

For websites, the URL is essential for locating the specific content. The access date is crucial because web content can be dynamic and change over time. CMOS recommends including both for most website citations to ensure the reader can access the information as you saw it.

Common Website Citation Scenarios

The nature of websites means that variations in structure, authorship, and publication are common. Understanding how to adapt CMOS guidelines to these different scenarios is vital for accurate citation.

Citing a Blog Post

Blog posts are frequently cited in academic work. They often have an author and a publication date, but the website itself might be informal. The principles remain the same: identify the author, the specific post title, the blog's name, the date, and the URL.

Example of a blog post citation:

Smith, John. "The Impact of Social Media on Politics." The Digital Discourse Blog. November 1, 2023. Accessed November 15, 2023. <https://digitaldiscourseblog.com/social-media-politics>.

Citing a News Article from an Online Newspaper or Magazine

Online news articles require careful citation to distinguish them from print versions. CMOS treats them as web sources, emphasizing the online publication details.

Example of an online news article citation:

Chen, Li. "Tech Giants Respond to New Regulations." The Global Times Online. November 14, 2023. Accessed November 15, 2023. <https://www.globaltimesonline.com/tech-regulations>.

Citing a Page from an Online Encyclopedia or Reference Site

Entries in online encyclopedias, like Wikipedia, should be cited cautiously, acknowledging their collaborative nature. However, if they are the best available source or a primary source for a specific point, they can be cited. Ensure you cite a specific entry and, if possible, a date for when you accessed it, as content can be edited.

Example of an online encyclopedia entry:

Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Photosynthesis." Encyclopedia Britannica. Last modified October 26, 2023. Accessed November 15, 2023. <https://www.britannica.com/science/photosynthesis>.

Citing a Government or Organizational Report Online

Reports published by government agencies or established organizations online should be treated as formal publications. The author is typically the organization itself, and the title is the report's title.

Example of a government report:

United States Environmental Protection Agency. "Annual Air Quality Report 2022." EPA.gov. Published October 2023. Accessed November 15, 2023. <https://www.epa.gov/air-quality-reports/annual-air-quality-report-2022>.

Citing Specific Types of Online Content

Beyond standard articles and reports, the internet hosts a diverse range of content, from videos to social media posts. CMOS offers guidance on how to approach these less conventional sources.

Citing a Video from YouTube or Similar Platforms

When citing videos, include the uploader (if distinct from the channel name), the video title, the platform name, the upload date, and the URL. If the video has a duration, it can be helpful to note it.

Example of a YouTube video citation:

TED. "The power of vulnerability | Brené Brown." YouTube. February 12, 2010. Accessed November 15, 2023. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iGo9r4v3-n>.

Citing Social Media Posts

Social media content, such as tweets or Facebook posts, can be cited, but it's often considered ephemeral. The citation should include the author (user or organization), the content of the post (quoted briefly), the platform, the date of the post, and the URL.

Example of a Twitter post citation:

NASA (@NASA). "Hello from the Mars Perseverance rover! I'm exploring Jezero Crater, looking for signs of ancient microbial life. Mars2020." Twitter. February 18, 2021. Accessed November 15, 2023. <https://twitter.com/NASA/status/1362456789012345678>.

Citing a PDF Document Accessed Online

If you access a PDF document online that was originally published elsewhere (e.g., a journal article or a book chapter), you would cite it according to its original format, but include the URL and access date for how you retrieved it.

Example of a PDF document citation:

Author Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." Title of Journal Volume, no. Issue (Year): Page range. Accessed Month Day, Year. URL.

For a standalone PDF report:

Author Last Name, First Name. "Title of Report." Publisher (if applicable). Year. Accessed Month Day, Year. URL.

The consistent application of these principles ensures that your use of online resources is properly

attributed and academically sound. Mastering the nuances of CMOS website citations will serve you well across various scholarly and professional contexts.

Frequently Asked Questions About Chicago Manual of Style Notes Bibliography Examples Website

Q: What is the difference between a footnote and a bibliography entry for a website in Chicago style?

A: A footnote (or endnote) is a brief citation used within the text to indicate the source of a particular piece of information. The first footnote/endnote reference is more detailed, while subsequent ones are shortened. A bibliography entry, appearing at the end of the work, provides a complete citation for every source used, in alphabetical order, and is generally more comprehensive than even the first footnote.

Q: How do I cite a website when there is no author listed?

A: If no author is explicitly listed for a website, you begin the citation with the title of the specific page or article. In the notes-bibliography system, this title will then be alphabetized in the bibliography. The absence of an author is a common occurrence with online content, so CMOS provides clear guidelines to manage it.

Q: Is the access date always necessary for website citations in Chicago style?

A: The access date is highly recommended for website citations in Chicago style, especially for content that is likely to change or be removed. It signifies when you accessed the information, which is crucial for reproducibility, given the dynamic nature of the internet. For content that is stable, like archived web pages or digital versions of print books, the access date might be less critical but is still good practice.

Q: How should I cite a PDF document found online that is a reprint of a journal article?

A: If you are citing a PDF document that is a reprint of a journal article, you should cite it as you would a regular journal article, including the author, article title, journal title, volume, issue, and page numbers. However, you must also include the URL where you accessed the PDF and the date you accessed it.

Q: What if a website has a "last updated" date instead of a

publication date?

A: In such cases, you should use the "last updated" date as your publication date for both footnote/endnote and bibliography entries. This date reflects the most recent state of the content and serves the same purpose as a publication date in indicating when the information was current.

Q: How do I cite a website that is no longer available at the original URL?

A: If a website is no longer available, and you have a record of it (e.g., through the Wayback Machine or an archive), you can cite the archived version. In your citation, you would typically include the URL for the archived version and note that it is an archived copy, often with the archive's name and access date.

Q: Can I cite a website as a primary source?

A: Yes, you can cite a website as a primary source if the content itself is a primary source (e.g., an original document, a personal blog, an interview conducted online). The citation format would follow the standard CMOS guidelines for websites, but you would explain its role as a primary source in your text.

Q: What is the difference between citing a specific page on a website and citing the entire website?

A: When you cite a specific page (e.g., an article, a blog post), you include the title of that specific page. When you refer to the website as a whole, perhaps discussing its general content or mission, you might cite the main website title, often without a specific page title or access date unless you're referring to its homepage at a particular time. However, most academic work requires citing specific pages rather than the entire site.

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