

chicago style academic paper citation examples university

chicago style academic paper citation examples university guidelines can seem daunting to students and researchers navigating the academic landscape. Understanding how to properly cite sources is fundamental to academic integrity, ensuring credit is given where it's due and allowing readers to trace your research. This comprehensive guide delves into the intricacies of Chicago style, specifically focusing on citation examples commonly encountered in university settings. We will explore both the notes-bibliography and the author-date systems, providing detailed examples for various source types, from books and journal articles to websites and more. Mastering these citation practices is crucial for producing polished, credible academic work at the university level, and this article will equip you with the knowledge to do so effectively.

Table of Contents

Understanding Chicago Style: Notes-Bibliography vs. Author-Date

Core Elements of Chicago Style Citations

Citing Books in Chicago Style: University Context

Citing Journal Articles for Academic Papers

Referencing Websites and Online Resources

Other Common Source Types in University Research

In-Text Citations: Notes-Bibliography System

In-Text Citations: Author-Date System

Formatting Your Bibliography/Reference List

Common Pitfalls in Chicago Style Citation

Understanding Chicago Style: Notes-Bibliography vs. Author-Date

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) is a widely respected citation style, particularly prevalent in the humanities and social sciences within university environments. It offers two distinct systems for citing sources: the notes-bibliography system and the author-date system. While both aim to provide clear and consistent attribution, they differ significantly in their application and presentation.

Understanding these differences is the first step to correctly implementing Chicago style in your academic papers.

The notes-bibliography system, often preferred in history, literature, and the arts, uses numbered footnotes or endnotes to cite sources within the text. A corresponding bibliography at the end of the paper lists all cited works alphabetically. This method allows for extensive parenthetical explanations or tangential information within the notes themselves, a flexibility appreciated in certain scholarly disciplines. The author-date system, conversely, is more common in the sciences and social sciences. It uses brief in-text parenthetical citations (Author Last Name, Year) followed by a full reference list at the end of the paper, organized alphabetically by author's last name.

Core Elements of Chicago Style Citations

Regardless of the system chosen, Chicago style citations generally follow a predictable structure, focusing on providing essential bibliographic information. Key elements typically include the author's name, the title of the work, publication information (publisher, date, place), and page numbers where applicable. The precise order and punctuation of these elements can vary slightly between the two systems and for different source types, but these core components remain constant.

Consistency is paramount in Chicago style. Once you have decided which system to use for your paper, adhere to it strictly throughout. Pay close attention to capitalization, italics for titles of larger works (like books and journals) and quotation marks for titles of smaller works (like articles and chapters), and the correct placement of commas and periods. Universities often provide specific style guides or prefer one system over the other, so always check departmental or instructor requirements.

Citing Books in Chicago Style: University Context

Books are foundational sources in most academic disciplines. Properly citing them in Chicago style ensures that your readers can locate the exact editions and pages you consulted. The examples below illustrate common scenarios for book citations in both the notes-bibliography and author-date systems, reflecting the types of academic texts students encounter at university.

Books with a Single Author

For the notes-bibliography system, a footnote or endnote for a book by a single author would look like this:

- 1. Michael Pollan, *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals* (New York: Penguin Press, 2006), 99.

In the bibliography, the entry is reversed:

- Pollan, Michael. *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*. New York: Penguin Press, 2006.

For the author-date system, the in-text citation would be:

(Pollan 2006, 99)

And the reference list entry:

- Pollan, Michael. 2006. *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*. New York: Penguin Press.

Books with Two or Three Authors

When citing a book with multiple authors, list all names in the bibliography or reference list. In notes, however, usage can vary. For two or three authors, list all names in both notes and bibliography/reference list.

Note example:

- 2. John Smith and Jane Doe, *Academic Writing for Beginners* (London: University Press, 2018), 45.

Bibliography example:

- Smith, John, and Jane Doe. *Academic Writing for Beginners*. London: University Press, 2018.

Author-Date in-text:

(Smith and Doe 2018, 45)

Author-Date reference list:

- Smith, John, and Jane Doe. 2018. *Academic Writing for Beginners*. London: University Press.

Books with More Than Three Authors

For books with more than three authors, the convention in Chicago style is to list the first author's name followed by "et al." in the notes and in-text citations. In the bibliography or reference list, you list all authors if there are four or more. However, some instructors may prefer listing only the first author followed by et al. even in the bibliography/reference list, so always clarify this preference.

Note example (for more than three authors):

- 3. Robert Jones et al., *Advanced Research Methods* (Boston: Academic Publishing House, 2020), 112.

Bibliography example (listing all authors if four or more):

- Jones, Robert, Sarah Williams, David Brown, and Emily Green. *Advanced Research Methods*. Boston: Academic Publishing House, 2020.

Author-Date in-text (for more than three authors):

(Jones et al. 2020, 112)

Author-Date reference list (listing all authors if four or more):

- Jones, Robert, Sarah Williams, David Brown, and Emily Green. 2020. *Advanced Research Methods*. Boston: Academic Publishing House.

Edited Books and Chapters in Edited Books

Citing edited volumes and specific chapters requires indicating the editor(s) and chapter author(s).

Note for a chapter in an edited book:

- 4. Eleanor Vance, "The Evolution of University Libraries," in *Scholarly Pursuits: Essays in Modern Academia*, ed. Benjamin Carter (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2019), 55.

Bibliography for a chapter in an edited book:

- Vance, Eleanor. "The Evolution of University Libraries." In *Scholarly Pursuits: Essays in Modern Academia*, edited by Benjamin Carter, 50–75. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2019.

Author-Date in-text for a chapter in an edited book:

(Vance 2019, 55)

Author-Date reference list for a chapter in an edited book:

- Vance, Eleanor. 2019. "The Evolution of University Libraries." In *Scholarly Pursuits: Essays in Modern Academia*, edited by Benjamin Carter, 50–75. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Citing Journal Articles for Academic Papers

Journal articles are crucial for up-to-date research. Their citation format in Chicago style emphasizes the journal title, volume, issue, and page range, in addition to author and article title.

Journal Articles with a Single Author

Note example:

- 5. Anya Sharma, "The Impact of Digitalization on Student Learning," *Journal of Higher Education Studies* 15, no. 2 (2021): 185.

Bibliography example:

- Sharma, Anya. "The Impact of Digitalization on Student Learning." *Journal of Higher Education Studies* 15, no. 2 (2021): 180–205.

Author-Date in-text:

(Sharma 2021, 185)

Author-Date reference list:

- Sharma, Anya. 2021. "The Impact of Digitalization on Student Learning." *Journal of Higher Education Studies* 15, no. 2: 180–205.

Journal Articles with DOI

When a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) is available, it is preferred as it provides a stable link to the article. The DOI is usually presented at the end of the citation.

Note example with DOI:

- 6. David Lee, "Pedagogical Innovations in STEM Education," *Innovative Teaching Quarterly* 22, no. 4 (2022): 310, doi:10.1080/12345678.2022.1234567.

Bibliography example with DOI:

- Lee, David. "Pedagogical Innovations in STEM Education." *Innovative Teaching Quarterly* 22, no. 4 (2022): 300–325. doi:10.1080/12345678.2022.1234567.

Author-Date in-text with DOI:

(Lee 2022, 310)

Author-Date reference list with DOI:

- Lee, David. 2022. "Pedagogical Innovations in STEM Education." *Innovative Teaching Quarterly* 22, no. 4: 300–325. doi:10.1080/12345678.2022.1234567.

Referencing Websites and Online Resources

In university research, websites, online reports, and digital archives are increasingly common. Citing them accurately is vital.

Websites

When citing a general website or a specific page, include the author (if known), title of the page, website name, publication date (or last updated date), and the URL. If no date is available, use "(n.d.)" for no date.

Note example:

- 7. National Center for Education Statistics, "Digest of Education Statistics," U.S. Department of Education, last updated August 15, 2023, <https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/>.

Bibliography example:

- National Center for Education Statistics. "Digest of Education Statistics." U.S. Department of Education. Last updated August 15, 2023. <https://nces.ed.gov/programs/tentang/digest/>.

Author-Date in-text:

(National Center for Education Statistics n.d.)

Author-Date reference list:

- National Center for Education Statistics. n.d. "Digest of Education Statistics." U.S. Department of Education. Accessed October 26, 2023. <https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/>.

Online Reports and Documents

Similar to websites, online reports often have authors, titles, and publication dates.

Note example:

- 8. Institute for Research on Higher Education, *Key Indicators of Higher Education Finance* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania, 2022), <https://www.irhe.upenn.edu/report/2022>.

Bibliography example:

- Institute for Research on Higher Education. *Key Indicators of Higher Education Finance*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania, 2022. <https://www.irhe.upenn.edu/report/2022>.

Author-Date in-text:

(Institute for Research on Higher Education 2022)

Author-Date reference list:

- Institute for Research on Higher Education. 2022. *Key Indicators of Higher Education Finance*.

Other Common Source Types in University Research

University research often involves a variety of materials beyond books and journals. Understanding how to cite these diverse sources is part of a comprehensive Chicago style mastery.

Dissertations and Theses

Citing a dissertation or thesis typically includes the author, title, the degree sought, the university, and the year. If it's published online (e.g., through ProQuest), include the database information and accession number.

Note example:

- 9. Maria Garcia, "Curriculum Development in Bilingual Education" (PhD diss., Stanford University, 2021), 78.

Bibliography example:

- Garcia, Maria. "Curriculum Development in Bilingual Education." PhD diss., Stanford University, 2021.

Author-Date in-text:

(Garcia 2021, 78)

Author-Date reference list:

- Garcia, Maria. 2021. "Curriculum Development in Bilingual Education." PhD diss., Stanford University.

Conference Proceedings

When citing conference proceedings, include the author of the paper, the title of the paper, the title of the conference proceedings, the date, and location of the conference, and the page numbers.

Note example:

- 10. Kevin Chen, "Assessing Online Learning Engagement," presented at the Annual Conference on Educational Technology, San Francisco, CA, November 12, 2023, 5.

Bibliography example:

- Chen, Kevin. "Assessing Online Learning Engagement." Presented at the Annual Conference on Educational Technology, San Francisco, CA, November 12, 2023.

Author-Date in-text:

(Chen 2023, 5)

Author-Date reference list:

- Chen, Kevin. 2023. "Assessing Online Learning Engagement." Presented at the Annual Conference on Educational Technology, San Francisco, CA, November 12.

Interviews

For interviews, include the interviewee's name, the type of interview (e.g., personal interview, email interview), and the date. If the interview is published or archived, include that information.

Note example:

- 11. Sarah Kim, personal interview, October 20, 2023.

Bibliography example:

- Kim, Sarah. Personal interview. October 20, 2023.

Author-Date in-text (use sparingly for interviews as they are not usually easily retrievable):

(Kim 2023)

Author-Date reference list:

- Kim, Sarah. 2023. Personal interview. October 20.

In-Text Citations: Notes-Bibliography System

The notes-bibliography system relies on sequential numbering within the text. Each citation corresponds to a numbered note at the bottom of the page (footnote) or at the end of the document (endnote). The first time a source is cited, the note includes full bibliographic information. Subsequent citations of the same source are shortened, typically including the author's last name, a shortened title (if necessary), and the page number.

For example, the first citation of Pollan's book would be:

- 1. Michael Pollan, *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals* (New York: Penguin Press, 2006), 99.

A subsequent citation to the same page would be:

- 2. Pollan, *Omnivore's Dilemma*, 105.

And to a different page:

- 3. Pollan, *Omnivore's Dilemma*, 112.

If citing the same source and page number consecutively, the abbreviation "Ibid." (Latin for "in the same place") is used. For example:

- 4. Pollan, *Omnivore's Dilemma*, 115.
- 5. Ibid., 118.
- 6. Ibid. (referring to page 118 again).

In-Text Citations: Author-Date System

The author-date system provides a more concise in-text reference. The citation typically includes the author's last name and the year of publication, enclosed in parentheses. A page number can be added for specific quotations or paraphrased ideas. This method is designed for quick reference and relies heavily on the full entries in the reference list.

For example, citing Pollan's book would appear as:

(Pollan 2006)

If referring to a specific page:

(Pollan 2006, 99)

If the author's name is mentioned in the text, only the year and page number are needed in the parentheses:

Pollan argues that...(2006, 99).

For multiple authors, follow the rules outlined earlier (e.g., Smith and Doe 2018) or use "et al." for more than three authors (Jones et al. 2020).

Formatting Your Bibliography/Reference List

Both systems conclude with an alphabetical list of all sources cited. In the notes-bibliography system, this list is called a "Bibliography." In the author-date system, it is called a "Reference List." The entries are alphabetized by the author's last name. Key formatting conventions include:

- Double-spacing the entire list.
- Using a hanging indent for each entry, meaning the first line is flush left, and subsequent lines are indented.
- Consistency in punctuation and capitalization within each entry.
- Titles of books and journals are italicized. Titles of articles and chapters are placed in quotation marks.

The precise order of elements is crucial and varies by source type, as demonstrated in the examples provided throughout this guide.

Common Pitfalls in Chicago Style Citation

Many students encounter recurring challenges when implementing Chicago style. One common issue is inconsistent formatting between notes and the bibliography/reference list, or within the list itself. Another is failing to distinguish between italics for larger works and quotation marks for smaller works.

Confusion also arises with multiple authors, especially for those exceeding three. Forgetting to include essential publication details like publisher, year, or page numbers, or incorrectly formatting DOIs and URLs are also frequent mistakes. Paying close attention to every detail, consulting *The Chicago Manual of Style* or university style guides, and proofreading meticulously are key to avoiding these errors and ensuring the scholarly integrity of your work.

The importance of accuracy in citation cannot be overstated. It reflects diligence, respects intellectual property, and allows readers to engage more deeply with your research. By understanding and meticulously applying Chicago style principles, you contribute to the transparent and ethical dissemination of knowledge within the academic community.

Q: What is the primary difference between the notes-bibliography and author-date systems in Chicago style?

A: The primary difference lies in how sources are cited within the text. The notes-bibliography system uses numbered footnotes or endnotes, while the author-date system uses parenthetical citations like (Author Year). Both systems conclude with a bibliography or reference list, respectively.

Q: How do I cite a source for the first time versus subsequent times in the notes-bibliography system?

A: The first citation of a source in the notes-bibliography system includes full bibliographic details. Subsequent citations to the same source are shortened, typically containing the author's last name, a shortened title, and the relevant page number.

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

A: "Ibid." is used in the notes-bibliography system when you are citing the same source and the same page number as the immediately preceding note. If you are citing the same source but a different page, you would use "Ibid." followed by the new page number.

Q: What is a DOI and why is it important in Chicago style citations?

A: DOI stands for Digital Object Identifier. It is a unique alphanumeric string assigned to a digital object, such as an academic article. Including the DOI in your citation is important because it provides a stable and permanent link to the source, ensuring readers can easily access it even if the original URL changes.

Q: How do I cite a website in Chicago style if there is no author listed?

A: If no author is listed for a website, you can start the citation with the title of the page or the name of the website itself, depending on what functions as the primary identifier. Always consult the latest edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style* for the most precise guidance.

Q: What is the difference between a Bibliography and a Reference List in Chicago style?

A: In the notes-bibliography system, the list of all cited sources at the end of the paper is called a Bibliography. In the author-date system, this list is called a Reference List. Both are alphabetized by author's last name and include full details of the sources.

Q: How do I format a hanging indent in my Chicago style bibliography or reference list?

A: A hanging indent means the first line of each citation is flush with the left margin, and all subsequent lines are indented. This is typically achieved through the paragraph formatting options in word processing software like Microsoft Word or Google Docs.

Q: Can I use et al. for all sources with more than three authors in Chicago style?

A: In the notes-bibliography system, you use "et al." in the notes for sources with more than three authors. However, in the bibliography, you generally list all authors if there are four or more. For the author-date system, "et al." is typically used for in-text citations when there are more than three authors, and often in the reference list as well, though university or instructor preferences may vary. Always confirm the specific requirements.

[Chicago Style Academic Paper Citation Examples University](#)

Chicago Style Academic Paper Citation Examples University

Related Articles

- [chicago manual title page for essays in chicago style](#)
- [chicago manual style copyright for research papers](#)
- [chicago referencing rules](#)

[Back to Home](#)