

CHICAGO STYLE AUTHOR DATE FOR COMPUTER PROGRAM

UNDERSTANDING CHICAGO STYLE AUTHOR-DATE FOR COMPUTER PROGRAMS

CHICAGO STYLE AUTHOR DATE FOR COMPUTER PROGRAM CITATION CAN SEEM DAUNTING, ESPECIALLY FOR TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS THAT MAY NOT FIT NEATLY INTO TRADITIONAL ACADEMIC FRAMEWORKS. THIS GUIDE PROVIDES A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO CITING COMPUTER PROGRAMS USING THE AUTHOR-DATE SYSTEM, A CRUCIAL ELEMENT FOR ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND CLARITY IN SCHOLARLY WRITING. WE WILL DELVE INTO THE SPECIFICS OF IDENTIFYING ESSENTIAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION FOR SOFTWARE, EXPLORE VARIATIONS FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF PROGRAMS, AND OFFER PRACTICAL EXAMPLES TO ENSURE ACCURATE AND CONSISTENT REFERENCING. UNDERSTANDING HOW TO PROPERLY CITE SOFTWARE, WHETHER IT'S AN OPERATING SYSTEM, A STATISTICAL PACKAGE, OR A CUSTOM-DEVELOPED SCRIPT, IS VITAL FOR ACKNOWLEDGING SOURCES AND ALLOWING READERS TO LOCATE THE TOOLS YOU'VE UTILIZED. THIS DETAILED EXPLORATION WILL EQUIP YOU WITH THE KNOWLEDGE TO CONFIDENTLY NAVIGATE THE COMPLEXITIES OF CHICAGO STYLE AUTHOR-DATE FOR COMPUTER PROGRAM CITATIONS.

- INTRODUCTION TO CHICAGO STYLE AUTHOR-DATE FOR SOFTWARE
- KEY COMPONENTS OF A SOFTWARE CITATION
- CITING DIFFERENT TYPES OF COMPUTER PROGRAMS
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- FORMATTING THE REFERENCES LIST
- COMMON CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

THE IMPORTANCE OF CITING COMPUTER PROGRAMS

IN ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH, THE ACCURATE CITATION OF ALL SOURCES IS PARAMOUNT. THIS PRINCIPLE EXTENDS BEYOND TRADITIONAL BOOKS AND ARTICLES TO ENCOMPASS DIGITAL RESOURCES, INCLUDING COMPUTER PROGRAMS. WHEN A RESEARCHER UTILIZES A SPECIFIC SOFTWARE TOOL TO CONDUCT ANALYSES, GENERATE DATA, OR CREATE VISUAL REPRESENTATIONS, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT TOOL. FAILING TO DO SO CAN BE CONSIDERED A FORM OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY, AKIN TO PLAGIARISM, AS IT IMPLIES THE USER SOLELY DEVELOPED THE METHODOLOGY OR ACHIEVED THE RESULTS WITHOUT EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE SOFTWARE. PROPER CITATION ALLOWS OTHER RESEARCHERS TO REPLICATE YOUR WORK, VERIFY YOUR FINDINGS, AND UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT OF YOUR RESEARCH PROCESS.

COMPUTER PROGRAMS HAVE BECOME INDISPENSABLE IN NUMEROUS ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES, FROM SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS TO DIGITAL HUMANITIES AND GRAPHIC DESIGN. THEIR IMPACT ON THE RESEARCH PROCESS IS PROFOUND, INFLUENCING HOW DATA IS COLLECTED, PROCESSED, INTERPRETED, AND PRESENTED. THEREFORE, RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTION OF SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE SPECIFIC VERSIONS OF PROGRAMS USED IS A CRITICAL ASPECT OF SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION. THE CHICAGO MANUAL OF STYLE, IN ITS AUTHOR-DATE SYSTEM, PROVIDES A FRAMEWORK TO ACHIEVE THIS, ENSURING THAT THE ORIGIN AND SPECIFICS OF THE SOFTWARE ARE CLEARLY DOCUMENTED FOR THE READER.

KEY COMPONENTS OF A SOFTWARE CITATION

CONSTRUCTING A ROBUST CHICAGO STYLE AUTHOR-DATE CITATION FOR A COMPUTER PROGRAM REQUIRES GATHERING SPECIFIC

PIECES OF INFORMATION. THESE COMPONENTS ENSURE THAT THE CITATION IS PRECISE AND INFORMATIVE, ENABLING READERS TO IDENTIFY THE EXACT SOFTWARE USED. THE CORE ELEMENTS GENERALLY INCLUDE THE AUTHOR OR ISSUING BODY, THE YEAR OF PUBLICATION OR RELEASE, THE TITLE OF THE SOFTWARE, AND VERSION INFORMATION. OFTEN, A PUBLISHER OR DEVELOPER AND A URL ARE ALSO NECESSARY, ESPECIALLY FOR WIDELY ACCESSIBLE OR ONLINE SOFTWARE.

AUTHOR OR ISSUING BODY

THE AUTHOR OF A COMPUTER PROGRAM IS TYPICALLY THE INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND DISTRIBUTION. THIS MIGHT BE A COMPANY NAME (E.G., MICROSOFT, ADOBE), A RESEARCH GROUP, OR EVEN AN INDIVIDUAL IF THE PROGRAM IS OPEN-SOURCE AND ATTRIBUTED TO A SPECIFIC CREATOR. IF NO CLEAR AUTHOR IS IDENTIFIABLE, THE NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION OR ENTITY THAT RELEASED OR MAINTAINS THE SOFTWARE IS USED. FOR PROPRIETARY SOFTWARE, THE COMPANY THAT DEVELOPED AND MARKETS IT IS USUALLY CONSIDERED THE AUTHOR.

YEAR OF PUBLICATION OR RELEASE

THE YEAR OF PUBLICATION OR RELEASE IS A CRITICAL COMPONENT, INDICATING WHEN THE SPECIFIC VERSION OF THE SOFTWARE WAS MADE AVAILABLE. THIS IS OFTEN FOUND WITHIN THE SOFTWARE'S DOCUMENTATION, ON ITS WEBSITE, OR SOMETIMES WITHIN THE PROGRAM'S 'ABOUT' SECTION. FOR PROGRAMS THAT UNDERGO FREQUENT UPDATES, CITING THE MOST RECENT STABLE RELEASE YEAR IS GENERALLY PREFERRED, UNLESS A SPECIFIC OLDER VERSION WAS INTEGRAL TO THE RESEARCH AND NEEDS TO BE PRECISELY IDENTIFIED. IF A PRECISE YEAR CANNOT BE DETERMINED, AN APPROXIMATE YEAR OR A RANGE MAY BE USED WITH APPROPRIATE NOTATION, THOUGH THIS IS LESS COMMON.

TITLE OF THE PROGRAM

THE TITLE OF THE COMPUTER PROGRAM SHOULD BE PRESENTED CLEARLY AND ACCURATELY, OFTEN ITALICIZED TO DISTINGUISH IT AS A DISTINCT WORK. THIS IS THE NAME BY WHICH THE SOFTWARE IS COMMONLY KNOWN. FOR EXAMPLE, "MICROSOFT WORD" OR "RSTUDIO." IF THE PROGRAM HAS A SPECIFIC VERSION NUMBER OR SUBTITLE, THIS SHOULD ALSO BE INCLUDED AS PART OF THE TITLE TO ENSURE SPECIFICITY. FOR INSTANCE, "PYTHON 3.9" OR "SPSS STATISTICS 27."

VERSION INFORMATION

SOFTWARE IS FREQUENTLY UPDATED, AND DIFFERENT VERSIONS CAN HAVE DISTINCT FEATURES, FUNCTIONALITIES, OR BUG FIXES. THEREFORE, SPECIFYING THE VERSION NUMBER IS CRUCIAL FOR REPLICABILITY. THIS INFORMATION IS TYPICALLY FOUND WITHIN THE SOFTWARE ITSELF, OFTEN UNDER AN 'ABOUT' OR 'HELP' MENU, OR ON THE DEVELOPER'S WEBSITE. FOR EXAMPLE, CITING "VERSION 10.15.7" FOR MACOS PROVIDES MORE PRECISION THAN SIMPLY "MACOS."

PUBLISHER OR DEVELOPER

THE PUBLISHER OR DEVELOPER IS THE ENTITY THAT PRODUCED AND DISTRIBUTED THE SOFTWARE. THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR COMMERCIAL SOFTWARE. FOR INSTANCE, IF CITING MICROSOFT EXCEL, MICROSOFT WOULD BE LISTED AS THE PUBLISHER. FOR OPEN-SOURCE SOFTWARE, THE ENTITY THAT SUPPORTS OR HOSTS ITS DEVELOPMENT (E.G., THE APACHE SOFTWARE FOUNDATION FOR APACHE HTTP SERVER) WOULD BE APPROPRIATE. THIS DETAIL HELPS READERS UNDERSTAND THE ORIGIN AND POTENTIAL LICENSING OF THE SOFTWARE.

LOCATION OR URL

FOR SOFTWARE THAT IS PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE, ESPECIALLY FREWARE, SHAREWARE, OR OPEN-SOURCE PROGRAMS, PROVIDING A URL WHERE THE SOFTWARE CAN BE FOUND OR DOWNLOADED IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. THIS ALLOWS OTHERS TO ACCESS THE SAME VERSION OR LEARN MORE ABOUT IT. FOR PROPRIETARY SOFTWARE THAT IS PURCHASED, MENTIONING THE VENDOR OR PLATFORM (E.G., APP STORE, MICROSOFT STORE) CAN BE HELPFUL, THOUGH A DIRECT URL IS LESS COMMON.

CITING DIFFERENT TYPES OF COMPUTER PROGRAMS

THE CHICAGO MANUAL OF STYLE ACKNOWLEDGES THAT A WIDE ARRAY OF SOFTWARE EXISTS, AND THEREFORE, CITATION METHODS MAY NEED SLIGHT ADAPTATIONS. THE CORE PRINCIPLE REMAINS THE SAME: PROVIDE ENOUGH INFORMATION FOR THE READER TO IDENTIFY AND LOCATE THE SOFTWARE. THIS SECTION EXPLORES VARIATIONS FOR COMMON TYPES OF PROGRAMS ENCOUNTERED IN ACADEMIC AND TECHNICAL WRITING.

OPERATING SYSTEMS

OPERATING SYSTEMS, SUCH AS WINDOWS, macOS, OR LINUX DISTRIBUTIONS, ARE FUNDAMENTAL TOOLS FOR MOST COMPUTER USERS. WHEN CITING AN OPERATING SYSTEM, THE AUTHOR IS TYPICALLY THE COMPANY THAT DEVELOPED IT, FOLLOWED BY THE YEAR OF RELEASE FOR THE SPECIFIC VERSION. THE TITLE WILL BE THE NAME OF THE OPERATING SYSTEM, AND THE VERSION NUMBER IS ESSENTIAL. FOR EXAMPLE, macOS, BEING PROPRIETARY, WOULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO APPLE INC. LINUX DISTRIBUTIONS, BEING OPEN-SOURCE, MIGHT BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE SPECIFIC DISTRIBUTION'S COMMUNITY OR SPONSORING ORGANIZATION.

EXAMPLE CITATION FORMAT FOR AN OPERATING SYSTEM:

- APPLE INC. 2020. macOS. VERSION 11.0.1.
- CANONICAL LTD. 2021. UBUNTU. VERSION 20.04 LTS.

STATISTICAL SOFTWARE PACKAGES

STATISTICAL SOFTWARE, LIKE SPSS, R, SAS, OR STATA, IS WIDELY USED IN QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH. THESE PROGRAMS ARE OFTEN DEVELOPED BY COMMERCIAL ENTITIES OR ROBUST OPEN-SOURCE COMMUNITIES. WHEN CITING THESE, THE DEVELOPER OR CORPORATE AUTHOR, THE YEAR, THE PROGRAM TITLE, AND THE SPECIFIC VERSION NUMBER ARE CRUCIAL. THE EXISTENCE OF NUMEROUS PACKAGES AND LIBRARIES WITHIN ENVIRONMENTS LIKE R NECESSITATES CAREFUL CITATION OF BOTH THE CORE ENVIRONMENT AND ANY SPECIFIC PACKAGES USED IF THEY SIGNIFICANTLY ALTERED THE ANALYSIS.

EXAMPLE CITATION FORMAT FOR STATISTICAL SOFTWARE:

- IBM CORP. 2022. IBM SPSS STATISTICS. VERSION 28.
- R CORE TEAM. 2021. R: A LANGUAGE AND ENVIRONMENT FOR STATISTICAL COMPUTING. VERSION 4.1.2. VIENNA, AUSTRIA: R FOUNDATION FOR STATISTICAL COMPUTING.

PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES AND ENVIRONMENTS

PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES (E.G., PYTHON, JAVA, C++) AND THEIR ASSOCIATED INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENTS (IDES) (E.G., PYCHARM, VISUAL STUDIO CODE) ARE TOOLS FOR CREATING OTHER SOFTWARE. WHEN A SPECIFIC LANGUAGE VERSION OR IDE IS INTEGRAL TO THE RESEARCH, IT SHOULD BE CITED. THE AUTHOR IS USUALLY THE ORGANIZATION OR COMMUNITY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LANGUAGE OR IDE'S DEVELOPMENT. VERSION NUMBERS ARE CRITICAL HERE, AS LANGUAGE FEATURES AND IDE FUNCTIONALITIES EVOLVE RAPIDLY.

EXAMPLE CITATION FORMAT FOR PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES/ENVIRONMENTS:

- PYTHON SOFTWARE FOUNDATION. 2022. PYTHON. VERSION 3.10.
- JETBRAINS. 2023. PYCHARM. VERSION 2023.1.

WEB BROWSERS AND DEVELOPMENT TOOLS

WEB BROWSERS (E.G., CHROME, FIREFOX, SAFARI) AND DEVELOPMENT TOOLS USED FOR WEB DESIGN OR APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT ALSO WARRANT CITATION IF THEIR SPECIFIC FUNCTIONALITIES OR RENDERING ENGINES IMPACT THE RESEARCH OUTCOME. THE AUTHOR IS TYPICALLY THE COMPANY BEHIND THE BROWSER, AND THE VERSION NUMBER IS IMPORTANT FOR DOCUMENTING RENDERING CONSISTENCY. FOR SPECIALIZED DEVELOPMENT TOOLS, SIMILAR PRINCIPLES APPLY AS FOR PROGRAMMING ENVIRONMENTS.

EXAMPLE CITATION FORMAT FOR WEB BROWSERS:

- GOOGLE LLC. 2023. GOOGLE CHROME. VERSION 115.0.5790.110.
- MOZILLA FOUNDATION. 2023. MOZILLA FIREFOX. VERSION 116.0.

CUSTOM-DEVELOPED OR SPECIALIZED SOFTWARE

IN CASES WHERE CUSTOM SOFTWARE HAS BEEN DEVELOPED FOR A SPECIFIC RESEARCH PROJECT, OR HIGHLY SPECIALIZED, NICHE SOFTWARE IS USED, THE CITATION WILL NEED TO REFLECT THIS. IF YOU ARE THE DEVELOPER, YOU WOULD LIST YOURSELF AS THE AUTHOR. IF IT'S A THIRD-PARTY SPECIALIZED TOOL, YOU'LL FOLLOW THE GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR AUTHOR, YEAR, TITLE, AND VERSION. IF THE SOFTWARE IS PROPRIETARY AND NOT PUBLICLY AVAILABLE, A NOTE EXPLAINING ITS UNAVAILABILITY MIGHT BE INCLUDED IN THE CITATION OR TEXT.

IN-TEXT CITATIONS FOR COMPUTER PROGRAMS

IN THE CHICAGO STYLE AUTHOR-DATE SYSTEM, IN-TEXT CITATIONS PROVIDE A BRIEF REFERENCE WITHIN THE BODY OF YOUR TEXT THAT POINTS TO THE FULL ENTRY IN THE REFERENCE LIST. FOR COMPUTER PROGRAMS, THIS TYPICALLY INCLUDES THE AUTHOR'S LAST NAME (OR ORGANIZATION NAME) AND THE YEAR OF PUBLICATION. THE PAGE NUMBER IS USUALLY OMITTED FOR SOFTWARE UNLESS YOU ARE REFERRING TO A SPECIFIC SECTION OF ITS ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION OR HELP FILES.

WHEN REFERENCING A COMPUTER PROGRAM WITHIN YOUR TEXT, YOU MIGHT INTEGRATE IT INTO A SENTENCE NATURALLY. FOR INSTANCE, IF YOU USED A STATISTICAL SOFTWARE PACKAGE FOR ANALYSIS, YOU COULD WRITE: "STATISTICAL ANALYSIS WAS PERFORMED USING R (R CORE TEAM 2021)." OR, IF YOU ARE DESCRIBING A PROCESS THAT RELIES ON A SPECIFIC

OPERATING SYSTEM FEATURE: “THE DATA WAS PROCESSED ON macOS (APPLE INC. 2020).”

IF THE AUTHOR AND YEAR ARE ALREADY MENTIONED IN THE SENTENCE, A PARENTHETICAL CITATION MAY NOT BE NECESSARY. FOR EXAMPLE: “AS DEVELOPED BY THE PYTHON SOFTWARE FOUNDATION (2022), PYTHON OFFERS EXTENSIVE LIBRARIES FOR DATA MANIPULATION.” HOWEVER, FOR CLARITY AND TO ADHERE STRICTLY TO THE AUTHOR-DATE FORMAT, A PARENTHETICAL CITATION IS OFTEN PREFERRED EVEN WHEN THE AUTHOR IS MENTIONED IN THE TEXT, ESPECIALLY IF THE YEAR IS NOT EXPLICITLY STATED IN THE SENTENCE.

SOME STYLE GUIDES SUGGEST A SHORTENED FORMAT FOR SUBSEQUENT IN-TEXT CITATIONS IF MULTIPLE WORKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR AND YEAR ARE USED, OFTEN BY ADDING A LETTER (A, B, C) TO THE YEAR. HOWEVER, FOR SOFTWARE, WHICH IS USUALLY CITED BY ITS SPECIFIC VERSION AND YEAR, THIS IS LESS COMMON UNLESS REFERENCING DIFFERENT VERSIONS OR RELATED SOFTWARE FROM THE SAME ENTITY IN THE SAME YEAR.

FORMATTING THE REFERENCES LIST

THE REFERENCES LIST IS THE COMPREHENSIVE COMPILATION OF ALL SOURCES CITED IN YOUR WORK. FOR COMPUTER PROGRAMS, ENTRIES IN THE REFERENCES LIST FOLLOW A STRUCTURED FORMAT TO ENSURE CONSISTENCY AND CLARITY. THIS LIST SHOULD BE ALPHABETIZED BY THE AUTHOR’S LAST NAME OR THE ORGANIZATION’S NAME. EACH ENTRY PROVIDES THE FULL BIBLIOGRAPHIC DETAILS NECESSARY FOR A READER TO IDENTIFY AND, IF POSSIBLE, LOCATE THE SOFTWARE.

THE GENERAL FORMAT FOR A COMPUTER PROGRAM IN THE CHICAGO STYLE AUTHOR-DATE REFERENCES LIST IS:

- **AUTHOR/ORGANIZATION.** YEAR. TITLE OF PROGRAM. VERSION INFORMATION. PUBLISHER/DEVELOPER (IF DIFFERENT FROM AUTHOR). URL (IF APPLICABLE).

LET’S BREAK DOWN THE PLACEMENT OF EACH ELEMENT:

- **AUTHOR/ORGANIZATION:** THIS IS THE PRIMARY ENTRY POINT FOR ALPHABETIZATION. FOR COMMERCIAL SOFTWARE, IT’S USUALLY THE COMPANY NAME. FOR OPEN-SOURCE SOFTWARE, IT’S THE DEVELOPING GROUP OR FOUNDATION.
- **YEAR:** THE YEAR OF PUBLICATION OR RELEASE OF THE SPECIFIC VERSION BEING CITED.
- **TITLE OF PROGRAM:** THE FULL, ITALICIZED TITLE OF THE SOFTWARE.
- **VERSION INFORMATION:** THIS IS CRITICAL FOR SOFTWARE AND SHOULD BE CLEARLY STATED (E.G., VERSION 11.0.1, v28).
- **PUBLISHER/DEVELOPER:** THIS IS INCLUDED IF IT DIFFERS FROM THE AUTHOR LISTED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CITATION, PROVIDING FURTHER CONTEXT ABOUT THE SOFTWARE’S ORIGIN.
- **URL:** FOR FREELY ACCESSIBLE SOFTWARE, A DIRECT URL TO THE DOWNLOAD PAGE OR OFFICIAL SITE IS HIGHLY BENEFICIAL.

CONSIDER THE EXAMPLE OF CITING AN OPEN-SOURCE STATISTICAL PACKAGE LIKE R. THE R CORE TEAM IS THE RECOGNIZED AUTHOR, THE YEAR IS ITS RELEASE YEAR, AND THE FULL TITLE INCLUDES A DESCRIPTIVE SUBTITLE. ITS LOCATION IS OFTEN A WELL-KNOWN REPOSITORY. FOR PROPRIETARY SOFTWARE LIKE ADOBE PHOTOSHOP, ADOBE INC. IS THE AUTHOR, FOLLOWED BY THE YEAR OF RELEASE FOR A SPECIFIC VERSION.

COMMON CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

CITING COMPUTER PROGRAMS CAN PRESENT UNIQUE CHALLENGES, ESPECIALLY WITH THE RAPID EVOLUTION OF SOFTWARE AND THE DIVERSITY OF ITS FORMS. UNDERSTANDING THESE COMMON HURDLES AND THEIR SOLUTIONS WILL HELP MAINTAIN ACCURACY AND CONSISTENCY IN YOUR CITATIONS.

DETERMINING THE AUTHOR

ONE COMMON DIFFICULTY IS IDENTIFYING THE CORRECT AUTHOR, PARTICULARLY FOR OPEN-SOURCE PROJECTS OR SOFTWARE DEVELOPED BY LARGE, MULTIFACETED ORGANIZATIONS. FOR OPEN-SOURCE SOFTWARE, THE AUTHOR IS OFTEN THE COMMUNITY OR A CORE DEVELOPMENT TEAM. CONSULTING THE SOFTWARE'S WEBSITE, DOCUMENTATION, OR README FILES IS ESSENTIAL. IF A SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL IS CREDITED AS THE PRIMARY DEVELOPER AND THE SOFTWARE IS PRIMARILY ASSOCIATED WITH THEM, THEY CAN BE LISTED. FOR LARGE CORPORATIONS, THE CORPORATE NAME IS TYPICALLY USED AS THE AUTHOR.

FINDING THE EXACT VERSION AND RELEASE DATE

PINPOINTING THE PRECISE VERSION NUMBER AND RELEASE DATE CAN SOMETIMES BE ELUSIVE. SOFTWARE UPDATES CAN BE FREQUENT, AND THE NUMBERING SCHEMES CAN VARY. ALWAYS CHECK THE PROGRAM'S 'ABOUT' MENU, INSTALLATION FILES, OR THE DEVELOPER'S OFFICIAL WEBSITE FOR THE MOST ACCURATE INFORMATION. IF A DEFINITIVE RELEASE DATE IS UNAVAILABLE, THE YEAR OF PUBLICATION OR THE YEAR THE VERSION WAS FIRST DOCUMENTED IS OFTEN USED AS A PROXY.

CITING SOFTWARE DOCUMENTATION AND MANUALS

WHEN SOFTWARE DOCUMENTATION OR USER MANUALS ARE CONSULTED, THEY SHOULD BE CITED AS SUCH, RATHER THAN THE SOFTWARE ITSELF. THESE ARE TYPICALLY TREATED AS SEPARATE PUBLICATIONS. THE AUTHOR WOULD BE THE SOFTWARE DEVELOPER (OR THE AUTHOR OF THE MANUAL IF DIFFERENT), THE YEAR WOULD BE THE PUBLICATION YEAR OF THE MANUAL, AND THE TITLE WOULD BE THE TITLE OF THE MANUAL, OFTEN FOLLOWED BY THE SOFTWARE TITLE AND VERSION IT PERTAINS TO.

EXAMPLE FOR SOFTWARE DOCUMENTATION:

- MICROSOFT. 2022. MICROSOFT WORD USER GUIDE. VERSION 2207.

SOFTWARE WITHOUT CLEAR PUBLICATION DATES

SOME SOFTWARE, PARTICULARLY OLDER FREWARE OR EXPERIMENTAL PROJECTS, MAY NOT HAVE A CLEAR PUBLICATION DATE. IN SUCH CASES, AN APPROXIMATE DATE OR A "N.D." (NO DATE) CAN BE USED, THOUGH THIS IS LESS DESIRABLE. IF A COPYRIGHT DATE IS AVAILABLE, IT CAN BE USED. THE GOAL IS ALWAYS TO PROVIDE THE MOST SPECIFIC DATE POSSIBLE TO SITUATE THE SOFTWARE'S DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE.

PROPRIETARY SOFTWARE NOT READILY AVAILABLE

FOR HIGHLY SPECIALIZED, PROPRIETARY SOFTWARE THAT IS NOT PUBLICLY AVAILABLE OR LICENSED ON A STRICT PER-USER BASIS, A URL MIGHT NOT BE APPLICABLE OR EVEN POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE. IN THESE INSTANCES, FOCUS ON PROVIDING THE

AUTHOR, YEAR, TITLE, AND VERSION. YOU MAY ALSO INCLUDE THE VENDOR OR DISTRIBUTOR IF IT ADDS CRUCIAL CONTEXT. A BRIEF NOTE IN THE TEXT EXPLAINING ITS PROPRIETARY NATURE MIGHT BE BENEFICIAL FOR THE READER.

CONCLUSION

MASTERING THE CITATION OF COMPUTER PROGRAMS USING THE CHICAGO STYLE AUTHOR-DATE SYSTEM IS AN ESSENTIAL SKILL FOR CONTEMPORARY RESEARCHERS. BY DILIGENTLY GATHERING KEY BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION – INCLUDING THE AUTHOR OR ISSUING BODY, YEAR, TITLE, VERSION, AND PUBLISHER – AND APPLYING THE CORRECT FORMATTING TO BOTH IN-TEXT CITATIONS AND THE REFERENCES LIST, YOU CAN ENSURE ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND ENHANCE THE CLARITY OF YOUR WORK. WHETHER DEALING WITH OPERATING SYSTEMS, STATISTICAL PACKAGES, PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES, OR SPECIALIZED TOOLS, THE UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES OF ACCURATE ATTRIBUTION AND PRECISE IDENTIFICATION REMAIN CONSISTENT. NAVIGATING THE NUANCES OF SOFTWARE CITATION EMPOWERS YOU TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE TECHNOLOGICAL TOOLS THAT UNDERPIN YOUR RESEARCH, FACILITATING TRANSPARENCY AND THE REPRODUCIBILITY OF YOUR FINDINGS FOR THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY.

FAQ

Q: WHAT IS THE PRIMARY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CITING A BOOK AND CITING A COMPUTER PROGRAM IN CHICAGO STYLE AUTHOR-DATE?

A: THE PRIMARY DIFFERENCE LIES IN THE SPECIFIC ELEMENTS REQUIRED. WHILE BOTH INCLUDE AUTHOR AND YEAR, COMPUTER PROGRAMS NECESSITATE VERSION INFORMATION, AND OFTEN, A URL OR PUBLISHER/DEVELOPER BECOMES MORE CRITICAL THAN PAGE NUMBERS, WHICH ARE COMMON FOR BOOKS. THE EMPHASIS SHIFTS TO IDENTIFYING A SPECIFIC, EVOLVING DIGITAL ENTITY RATHER THAN A STATIC PRINTED TEXT.

Q: HOW DO I CITE A CUSTOM SCRIPT I WROTE FOR MY RESEARCH IN CHICAGO STYLE AUTHOR-DATE?

A: IF YOU AUTHORED THE SCRIPT, YOU WOULD LIST YOURSELF AS THE AUTHOR. THE YEAR WOULD BE THE YEAR OF COMPLETION OR THE YEAR YOU MADE IT AVAILABLE FOR YOUR RESEARCH. THE TITLE WOULD BE THE NAME OF YOUR SCRIPT, AND YOU WOULD INCLUDE THE VERSION NUMBER IF APPLICABLE. SINCE IT'S YOUR OWN WORK, A URL MIGHT NOT BE APPLICABLE UNLESS YOU HOSTED IT PUBLICLY. YOU WOULD THEN CITE IT PARENTHETICALLY AS (YOUR LAST NAME YEAR).

Q: WHAT IF A COMPUTER PROGRAM HAS NO CLEAR AUTHOR LISTED?

A: IN SUCH CASES, YOU SHOULD USE THE NAME OF THE COMPANY, ORGANIZATION, OR INSTITUTION THAT DEVELOPED OR RELEASED THE SOFTWARE AS THE AUTHOR. IF NO ENTITY IS CLEAR, YOU MIGHT USE THE TITLE OF THE PROGRAM ITSELF AS THE AUTHOR, BUT THIS IS LESS COMMON FOR PROFESSIONAL SOFTWARE. ALWAYS TRY TO FIND AN ISSUING BODY FIRST.

Q: SHOULD I CITE EVERY SINGLE SOFTWARE PACKAGE USED IN R OR PYTHON?

A: YOU SHOULD CITE THE CORE PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE AND ENVIRONMENT (E.G., R CORE TEAM 2021). FOR SPECIFIC PACKAGES, YOU GENERALLY ONLY NEED TO CITE THEM IF THEY WERE CRUCIAL TO YOUR ANALYSIS OR INTRODUCED NOVEL METHODOLOGIES THAT ARE NOT STANDARD. IF A PACKAGE SIGNIFICANTLY ALTERED YOUR RESULTS OR PROVIDED A KEY ALGORITHM, IT WARRANTS CITATION.

Q: HOW DO I HANDLE SOFTWARE THAT IS CONSTANTLY UPDATED, LIKE A CLOUD-

BASED SERVICE?

A: FOR CLOUD-BASED SERVICES THAT ARE CONTINUALLY UPDATED, CITE THE VERSION OR RELEASE DATE THAT WAS ACTIVE DURING YOUR RESEARCH PERIOD IF SUCH INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE. IF NOT, USE THE YEAR THE SERVICE WAS ACCESSED OR THE MOST RECENT VERSION PUBLICLY NOTED. YOU MAY NEED TO EXPLAIN IN THE TEXT THAT THE SERVICE IS CONTINUOUSLY UPDATED.

Q: IS IT NECESSARY TO INCLUDE THE URL FOR ALL SOFTWARE CITATIONS?

A: INCLUDING A URL IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED FOR SOFTWARE THAT IS FREELY DOWNLOADABLE OR PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE ONLINE. FOR PROPRIETARY SOFTWARE THAT MUST BE PURCHASED OR IS PART OF A LICENSED ENTERPRISE SOLUTION, A URL IS USUALLY NOT APPLICABLE. IN SUCH CASES, PROVIDING THE PUBLISHER OR VENDOR NAME IS MORE RELEVANT.

Q: CAN I USE "N.D." FOR THE YEAR IF A COMPUTER PROGRAM HAS NO DATE?

A: WHILE "N.D." (NO DATE) IS A VALID NOTATION IN CHICAGO STYLE FOR SOURCES LACKING A PUBLICATION DATE, IT IS GENERALLY BEST TO AVOID IT FOR SOFTWARE IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. TRY TO FIND AT LEAST A COPYRIGHT YEAR, AN APPROXIMATE YEAR OF RELEASE, OR THE YEAR IT WAS FIRST DOCUMENTED. IF ABSOLUTELY NO DATE CAN BE ASCERTAINED, THEN "N.D." CAN BE USED, BUT THIS IS RARE FOR MODERN SOFTWARE.

Chicago Style Author Date For Computer Program

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