

chicago style author date for interview transcript

The Chicago Manual of Style, often referred to as CMS, provides detailed guidelines for academic and professional writing, and understanding its nuances is crucial for accurate citation. This guide specifically focuses on the application of the Chicago style author-date system for citing interview transcripts, a common yet sometimes confusing aspect of scholarly work. We will explore the essential elements of this citation method, including how to identify and format the necessary information for both in-text citations and the reference list. Furthermore, we will delve into the specific considerations for interviews conducted directly by the author versus those conducted by others, and how to handle interviews published in various formats. Mastering the Chicago style author-date for interview transcripts will ensure your research is properly attributed and adheres to academic integrity standards.

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Understanding the Chicago Style Author-Date System

The Chicago Manual of Style offers two primary citation systems: notes and bibliography, and author-date. The author-date system, as its name suggests, relies on in-text citations that include the author's last name and the year of publication, followed by page numbers if applicable. This system is often favored in the social sciences and natural sciences for its directness and ease of locating sources within the text. When applied to interview transcripts, the author-date system requires careful attention to detail to accurately represent the source of the information and give credit to the interviewee and, if applicable, the transcriber or publisher.

The fundamental principle behind any citation system, including Chicago author-date for interview transcripts, is to allow readers to easily locate and verify the original source of information. This not only supports the credibility of your research but also avoids plagiarism. For interviews, this

means providing enough information for someone else to find the specific transcript you consulted. The author-date system achieves this through a concise in-text notation that corresponds to a full bibliographic entry in a reference list at the end of your work.

Key Components of Citing Interview Transcripts

Citing interview transcripts in Chicago author-date requires assembling several pieces of information to create both the in-text citation and the full reference list entry. These components are essential for ensuring clarity and accuracy. Without these elements, your citation will be incomplete and potentially confusing to your readers.

Identifying the Author and Date

In the context of interview transcripts, the "author" most commonly refers to the interviewee, the person whose words are being recorded. The "date" typically refers to the date the interview was conducted. If the transcript has been published or is part of a larger collected work, the publication date of that work will also be crucial. It is important to distinguish between the interview date and any subsequent publication date of the transcript itself.

Distinguishing Interviewee from Transcriber/Interviewer

It's vital to correctly identify who is considered the "author" for citation purposes. In most cases, the interviewee is the primary author. However, if you are citing a published interview where the interviewer or transcriber is prominently credited, or if the interview is part of a collection curated by an editor, this distinction becomes important for the reference list entry. For the in-text citation, the focus usually remains on the interviewee and the date of the interview.

The Role of the Transcript Format

The format in which you accessed the interview transcript significantly influences how you cite it. Was it a personal interview you conducted and transcribed yourself? Is it an archival document? Was it published in a book, journal, or online repository? Each of these scenarios may require slight variations in the citation details, particularly in the reference list entry.

In-Text Citations for Interview Transcripts

In-text citations serve as brief pointers within your text, guiding the reader to the full bibliographic information. For Chicago style author-date, these citations are generally placed immediately after the material they support.

Standard In-Text Format

The standard format for an in-text citation in Chicago author-date is (Author Last Name Year, Page Number). For interview transcripts, the "Author" is typically the interviewee's last name. If the transcript is unpublished and you are the transcriber, you may refer to yourself as "Author" or use your last name, depending on the context and clarity. The year is the year the interview was conducted. Page numbers are used if you are referencing a specific part of the transcript.

For example, if you interviewed Dr. Eleanor Vance on October 15, 2022, and are quoting her directly, your in-text citation might look like this: (Vance 2022, 7). If you are paraphrasing a section, the page number may be omitted if the reference is to the general content of the interview.

Citing Interviews without Page Numbers

In cases where interview transcripts do not have page numbers (e.g., some digital formats or early transcriptions), the page number can be omitted from the in-text citation. The citation would then be (Author Last Name Year). However, if the transcript is very long, it may be helpful to indicate sections by timestamp or paragraph number if those are available and consistently used within the transcript itself. Always aim for the most specific identifier possible.

When the Interviewer is the Author

In rare cases, particularly if the interview is presented as the interviewer's work or intellectual property, the interviewer might be cited as the author. However, the most common practice for citing interviews, even those conducted by the author, is to list the interviewee as the author in the citation. If you conducted the interview and transcribed it yourself, you will list yourself as the author in the reference list, but the in-text citation will refer to you as "Author" or your last name depending on clarity. It is crucial to maintain consistency in how you attribute the source.

Reference List Entries for Interview Transcripts

The reference list provides comprehensive details for each source cited in the text. For interview transcripts, these entries need to be meticulously constructed to ensure proper attribution and facilitate retrieval.

Format for Unpublished Interviews

For unpublished interviews that you conducted, the reference list entry typically includes the interviewee's name, the date of the interview, and a description of the source. The format is generally: Interviewee Last Name, First Name. Year. Title of Interview (if any). Type of interview (e.g., personal interview, phone interview). Date of interview.

Example for an unpublished interview you conducted:

- Vance, Eleanor. 2022. Interview by [Your Name]. October 15. Personal interview.

Format for Archival Interviews

If the interview transcript is housed in an archive, the reference entry needs to include information about the archive and any collection details. The format usually includes: Interviewee Last Name, First Name. Year. Title of Interview (if any). Date of interview. Description of archival collection, Archive Name, Location. Accession number or other identifier (if applicable).

Example for an archival interview:

- King, Martin Luther, Jr. 1965. Interview by William K. Yeames. May 10. Transcript, May 10, 1965. Box 12, Folder 3, William K. Yeames Papers, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison.

Including Interviewer Information

When the interviewer is not the author of the work (i.e., you are not citing your own interview), their role should be indicated. This is typically done

in the description of the source. For example, "Interview by [Interviewer's Name]." This clarifies who conducted the interview, especially if it's an archival source or a published collection where multiple interviewers might be involved.

Interviews Conducted by the Author

When you are the one conducting and transcribing the interview, the citation process requires you to clearly identify yourself as the interviewer and attribute the content to the interviewee.

Self-Conducted Interviews in the Reference List

For interviews you conduct yourself and use as source material, you will be listed as the transcriber or interviewer in the reference list, with the interviewee as the primary subject. The entry will typically look like this: Interviewee Last Name, First Name. Year. Interview by [Your Last Name, Your First Name]. Date of interview. Type of interview.

Example:

- Chen, David. 2023. Interview by Sarah Miller. March 20. Phone interview.

In this case, David Chen is the interviewee, and Sarah Miller (you) conducted the interview. The reference list entry positions Chen as the source of the information, with your role as interviewer clearly stated.

In-Text Citation for Self-Conducted Interviews

The in-text citation will follow the standard author-date format, referencing the interviewee and the year. For instance, if you are quoting David Chen from the interview conducted on March 20, 2023, the citation would be (Chen 2023, 15).

Interviews Conducted by Others

When citing interviews conducted by someone else, you need to ensure the reference list entry accurately reflects the original creator of the interview content and its accessibility.

Locating and Verifying the Source

It is crucial to have accessed the interview transcript directly. If you are relying on a secondary source that quotes an interview, you should ideally try to locate and cite the original interview transcript if possible. If not, cite the secondary source and mention that it contains an interview.

Formatting for Published Collections

If the interview is part of a published collection of interviews, the citation will often follow the format for citing a chapter or essay within a larger work. The interviewee is usually listed as the author, followed by the title of the interview (if it has one), and then the bibliographic details of the collection.

- Interviewee Last Name, First Name. Year. "Title of Interview." In Title of Collection, edited by Editor First Name Last Name, Page numbers. Publisher.

Example:

- Baldwin, James. 1972. "The Black Boy Looks at the White Boy." In Conversations with James Baldwin, edited by Fred L. Standley and Nancy V. Standley, 123–35. University Press of Mississippi.

Published Interview Transcripts

Interview transcripts that have been formally published, whether in books, journals, or online databases, require citations that reflect their published status.

Citing Published Transcripts in Books

When an interview transcript is published as part of a book, you treat it similarly to a chapter within an edited volume. The interviewee is the author, and the book's publication details are provided.

- Interviewee Last Name, First Name. Year. "Title of Interview." In Title of Book, edited by Editor First Name Last Name, Page numbers. Publisher.

Citing Published Transcripts in Journals or Periodicals

If an interview transcript appears in a scholarly journal or magazine, the citation will include the interviewee's name, the title of the interview (if any), the journal title, volume, issue, year, and page numbers.

- Interviewee Last Name, First Name. Year. "Title of Interview." Journal Title Volume, no. Issue (Month/Season): Page numbers.

Online Interview Transcripts

For online interview transcripts, the citation needs to include the URL and the date you accessed the material. The format will depend on whether the interview is part of a website, an online journal, or a digital archive. Always include the most stable URL available.

Handling Variations and Special Cases

The world of interviews is diverse, and occasional variations in transcripts or their availability can necessitate adjustments to citation practices.

Interviews with Multiple Interviewees

If an interview transcript features multiple interviewees whose contributions are distinct, and you are citing specific contributions, you might need to cite each individual separately, referencing their specific statements. However, if you are citing the interview as a whole, the primary interviewee or the one whose contributions are most significant to your argument typically forms the basis of the citation.

Transcripts without Clear Author or Date Information

In situations where identifying the interviewee or the date of the interview is challenging, exhaustive research should be conducted to find this information. If it remains elusive, the citation should reflect this

uncertainty. For example, you might use "(Anonymous Interviewee Year)" or "(Interviewee Last Name, n.d.)" for "no date." However, the Chicago Manual of Style strongly encourages providing as much information as possible to ensure verifiability.

Electronic Interviews and Social Media

Interviews conducted via email or social media platforms require specific formatting. For email interviews, the interviewee is the author, the subject line might serve as the title, and the date of the email is crucial. For social media interviews, the platform and the specific user are identified. The principles of author, date, and source remain consistent.

Importance of Consistency in Citation

Regardless of the specific type of interview transcript you are citing, the most critical aspect of using Chicago style author-date is maintaining absolute consistency. Once you have determined the format for a particular type of source, apply it uniformly throughout your paper. Inconsistencies can detract from the professionalism of your work and make it harder for readers to follow your citations.

The Chicago style author-date system provides a robust framework for citing interview transcripts, ensuring academic rigor and proper attribution. By understanding the key components, in-text formats, and reference list requirements, writers can confidently incorporate interview data into their research. Whether the interview was personal, archival, or published, adherence to these guidelines will enhance the credibility and clarity of your scholarly work.

Q: What is the primary difference between citing an interview transcript in Chicago Notes-Bibliography style versus author-date style?

A: The primary difference lies in the in-text citation. In Notes-Bibliography style, a footnote or endnote number is used in the text, with the full citation details in the corresponding note. In author-date style, the in-text citation consists of the author's last name and the year of publication (e.g., Vance 2022), with a full bibliographic entry in the reference list at the end of the paper.

Q: How do I cite an interview I conducted myself in Chicago author-date style?

A: For an interview you conducted yourself, the interviewee is considered the author. In your reference list entry, you would list the interviewee's name, the year of the interview, and then indicate that it was an interview by you (e.g., "Interview by [Your Last Name, Your First Name]"). The in-text citation would be (Interviewee Last Name Year, Page Number).

Q: What information is essential for a Chicago author-date reference list entry for an unpublished interview transcript?

A: For an unpublished interview transcript, the essential information includes the interviewee's full name, the year the interview was conducted, a description of the interview (e.g., "Personal interview," "Phone interview"), and the specific date the interview took place. If you are the interviewer, your name should also be noted.

Q: How do I handle interviews that have been published in a book using the Chicago author-date system?

A: When an interview is published in a book, it's often treated like a chapter or essay. The interviewee is the author. The reference list entry would include the interviewee's name, the title of the interview (if it has one), followed by the title of the book, the editor(s) (if any), page numbers, and publication details of the book.

Q: Can I omit the page number in an in-text citation for an interview transcript if it doesn't have pages?

A: Yes, if an interview transcript does not have page numbers, you can omit the page number from the in-text citation. The citation would then simply be (Author Last Name Year). If the transcript is lengthy and has internal divisions like paragraph numbers or timestamps, you may use those for greater specificity if consistently applied.

Q: What if the interview transcript is only available online? How do I cite that in Chicago

author-date style?

A: For online interview transcripts, the citation should include all relevant information such as the interviewee's name, the date, and any title or description. Crucially, you must also include the URL and the date you accessed the material. The specific format might vary slightly depending on whether it's a standalone web page, part of a digital archive, or an online journal.

Q: What is the correct way to format the year in Chicago author-date citations for interviews?

A: The year in Chicago author-date citations for interviews is typically the year the interview was conducted. If the transcript has been published in a later work, and you are citing that published version, you might include both the original interview year and the publication year, but the primary in-text citation will usually refer to the publication year of the source you are consulting. Always clarify this in your reference list.

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