

chicago manual of style physical geography citation

chicago manual of style physical geography citation is a crucial element for any academic or professional work in the field. Accurately citing physical geography sources ensures academic integrity, allows readers to verify information, and demonstrates the researcher's engagement with existing scholarship. This comprehensive guide will delve into the intricacies of citing physical geography within the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS), covering various source types and common citation scenarios. We will explore how to correctly format citations for books, journal articles, websites, and even data sets, all while adhering to CMOS principles. Understanding these guidelines is paramount for students, researchers, and anyone contributing to the discourse of physical geography.

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Understanding the Core Principles of CMOS Citation

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) offers two primary citation systems: the notes-bibliography system and the author-date system. For most humanities and social sciences, including many areas of physical geography, the notes-bibliography system is prevalent. This system utilizes footnotes or endnotes for in-text citations, with a comprehensive bibliography at the end of the work. The key is consistency; once a system is chosen, it must be applied uniformly throughout the document. The goal is always clarity and the provision of sufficient information for readers to locate the original source.

When citing physical geography, it's essential to capture specific details about the source that are relevant to its content and origin. This includes author names, publication titles, dates, publishers, page numbers, and for online sources, URLs and access dates. The physical characteristics of the Earth's surface, its processes, and spatial relationships are often detailed in diverse formats, requiring careful attention to bibliographic details to accurately represent the origin of the information presented.

Citing Physical Geography Books

Books remain a cornerstone of research in physical geography, providing foundational knowledge and in-depth analyses of specific topics. Whether citing a seminal textbook on geomorphology or a monograph on climate change, the CMOS formatting is consistent. The primary elements required for a book

citation include the author's full name, the title of the book (italicized), the publisher, and the year of publication. If referencing a specific portion of the book, the relevant page numbers must also be included in the note.

First-Time Citation of a Book

When a book is cited for the first time in a footnote or endnote, the information is presented in a specific order. For example: Author's First Name Last Name, *Title of Book* (City of Publication: Publisher, Year), Page Number(s). For a work by a single author, this format is standard. The italicization of the book title is a crucial visual cue that differentiates it from other elements of the citation.

Subsequent Citations of a Book

For any subsequent mentions of the same book within your work, the citation can be shortened for brevity. Typically, this involves using the author's last name, a shortened version of the title (if it's lengthy), and the page number(s). For example: Last Name, Shortened Title, Page Number(s). This streamlined approach prevents redundancy while still allowing readers to easily identify the source.

Edited Books and Chapters

Physical geography research often draws from edited collections where different authors contribute chapters. Citing a chapter from an edited book requires a slightly different format. The footnote or endnote will include the chapter author's name, the chapter title (in quotation marks), followed by "in" and then the editor(s)' full name(s) and title (e.g., "edited by First Name Last Name"), the *Title of the Book* (italicized), the publisher, the year of publication, and the page numbers of the specific chapter. The bibliography entry will generally follow a similar structure but with the editor(s) listed before the book title.

Citing Journal Articles in Physical Geography

Academic journals are vital for disseminating the latest research findings in physical geography. Correctly citing these articles is paramount for acknowledging original research and allowing readers to access the most current scientific discourse. CMOS provides clear guidelines for journal article citations, ensuring all necessary components are present.

Standard Journal Article Citation

A typical journal article citation in a footnote or endnote includes the author's full name, the title of the article (in quotation marks), the title of the journal (italicized), the volume number, the issue number (often in parentheses), the year of publication, and the page numbers of the article. For example: Author First Name Last Name, "Title of Article," *Journal Title* Volume, no. Issue (Year): Page Number(s). This detailed format ensures that readers can precisely locate the article within the vast landscape of

academic literature.

Online Journal Articles

With the prevalence of online journal access, it's common to cite articles found through databases or publisher websites. When citing an online journal article, you should include the same information as a print article, plus the DOI (Digital Object Identifier) if available, or the URL and the date you accessed the article. The DOI is the preferred method as it provides a stable link. For example: Author First Name Last Name, "Title of Article," Journal Title Volume, no. Issue (Year): Page Number(s), DOI or URL (accessed Month Day, Year). The inclusion of access dates is particularly important for online resources that may change or be removed.

Citing Online Resources and Websites for Physical Geography

The internet is an invaluable repository of information for physical geographers, from government reports and satellite imagery providers to scientific organizations and educational institutions. However, the ephemeral nature of web content necessitates careful citation practices.

General Website Citation

When citing a general webpage, the footnote or endnote should include the author (if known), the title of the specific page (in quotation marks), the title of the website (italicized), the publication date (if available), and the URL. Crucially, include the date of access. For example: Author Last Name, "Title of Web Page," Title of Website, Publication Date, URL (accessed Month Day, Year). If no author is listed, begin with the title of the page.

Government and Institutional Websites

Reports and data from government agencies (like NOAA, USGS, NASA) or research institutions are frequently used in physical geography. These often have specific authors or departments credited. The citation should reflect this, specifying the agency or department as the author if no individual author is listed. For instance: U.S. Geological Survey, Report Title, Publication Date, URL (accessed Month Day, Year). Accuracy in identifying the publishing body is key.

Citing Maps and Geographic Data

Maps and geographic datasets are fundamental primary sources in physical geography. Citing them accurately is crucial for acknowledging their origin and enabling replication or verification of spatial analysis.

Citing Physical Maps

When citing a physical map, include the title of the map (*italicized*), the publisher, the scale, and the year of publication. If it's part of a larger work, like an atlas, include that information as well. For example: *Topographic Map of Yosemite National Park*, U.S. Geological Survey, 1:24,000, 2018. For an atlas entry: Author of Atlas, Title of Atlas, in "Map Title," Map Scale (Publisher, Year), Map Page Number.

Citing Digital Geographic Data

Digital datasets, such as those from remote sensing or geographic information systems (GIS), require specific citation formats. Include the creator or source of the data, the title of the dataset (in quotation marks or *italicized*, depending on whether it's a specific file or a broader collection), the version or release date, and the source or repository from which it was obtained, along with a URL if applicable and an access date. For example: NASA, "Earth Observing System Data and Information System (EOSDIS)," accessed January 15, 2023, <https://earthdata.nasa.gov/>. For a specific dataset: Esri, "World Topographic Map," ArcGIS Living Atlas of the World, accessed October 20, 2023, <https://livingatlas.arcgis.com/en/tile/world-topographic-map/>.

Common Citation Challenges in Physical Geography

The dynamic and multi-faceted nature of physical geography research can present unique citation challenges. These often involve sources that don't fit neatly into standard categories or that have multiple creators and versions.

Sources with Multiple Authors

CMOS handles multiple authors differently in notes and bibliographies. In notes, if there are two authors, list both. For three or more authors, list the first author followed by "et al." In the bibliography, for up to ten authors, list all of them. For more than ten authors, list the first seven followed by "et al." Consistency is vital.

Unpublished Dissertations and Theses

When citing unpublished doctoral dissertations or master's theses, provide the author's name, the title of the work (in quotation marks), the type of work (e.g., PhD dissertation, MA thesis), the institution where it was completed, and the year of completion. If citing from a digital repository, include the URL and access date. For example: Jane Doe, "The Impact of Glacial Retreat on Alpine Ecosystems" (PhD dissertation, University of Colorado Boulder, 2022), <https://www.example.edu/thesis.pdf> (accessed November 1, 2023).

Citing Government Documents

Government documents can be complex to cite due to varying authorship and publication structures. Generally, cite the government body as the author, followed by the specific agency or sub-agency responsible for the publication. Include the title of the document, publication date, and where it was published. If it's a congressional report, provide the Congress and session number.

Footnotes and Endnotes in CMOS

In the notes-bibliography system, footnotes appear at the bottom of the page where the reference is made, while endnotes are compiled at the end of the document. Both serve the same purpose: to provide immediate citation information without disrupting the flow of the main text. For physical geography research, especially when detailing specific data points or theoretical underpinnings from a source, a brief note can be extremely useful for the reader.

The formatting of notes closely mirrors the initial citation format for each source type discussed earlier. The purpose is to give the reader enough information to identify the source and, ideally, its location. The key is to maintain clarity and avoid ambiguity, ensuring that every piece of referenced information is properly attributed.

The Bibliography in CMOS

The bibliography, appearing at the end of the paper, provides a comprehensive list of all sources consulted and cited in the work. Unlike notes, which can be shortened after the first full citation, bibliography entries are presented in full. The CMOS bibliography is arranged alphabetically by the author's last name. Each entry provides complete bibliographic details, allowing readers to easily locate and consult the original sources themselves.

For physical geography, the bibliography will encompass a wide array of materials, reflecting the diverse sources used to study Earth's systems. Ensuring every source mentioned in the notes is present in the bibliography, and vice versa, is a critical step in preparing the final manuscript. This meticulous attention to detail underscores the rigor and credibility of the physical geography research presented.

FAQ

Q: What is the primary difference between citing a physical geography book in a footnote versus the bibliography according to CMOS?

A: In a footnote or endnote, the first citation of a book includes the author's full name, the title of the book (*italicized*), the city of publication, the publisher, the year of publication, and the specific page

number(s). Subsequent citations are shortened. In the bibliography, all entries are presented in full and alphabetized by the author's last name, using a format that typically lists the author's last name first, followed by their first name, the italicized book title, the place of publication, the publisher, and the year of publication, but usually without specific page numbers unless it's a chapter in an edited work.

Q: How should I cite a journal article in physical geography that I accessed online via a DOI?

A: When citing a journal article with a DOI in CMOS, the footnote/endnote should include the author(s), the article title in quotation marks, the italicized journal title, volume, issue number, year of publication, and the DOI. For example: Author First Name Last Name, "Title of Article," *Journal Title* Volume, no. Issue (Year): Page Number(s), DOI. The bibliography entry follows a similar structure but will list the DOI at the end.

Q: What are the key components for citing a government report related to physical geography in CMOS?

A: For a government report, the author is typically the government body or agency responsible for the report. The footnote/endnote would include the government agency, the title of the report (often italicized if it's a formal publication, or in quotation marks if it's a standalone paper), the report number (if applicable), the place of publication, the publisher, and the year. The URL and access date should be included if accessed online.

Q: How do I cite a specific map from an atlas in my physical geography paper using CMOS?

A: To cite a specific map from an atlas in CMOS, your footnote/endnote would generally include the author of the atlas (if any), the title of the atlas (italicized), followed by the title of the specific map (often in quotation marks), the map's scale, the publisher of the atlas, the year of publication, and the page number where the map appears.

Q: What is the correct way to format a citation for a website that provides physical geography data, according to CMOS?

A: When citing a website with physical geography data, include the author (if known, otherwise start with the title of the page), the title of the specific page (in quotation marks), the title of the website (italicized), the date of publication or last update (if available), the full URL, and importantly, the date you accessed the information. For example: Author Last Name, "Title of Data Page," *Website Name*, Publication Date, URL (accessed Month Day, Year).

Q: I'm using a digital elevation model (DEM) dataset.

How should I cite this in CMOS for a physical geography context?

A: Citing digital geographic data like a DEM requires identifying the creator or source of the data, the title of the dataset, its version or release date, and the repository or platform from which it was obtained, including a URL if applicable and the access date. For example: U.S. Geological Survey, "National Elevation Dataset," accessed November 10, 2023, <https://ned.usgs.gov/>.

Q: What is the policy in CMOS for citing sources with more than ten authors in the bibliography for a physical geography paper?

A: If a physical geography source has more than ten authors, the CMOS bibliography entry will list the first seven authors followed by "et al." The footnote/endnote, however, will list the first author followed by "et al." if there are three or more authors.

Q: When citing a thesis or dissertation for physical geography research, what information is crucial for a CMOS citation?

A: For a thesis or dissertation, a CMOS citation requires the author's full name, the title of the work in quotation marks, the type of degree (e.g., PhD dissertation, MA thesis), the university that awarded the degree, and the year it was conferred. If accessed online, the URL and access date are also necessary.

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