

chicago manual of style referencing examples footnotes

The Chicago Manual of Style referencing examples footnotes are a cornerstone of academic and scholarly writing, providing a rigorous framework for citing sources and acknowledging the intellectual contributions of others. Mastering the intricacies of Chicago style footnotes, particularly the nuances of their formatting and content, is essential for avoiding plagiarism and establishing credibility. This comprehensive guide delves deep into Chicago manual of style referencing examples footnotes, offering clear explanations and practical demonstrations for various source types. We will explore the fundamental structure of a Chicago footnote, examine specific examples for common source materials like books, articles, and websites, and discuss best practices for consistent and accurate citation. Whether you are a student, researcher, or professional writer, understanding these referencing examples will empower you to navigate the complexities of scholarly communication with confidence.

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Understanding Chicago Style Footnotes

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) offers two primary systems for citations: the notes-bibliography system and the author-date system. This article focuses exclusively on the notes-bibliography system, which utilizes footnotes or endnotes for citations and a comprehensive bibliography at the end of the work. Footnotes, appearing at the bottom of the page where the reference is made, are often preferred for their immediate accessibility to the reader, allowing for seamless integration of source information without disrupting the flow of the main text. This system is particularly prevalent in humanities disciplines such as literature, history, and art history.

The primary purpose of a footnote is to give credit to sources, allowing readers to locate the original information. Beyond simple attribution, footnotes can also serve to provide supplementary information that, while relevant, might interrupt the narrative of the main text. This could include extended definitions, digressions, or brief elaborations on a point. However, the core function remains accurate and complete referencing, ensuring academic integrity and facilitating scholarly dialogue.

The Anatomy of a Chicago Style Footnote

A Chicago style footnote generally comprises three key components: the superscript Arabic numeral, the citation information, and a subsequent superscript numeral for repeat citations of the same source. The superscript numeral is placed at the end of a sentence or clause, immediately following any punctuation. The citation information within the footnote itself follows a specific order, including author's name, title of the work, publication details, and page number(s).

The first time a source is cited in a footnote, it requires a full citation. Subsequent citations of the same source, if they appear consecutively, can be shortened to include only the author's last name and a page number. If non-consecutive citations of the same source occur, a shortened version of the citation (often including author, title, and page number) is used. The Chicago Manual of Style provides specific guidelines for the punctuation and formatting of each element within the citation to ensure consistency and clarity across all references.

First Note (Full Citation)

The initial citation of a source in a footnote demands completeness. This includes the author's first and last name, the full title of the book or article in italics (for books) or quotation marks (for articles), followed by publication information such as the place of publication, publisher, and year, and finally, the specific page number(s) being referenced.

Subsequent Notes (Shortened Citation)

Once a source has been fully cited, subsequent references are typically shortened. For consecutive citations of the same source, the abbreviation "Ibid." (meaning "in the same place") is used, followed by a page number if different from the previous citation. If the source is cited again but not consecutively, a shortened form, typically comprising the author's last name, a shortened title (if necessary to distinguish it from other works by the same author), and the page number, is employed.

Chicago Manual of Style Referencing Examples: Books

Citing books is fundamental to Chicago style referencing. The format for a book footnote depends on whether it's the first mention of the book or a subsequent one, and whether it's a single-author work or has multiple authors. Understanding these distinctions is crucial for accurate academic attribution.

Single-Author Book (First Citation)

For the first mention of a single-author book, the footnote should include the author's first and last name, the italicized title, the city of publication, the publisher, the year of publication, and the specific page number.

- 1. Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice* (New York: Penguin Classics, 2003), 45.

Single-Author Book (Subsequent Citation)

If this is not the first citation of Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, and it's not immediately following the first citation, a shortened note is used.

- 2. Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 112.

Two or Three Authors (First Citation)

When a book has two or three authors, all authors' names are listed in the first footnote.

- 3. Michael Pollan and Dan Barber, *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals* (New York: Penguin Books, 2006), 88.

More Than Three Authors (First Citation)

For books with more than three authors, the first footnote lists the first author's name followed by "et al." (and others).

- 4. John Smith et al., *Theories of Modern Physics* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010), 150.

Edited Book (First Citation)

When citing an edited book, the editor's name is used instead of the author's, and the term "ed." or "eds." is included.

- 5. Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, ed., *African American Women's History: Sources and Interpretations* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001), 23.

Chicago Manual of Style Referencing Examples: Journal Articles

Citing journal articles involves providing details about the authors, article title, journal name, volume and issue numbers, publication date, and the specific page range. This allows readers to pinpoint the exact article and its location within the journal.

Journal Article (First Citation)

The first citation of a journal article requires the author(s), the article title in quotation marks, the italicized journal title, the volume and issue numbers, the year of publication, and the specific page number(s).

- 6. Sarah E. Thompson, "The Impact of Social Media on Political Discourse," *Journal of Communication Studies* 35, no. 2 (2019): 145.

Journal Article (Subsequent Citation)

Similar to book citations, subsequent references to the same journal article are shortened.

- 7. Thompson, "Social Media," 152.

Article with DOI (First Citation)

If a journal article has a Digital Object Identifier (DOI), it should be included in the citation.

- 8. Michael J. Davies, "Quantum Entanglement in Everyday Phenomena," *Physical Review Letters* 110, no. 7 (2013): 070402, doi:10.1103/PhysRevLett.110.070402.

Chicago Manual of Style Referencing Examples:

Websites and Online Sources

Citing online sources, such as websites, can be more variable due to the ever-changing nature of digital content. The key is to provide as much identifying information as possible to allow readers to find the material.

Webpage (First Citation)

For a webpage, include the author (if known), the title of the page in quotation marks, the name of the overall website (italicized), the publication or last updated date (if available), and the URL. It is also advisable to include an access date.

- 9. National Museum of American History, "The Star-Spangled Banner," Smithsonian, accessed October 26, 2023, <https://americanhistory.si.edu/uss/flag>.

Online Article (First Citation)

When citing an article from an online news source or magazine, follow a similar format, including the author, article title, website name, publication date, and URL.

- 10. David Brooks, "The Real Reason People Are So Angry," *The New York Times*, October 25, 2023, <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/10/25/opinion/opinion-anger-politics.html>.

Website Without Specific Author or Date

In cases where an author or publication date is not readily available, focus on the website name and the URL.

- 11. "About Us," Wikipedia, accessed October 26, 2023, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:About>.

Chicago Manual of Style Referencing Examples: Other Source Types

Beyond books and articles, Chicago style offers guidance for a wide array of source materials, including dissertations, theses, interviews, and multimedia. Each has its specific formatting requirements to ensure clarity and traceability.

Dissertation or Thesis (Unpublished)

When citing an unpublished dissertation or thesis, include the author's name, the title of the work (in quotation marks), the type of document (e.g., "PhD diss.," "MA thesis"), the university, and the year of completion, along with page numbers.

- 12. Emily Carter, "The Evolution of Urban Planning in Post-War Chicago" (PhD diss., University of Illinois at Chicago, 2018), 98.

Interview

For interviews, cite the interviewee's name, the type of interview (e.g., "interview by author," "personal interview"), and the date the interview took place. If the interview has been published or is available online, include those details as well.

- 13. John Smith, personal interview by author, October 20, 2023.

Documentary Film

When citing a documentary film, include the film title (italicized), director, and year of release. If citing a specific part, mention the relevant segment and time.

- 14. *Planet Earth*, directed by Alastair Fothergill, BBC, 2006.

Best Practices for Chicago Style Footnotes

Consistency is paramount when employing the Chicago manual of style referencing examples footnotes. Adhering strictly to the prescribed format for each source type ensures that your work is perceived as professional and credible. Even minor deviations can detract from the overall quality of your scholarship.

It is also advisable to maintain a standardized approach to abbreviations and punctuation. For instance, consistently using "et al." for more than three authors or applying the "Ibid." abbreviation appropriately for consecutive citations will enhance the uniformity of your footnotes. Regular proofreading of your footnotes is essential to catch any errors before submission.

- Be consistent with punctuation.
- Use superscript numerals correctly.
- Distinguish between first and subsequent citations.
- Provide complete information for each source.
- Proofread carefully for errors.

Variations and Special Cases in Chicago Footnotes

The Chicago Manual of Style is comprehensive and addresses numerous less common source types, such as government documents, corporate reports, and multimedia. While the core principles of providing identifying information and page numbers remain, the specifics of how these are presented can vary. For instance, citing a government report might involve referencing the issuing agency, the title, the report number (if applicable), and the date.

When encountering unique source materials, it is always best to consult the most recent edition of The Chicago Manual of Style for precise guidance. The manual offers detailed examples for a vast array of materials, ensuring that all scholarly contributions can be accurately acknowledged. Familiarity with these variations will further solidify your expertise in scholarly citation practices.

FAQ Section:

Q: What is the primary difference between a footnote and an endnote in Chicago style?

A: In the Chicago Manual of Style's notes-bibliography system, footnotes appear at the bottom of the page where the reference is made, while endnotes appear at the end of the document, before the bibliography. Both serve the same citation purpose but differ in their placement.

Q: When should I use "Ibid." in my Chicago style footnotes?

A: "Ibid." is used for consecutive citations of the same source. If the subsequent citation refers to the exact same page as the previous one, you simply write "Ibid." If it refers to a different page of the

same source, you write "Ibid.," followed by the new page number.

Q: How do I cite a book with an editor instead of an author in Chicago style footnotes?

A: When citing a book with an editor, you place the editor's name first, followed by "ed." or "eds." (for multiple editors), then the italicized title, publication information, and page number. For example: John Smith, ed., *Collected Essays* (New York: Publisher, 2020), 75.

Q: What if a webpage doesn't have a clear author or publication date?

A: If a webpage lacks a specific author, start with the title of the page. If there's no publication or last updated date, you can omit it and use the access date. For example: "Topic of the Page," Website Name, accessed Month Day, Year, URL.

Q: How do I cite a source that I consulted online but is also available in print?

A: The Chicago Manual of Style generally prefers you cite the version you actually consulted. If you read a book online, you would cite it as an online source. If you read a print journal article online, you would cite it with the DOI or URL if available, otherwise as a print source if you accessed it physically.

Q: What is the minimum information required for a shortened footnote in Chicago style?

A: For subsequent citations of a source that is not consecutive, a shortened footnote typically includes the author's last name, a shortened title of the work (if necessary to distinguish it from other works by the same author), and the page number.

Q: Should I include the DOI in my footnote citation for journal articles?

A: Yes, if a journal article has a Digital Object Identifier (DOI), you should include it in your citation. It provides a persistent link to the article, making it easier for readers to locate.

Q: How does the author-date system differ from the notes-bibliography system in Chicago style?

A: The notes-bibliography system uses footnotes or endnotes for citations and a bibliography. The author-date system uses parenthetical in-text citations (Author Year, Page) and a reference list at the

end, similar to APA or MLA styles.

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