

chicago manual of style online citation examples

Chicago Manual of Style Online Citation Examples: A Comprehensive Guide

chicago manual of style online citation examples are crucial for any academic, professional, or research-based writing that adheres to this widely respected style guide. Navigating the nuances of citing digital sources can be complex, but understanding the fundamental principles and common formats empowers writers to maintain academic integrity and present their research clearly. This comprehensive guide delves into the intricacies of citing various online resources, from websites and articles to digital books and multimedia, providing clear, actionable examples. We will explore the specific elements required for in-text citations and comprehensive bibliographies, ensuring you can accurately attribute all your online sources according to the latest Chicago Manual of Style guidelines. Whether you are working on a thesis, a research paper, or a scholarly article, mastering these citation practices is essential for credibility.

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Understanding Chicago Style Citation Basics

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) offers two primary citation systems: the notes-bibliography system and the author-date system. For most humanities disciplines, the notes-bibliography system, which uses footnotes or endnotes and a bibliography, is preferred. For scientific and social science fields, the author-date system, with parenthetical citations in the text and a reference list, is more common. Regardless of the system chosen, the goal is to provide readers with enough information to locate the original source easily. Accuracy, consistency, and completeness are paramount when constructing any citation, especially for digital materials where access dates and URLs are vital components.

Key Components of a Chicago Style Citation

A typical Chicago style citation, particularly for online sources, will generally include several core pieces of information. These components help readers identify and retrieve the source. The exact order and inclusion of elements can vary slightly depending on the source type and the citation system used, but understanding these fundamentals is a strong starting point for generating accurate

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- Author(s) or Editor(s) name(s)
- Title of the specific work (article, webpage, chapter)
- Title of the larger work (journal, website, book)
- Publication date (or last updated date)
- URL or DOI (Digital Object Identifier)
- Access date (especially for frequently updated or ephemeral content)
- Page numbers (if applicable and available)

Citing Online Journal Articles

Online journal articles present a common challenge for writers. Ensuring you capture all the necessary details is key to providing a robust citation. The information typically found in a print journal article—author, title, journal title, volume, issue, and page numbers—is usually present in its online counterpart, but the addition of a DOI or URL and an access date becomes critical.

Online Journal Article in Notes-Bibliography System

When citing an online journal article using the notes-bibliography system, you will have both a footnote/endnote and a bibliography entry. The footnote/endnote provides a concise version, while the bibliography entry is more complete.

Example of an Online Journal Article Footnote

1. Jane Doe, "The Impact of Social Media on Political Discourse," *Journal of Digital Studies* 15, no. 2 (Spring 2023): 45-62, <https://doi.org/10.1080/12345678.2023.123456>.

Example of an Online Journal Article Bibliography Entry

Doe, Jane. "The Impact of Social Media on Political Discourse." *Journal of Digital Studies* 15, no. 2 (Spring 2023): 45-62. <https://doi.org/10.1080/12345678.2023.123456>.

Online Journal Article in Author-Date System

In the author-date system, the in-text citation will be brief, usually including the author's last name and the year of publication. The reference list entry will be more detailed.

Example of an Online Journal Article In-Text Citation

(Doe 2023, 48)

Example of an Online Journal Article Reference List Entry

Doe, Jane. 2023. "The Impact of Social Media on Political Discourse." *Journal of Digital Studies* 15 (2): 45-62. <https://doi.org/10.1080/12345678.2023.123456>.

Citing Online Magazine and Newspaper Articles

Similar to journal articles, online magazine and newspaper articles require specific formatting. The key difference often lies in the absence of volume and issue numbers, with a greater emphasis on the publication date and the specific URL.

Online Magazine Article in Notes-Bibliography System

For online magazine articles, the title of the magazine is italicized, and the full date of publication is usually included.

Example of an Online Magazine Article Footnote

2. John Smith, "Exploring the Future of Artificial Intelligence," *Tech Trends Magazine*, October 2023, 22, <https://www.techtrends.com/articles/ai-future>.

Example of an Online Magazine Article Bibliography Entry

Smith, John. "Exploring the Future of Artificial Intelligence." *Tech Trends Magazine*, October 2023, 22. <https://www.techtrends.com/articles/ai-future>.

Online Newspaper Article in Notes-Bibliography System

Newspaper articles often include section names and page numbers if available in the print version, though for online versions, the URL is paramount.

Example of an Online Newspaper Article Footnote

3. Maria Garcia, "Local Businesses Adapt to Economic Shifts," *City Chronicle*, November 15, 2023, <https://www.citychronicle.com/news/local-economy>.

Example of an Online Newspaper Article Bibliography Entry

Garcia, Maria. "Local Businesses Adapt to Economic Shifts." *City Chronicle*, November 15, 2023. <https://www.citychronicle.com/news/local-economy>.

Citing Websites and Webpages

Citing a general website or a specific webpage can be one of the most variable types of online citations. The information available can differ greatly from site to site, making it essential to record what is present.

General Webpage in Notes-Bibliography System

When citing a specific webpage, include the author (if known), the title of the page, the name of the website, the publication or last updated date, and the URL. Including an access date is highly recommended for content that may change.

Example of a General Webpage Footnote

4. National Park Service, "About Yellowstone," accessed November 10, 2023, <https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/about.htm>.

Example of a General Webpage Bibliography Entry

National Park Service. "About Yellowstone." Accessed November 10, 2023. <https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/about.htm>.

Website with an Organization as Author

If no individual author is listed, the organization responsible for the website is often cited.

Example of a Website with Organization Author Footnote

5. World Health Organization, "Malaria," last modified July 15, 2023,

<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/malaria>.

Example of a Website with Organization Author Bibliography Entry

World Health Organization. "Malaria." Last modified July 15, 2023.

<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/malaria>.

Citing E-books and Digital Books

E-books are essentially digital versions of print books, so their citation format often mirrors that of print books, with the addition of information about the digital format.

E-book with DOI in Notes-Bibliography System

If an e-book has a DOI, it should be included as it provides a stable link to the work.

Example of an E-book with DOI Footnote

6. Michael Pollan, *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals* (New York: Penguin Press, 2006), <https://doi.org/10.1037/0000-000>.

Example of an E-book with DOI Bibliography Entry

Pollan, Michael. *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*. New York: Penguin Press, 2006. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0000-000>.

E-book without DOI (Accessed via Database)

If the e-book is accessed through a database and lacks a DOI, you will typically include the database name and URL.

Example of an E-book without DOI Footnote

7. Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice* (London: T. Egerton, Whitehall, 1813), Kindle edition, accessed November 10, 2023, Amazon Kindle.

Example of an E-book without DOI Bibliography Entry

Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice*. London: T. Egerton, Whitehall, 1813. Kindle edition. Accessed November 10, 2023. Amazon Kindle.

Citing Online Videos and Multimedia

Online videos, podcasts, and other multimedia content are increasingly common sources. Their citations should reflect the platform and available metadata.

Online Video (e.g., YouTube) in Notes-Bibliography System

When citing videos from platforms like YouTube, include the uploader, title, platform name, and the URL. If a specific date is available, include it.

Example of an Online Video Footnote

8. CrashCourse, "The American Revolution: Crash Course US History 6," YouTube video, August 15, 2012, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y9f6K8h629o>.

Example of an Online Video Bibliography Entry

CrashCourse. "The American Revolution: Crash Course US History 6." YouTube video, August 15, 2012. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y9f6K8h629o>.

Podcast Episode in Notes-Bibliography System

For podcast episodes, you will cite the episode title, podcast series title, host(s) if relevant, and the URL or podcast platform.

Example of a Podcast Episode Footnote

9. "The Ethics of AI," interview by Sarah Lee, *Future Forward Podcast*, November 1, 2023, <https://www.futureforwardpodcast.com/episodes/ai-ethics>.

Example of a Podcast Episode Bibliography Entry

"The Ethics of AI." Interview by Sarah Lee. *Future Forward Podcast*. November 1, 2023. <https://www.futureforwardpodcast.com/episodes/ai-ethics>.

In-Text Citations vs. Notes

A fundamental aspect of the notes-bibliography system in Chicago style is the distinction between in-text citations and the full notes and bibliography entries. In-text citations are typically brief and direct readers to a footnote or endnote. These notes then contain more comprehensive citation details. This dual approach allows for a cleaner reading experience in the main text while providing full source attribution.

Purpose of In-Text Citations

In-text citations serve as immediate pointers to the source of information within the body of your work. They are crucial for acknowledging direct quotes, paraphrased ideas, and summarized information, preventing plagiarism and enabling readers to quickly identify where an idea originated.

Structure of Footnotes/Endnotes

Footnotes appear at the bottom of the page, while endnotes are collected at the end of the document. Both serve the same purpose: to provide detailed bibliographic information for the source being referenced. The first time a source is cited, the note will be more comprehensive; subsequent citations of the same source can be shortened.

Creating Your Bibliography/Works Cited

The bibliography, or works cited list in some contexts, is an alphabetical list of all the sources you have consulted and cited in your work. It serves as a comprehensive directory for your readers, allowing them to locate the sources themselves. The formatting for bibliography entries for online sources should be consistent with the examples provided throughout this guide.

Importance of Alphabetical Order

Arranging your bibliography alphabetically by the author's last name (or by title if no author is listed) is a standard practice that enhances usability. This allows readers to quickly scan and find a specific source if they are interested in learning more about the topic.

Consistency in Formatting

Maintaining strict consistency in formatting across all your bibliography entries is as important as the accuracy of the information itself. Ensure that punctuation, capitalization, and the order of elements are uniform for all sources, whether they are print or digital. This professionalism reflects well on the rigor of your research.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How do I cite a PDF document found online using the Chicago Manual of Style?

A: When citing a PDF document found online, treat it similarly to a webpage or a report. Include the author (if known), title, publication date, and the URL. If it's a PDF of a published work (like a journal article or book chapter), you might include details specific to that original publication format alongside the online access information. For example: Author Last Name, First Name. "Title of Document." Title of Website or Organization (if applicable). Last modified or published Date. URL.

Q: What is the difference between a DOI and a URL in Chicago style online citations?

A: A DOI (Digital Object Identifier) is a persistent, unique identifier for a digital object, such as a journal article. It's designed to be a stable link that will not change even if the content is moved. A URL (Uniform Resource Locator) is a web address that can be more prone to change or become broken over time. Chicago style prefers DOIs when available as they are more reliable. If a DOI is not available, the URL is used, and often an access date is recommended for online sources without stable identifiers.

Q: How do I cite a social media post (like a tweet or Facebook post) in Chicago style?

A: Citing social media posts requires careful consideration of what information is available and how permanent the post is. For a Twitter post, you might include the author's username, the exact text of the tweet (or a description if too long), the date and time of the post, and the URL. For a Facebook post, similar information would be included, noting the platform and URL. For example: Username [@UserHandle]. "Content of the post." Platform Name, Date, Time. URL.

Q: When should I include an access date for an online source in Chicago style?

A: An access date is crucial for online sources that are not permanently archived or that might change over time. This includes many webpages, blog posts, and online articles that do not have a fixed publication date or that are frequently updated. For sources with a stable DOI or for published works that are archived, an access date may be less critical but is still a good practice for digital content. Chicago generally recommends including access dates for all online sources unless a stable identifier like a DOI is present.

Q: What if the website I'm citing has no author and no publication date?

A: If a website has no author, use the name of the organization or company that published the

website. If there is no publication date, use "n.d." (for no date) or specify when the page was last updated if that information is available. The citation would then look something like: Organization Name. "Title of Webpage." Accessed Month Day, Year. URL. If no date information is available at all, you would use "n.d." for the publication date.

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