

chicago manual of style political science bibliography

Mastering the Chicago Manual of Style for Political Science Bibliographies

chicago manual of style political science bibliography is a crucial element for any academic paper, thesis, or book within the discipline of political science. Ensuring your bibliography adheres to the rigorous standards of the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) demonstrates scholarly precision and enhances the credibility of your research. This comprehensive guide will demystify the process, covering essential elements, common citation examples, and best practices for creating a flawless bibliography that meets the exacting requirements of academic publishing. We will explore the intricacies of citing various sources, from journal articles and books to web pages and government documents, all within the framework of CMOS. Understanding these details is paramount for political science scholars seeking to present their work professionally and accurately.

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Understanding the Chicago Manual of Style for Bibliographies

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) offers two distinct citation systems: the Notes and Bibliography system and the Author-Date system. For political science, the Notes and Bibliography system is generally preferred, particularly in traditional humanities and social science disciplines. This system utilizes footnotes or endnotes for citations within the text and a comprehensive bibliography at the end of the work. The bibliography serves as a complete list of all sources consulted and cited, providing full publication details. Political science, with its reliance on diverse sources including historical documents, theoretical texts, and empirical studies, benefits greatly from the detailed referencing provided by CMOS.

The primary goal of a Chicago-style bibliography is to provide readers with enough information to locate and verify the sources used. This means meticulously recording author names, titles, publication dates, publishers, and other relevant details. The structure and punctuation of each entry are highly specific, and deviating from these rules can lead to confusion and unprofessionalism. Therefore, a thorough understanding of CMOS guidelines is not merely a stylistic choice but a fundamental aspect of scholarly integrity in political science.

Key Elements of a Chicago-Style Bibliography Entry

Regardless of the type of source, a standard Chicago-style bibliography entry typically includes several core components. These elements are presented in a specific order and format to ensure clarity and consistency across all entries. Familiarizing yourself with these fundamental building blocks is the first step to mastering CMOS bibliographies.

Author(s)

The entry begins with the author's name. For a single author, the last name is listed first, followed by a comma, and then the first name (e.g., Smith, John). For two or more authors, the first author's name is inverted, and subsequent authors are listed in normal first-name-last-name order. If there are more than ten authors, CMOS typically suggests listing the first seven followed by "et al."

Title of the Work

The full title of the book, article, or other work is then provided. Book titles are italicized, while article titles are enclosed in quotation marks. The capitalization of titles generally follows title case rules, with most words capitalized.

Publication Information

This section includes details about where and when the work was published. For books, this includes the city of publication, the publisher's name, and the year of publication. For journal articles, it includes the journal title (italicized), volume number, issue number, and the page range of the article. Online resources will have specific information related to access dates and URLs.

Other Relevant Details

Depending on the source, other details might be included, such as edition information for books, the title of a larger work for chapters or essays, or the DOI (Digital Object Identifier) for journal articles. These additions provide further precision in locating the source.

Citing Books in Political Science

Books are a cornerstone of political science literature, and their citation requires careful attention to detail under CMOS. Whether it's a foundational theoretical text or a recent empirical study, accurate book citations are non-negotiable.

Single-Author Books

For a book with a single author, the format is generally as follows: Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. City of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication.

For example:

- Fukuyama, Francis. *The End of History and the Last Man*. New York: Free Press, 1992.

Books with Multiple Authors

When citing books with two or three authors, list all authors with the first author's name inverted. For four or more authors, list the first author's name inverted and follow with "et al."

Example for two authors:

- King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994.

Example for more than three authors (using "et al."):

- Almond, Gabriel A., G. Bingham Powell Jr., Kaare Strøm, and Richard Sall. *Comparative Politics Today: A World View*. 9th ed. New York: Pearson Longman, 2008.

Edited Volumes and Chapters

Citing a chapter in an edited volume requires referencing both the chapter author and the editor(s). The format typically includes the chapter author's name, the chapter title (in quotation marks), followed by "in" and the title of the edited book (italicized), along with the editor(s)' names and the page range of the chapter.

Example:

- Schattschneider, E. E. "The Public, Opinion, and the Mass Media." In *The Policy Process: A Reader*, edited by Richard Rothstein, 125-40. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1993.

Citing Journal Articles in Political Science

Journal articles are vital for contemporary political science research, offering insights from recent scholarship. CMOS provides specific guidelines for citing these frequently accessed sources.

Standard Journal Article Format

The typical format for a journal article citation includes the author(s), article title, journal title, volume and issue numbers, publication year, and the page range of the article.

Example:

- Keohane, Robert O. "International Institutions: Can Interdependence Work?" *Foreign Policy* 110 (Spring 1998): 37-51.

Articles with DOIs

For articles that have a Digital Object Identifier (DOI), it is recommended to include it. DOIs are persistent links that help readers access the article online even if journal websites change. The DOI is usually placed at the end of the citation.

Example:

- Feldman, Christina. "Political Parties and the Mass Media: A Theoretical Reassessment." *American Political Science Review* 105, no. 3 (August 2011): 567-85. doi:10.1017/S000305541100034X.

Articles from Databases

When an article is accessed through an academic database and lacks a DOI, it is often acceptable to cite the database name, the date of access, and the URL. However, the primary citation details of the article itself should still be present.

Citing Online Resources and Websites

The digital age has expanded the range of sources available to political scientists, making it essential to cite online materials accurately according to CMOS guidelines.

Web Pages and Reports

Citing a web page requires information such as the author (if available), the title of the page or document, the website name, the publication date or last updated date, and the URL. It is also standard practice to include an access date.

Example:

- "The State of Global Democracy." International IDEA. Last modified October 26, 2023.
<https://www.idea.int/state-of-democracy>.

Government Websites and Reports

When citing information from government websites, treat them similarly to other web pages, but ensure

the issuing government agency or department is clearly identified. The specific format will depend on whether it's a report, a press release, or a policy document.

Blogs and Social Media

While less common in formal academic works, blogs and social media can sometimes be relevant. CMOS provides guidance for these, typically including the author, the post title, the platform name, the publication date, and the URL.

Citing Government Documents

Government documents, including legislation, reports, and official records, are fundamental to political science. CMOS offers specific rules for these often complex sources.

Legislation

Citing statutes or acts requires precision, typically including the title of the act, the public law number (if applicable), and the year it was enacted. The format can vary depending on whether you are citing U.S. federal law, state law, or international legislation.

Example for U.S. federal law:

- Civil Rights Act of 1964. Public Law 88-352. 78 Stat. 241.

Government Reports

Reports published by government agencies should be cited by the agency name as the author, followed by the title of the report (in italics), and then the publication details, including the year.

Example:

- United States. Congressional Budget Office. *The Budget and Economic Outlook: 2023 to 2033*. Washington, DC: Congressional Budget Office, 2023.

Congressional Hearings and Debates

Citations for these sources will typically include the committee or chamber, the title of the hearing or debate, and the Congressional Record volume and page numbers where the content can be found.

Common Challenges and Solutions in Political Science Bibliographies

Navigating the nuances of CMOS can present challenges, particularly with less common source types or when encountering ambiguity in publication details. Political science often involves interdisciplinary work, leading to a wide array of source materials.

Ambiguous Publication Dates

If a publication date is unavailable, CMOS suggests using "n.d." (no date). However, for online sources, an access date is always required, and if a "last updated" date is present, it should be used in place of a publication date.

Translated Works

When citing a translated work, include the original author, the title in the original language (if known and relevant), followed by the translator's name and the translated title. The publication information for the translated edition then follows.

Example:

- Machiavelli, Niccolò. *The Prince*. Translated by Harvey C. Mansfield. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998.

Dissertations and Theses

These academic works should be cited by author, title, and then identified as a dissertation or thesis, including the degree sought, the university granting the degree, and the year of completion.

Example:

- Anderson, John. "The Evolution of Democratic Institutions." PhD diss., University of California,

The Importance of Consistency and Accuracy

The bedrock of any strong bibliography, especially one adhering to the Chicago Manual of Style, is unwavering consistency and meticulous accuracy. Every entry must follow the established format without deviation. A single misplaced comma or incorrect italicization can detract from the overall professionalism of your work.

Political science research often relies on extensive bibliographies. Therefore, maintaining consistency in how you format author names, titles, publication dates, and punctuation is paramount. Tools like citation management software can be invaluable in ensuring this consistency, but they should always be used in conjunction with a thorough understanding of CMOS guidelines. Ultimately, a well-crafted bibliography not only supports your arguments but also reflects your dedication to scholarly rigor and the integrity of your research.

FAQ

Q: What is the primary difference between the Notes and Bibliography system and the Author-Date system in the Chicago Manual of Style, and which is generally preferred in political science?

A: The Notes and Bibliography system uses footnotes or endnotes for in-text citations and a bibliography at the end. The Author-Date system uses in-text citations like (Author Year) and a reference list at the end. The Notes and Bibliography system is generally preferred in political science, especially for works that lean towards historical or theoretical analysis.

Q: How do I cite a book with an edition other than the first in the Chicago Manual of Style for a political science bibliography?

A: For books with editions other than the first, you will include the edition number after the title. For example: Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. Xth ed. City of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication.

Q: What is the correct way to cite a chapter from an edited volume in a political science bibliography using CMOS?

A: To cite a chapter from an edited volume, you cite the chapter author, the chapter title in quotation marks, followed by "in," the title of the edited book in italics, the editor(s) name(s), and the page range of the chapter. For example: Chapter Author, "Chapter Title." In *Title of Edited Book*, edited by Editor First Name Last Name, Page numbers. City: Publisher, Year.

Q: How should I handle citing sources where the author is an organization or government agency in a political science bibliography adhering to CMOS?

A: When the author is an organization or government agency, you use the organization's name as the author. For U.S. government agencies, you often list the specific department or agency followed by the sub-agency if applicable. For example: United States. Department of State. *Report on International Relations*. Washington, DC: GPO, Year.

Q: What is the CMOS approach to citing online articles or web pages that do not have a clear publication date?

A: For online articles or web pages without a clear publication date, you will use "n.d." (no date) for the publication date. However, it is crucial to include the date you accessed the material and the full URL. For example: Author Last Name, First Name. "Article Title." Website Name. Last modified Month Day, Year (if available). Accessed Month Day, Year. URL.

Q: Should I include the DOI for journal articles in my political science bibliography when using the Chicago Manual of Style?

A: Yes, it is highly recommended and often required to include the DOI (Digital Object Identifier) for journal articles if one is available. This provides a stable and persistent link to the article, making it easier for readers to locate. The DOI is typically placed at the end of the citation.

Q: How does CMOS handle the citation of translated works for a political science bibliography?

A: When citing a translated work, you should list the original author, followed by the title of the work (often including the original title if significant), and then clearly indicate the translator. The publication information for the translated edition then follows. For example: Original Author, *Title of Work*, trans.

Translator First Name Last Name (City: Publisher, Year).

Q: What is the correct punctuation for book titles versus article titles in a Chicago-style political science bibliography?

A: In a Chicago-style bibliography, book titles are always italicized. Article titles, on the other hand, are enclosed in quotation marks. This distinction is a fundamental rule for differentiating between complete works and parts of larger works.

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