

chicago style bibliography for psychology

Mastering the Chicago Style Bibliography for Psychology Research

chicago style bibliography for psychology requirements can seem daunting, but understanding its nuances is crucial for any student or researcher in the field. This citation style, with its two distinct systems—Notes-Bibliography and Author-Date—demands meticulous attention to detail to ensure academic integrity and proper attribution of sources. This comprehensive guide will navigate you through the intricacies of creating an accurate Chicago style bibliography specifically tailored for psychology papers, covering everything from general principles to specific source types. We will explore the fundamental differences between the two Chicago systems, delve into the mechanics of in-text citations and the final bibliography, and provide clear examples for commonly encountered sources within psychology literature, such as journal articles, books, and dissertations. Mastering these elements will not only help you avoid common citation errors but will also enhance the credibility and clarity of your scholarly work in psychology.

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Understanding the Two Chicago Style Systems

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) offers two primary citation systems, and it is imperative to understand which one your instructor or publisher requires for your psychology paper. The first is the Notes-Bibliography (NB) system, which relies on numbered footnotes or endnotes for citations, accompanied by a comprehensive bibliography at the end of the work. The second is the Author-Date system, which uses parenthetical in-text citations (author, date, page) and a corresponding reference list. While both aim for clarity and consistency, the Notes-Bibliography system is more common in the humanities, while the Author-Date system is frequently preferred in the social sciences, including many areas of psychology.

For psychology research, the Author-Date system is often favored because it provides immediate context for the reader by including the author's name and publication year directly within the text, allowing for quick identification of the source's origin. The Notes-Bibliography system, conversely, can sometimes interrupt the flow of reading with frequent footnote or endnote markers, although it offers greater flexibility for lengthy explanatory notes. Regardless of the chosen system, adherence to the specific formatting guidelines is paramount for a successful and professional bibliography.

Key Components of a Chicago Style Bibliography

A Chicago style bibliography, whether a reference list or a bibliography section, serves as an alphabetical compilation of all the sources you have cited within your paper. It is more than just a list; it is a testament to your research's foundation and allows your readers to locate and verify the information you have presented. Each entry in the bibliography must contain specific details that uniquely identify the source.

The essential elements typically included in a Chicago style bibliography entry are author(s), title of the work, publication information (publisher, year, journal title, volume, issue, pages), and for online sources, a DOI or URL and access date. The precise order and punctuation of these elements will vary depending on the source type and the chosen Chicago style system (Notes-Bibliography or Author-Date). Accuracy in these details is non-negotiable, as even minor errors can lead to confusion or misattribution.

Formatting In-Text Citations in Psychology

In-text citations are the direct links between the information presented in your text and the full source details in your bibliography. For psychology papers, the most common method is using the Author-Date system. This involves placing the author's last name and the publication year in parentheses immediately after the borrowed information, whether it's a direct quote, paraphrase, or summary of an idea.

When directly quoting a source, you must also include the page number. For example, a direct quote might appear as (Skinner, 1953, p. 75). If you are paraphrasing or summarizing, the page number is often optional but highly recommended for clarity, especially when referring to specific concepts or arguments. For example, a paraphrase might be (Bandura, 1977) or (Bandura, 1977, pp. 197-200).

Citing Multiple Authors

When citing works with multiple authors, the conventions differ based on the number of authors. For works with two authors, include both names in every citation (e.g., Beck & Ellis, 1993). For works with three or more authors, cite only the first author's last name followed by "et al." and the year (e.g., Ainsworth et al., 1978). This convention applies to both the Author-Date system and the notes in the Notes-Bibliography system.

Citing Subsequent Works by the Same Author

If you cite multiple works by the same author in the same year, you must distinguish them by appending lowercase letters to the year, both in the in-text citation and in the bibliography entry. For instance, if an author published two works in 2020, they might be cited as (Frued, 2020a) and (Frued, 2020b), and their respective bibliography entries would also be marked with 'a' and 'b'.

Crafting the Bibliography: General Principles

The bibliography, or reference list, is typically alphabetized by the author's last name. If a work has no author, it is alphabetized by the first significant word of the title, excluding articles like "A," "An," or "The." Each entry begins with the author's name (last name first), followed by the title of the work, and then publication details. For the Author-Date system, the year of publication immediately follows the author's name.

A crucial formatting element in Chicago style bibliographies is the use of a hanging indent. This means the first line of each entry is flush with the left margin, and all subsequent lines of that entry are indented. This formatting convention makes it easier for readers to scan the list and locate specific entries. Consistency in formatting across all entries is paramount for a polished and professional bibliography.

Citing Journal Articles in Psychology

Journal articles are a cornerstone of psychology research, and their proper citation is essential. The exact format depends on whether you are using the Notes-Bibliography or Author-Date system.

Author-Date System for Journal Articles

For the Author-Date system, a journal article entry typically includes the author's last name, followed by their first initial(s), the year of publication in parentheses, the article title, the journal title (*italicized*), the volume number (*italicized*), the issue number in parentheses, and the page range of the article. If a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) is available, it should be included after the page range. A sample entry would look like this:

- Baumeister, Roy F. 1997. "Identity, Self-Presentation, and Self-Esteem: A Social Cognitive Perspective." *Psychological Inquiry* 8 (1): 37-41.

Notes-Bibliography System for Journal Articles

In the Notes-Bibliography system, the bibliography entry for a journal article is similar but omits the year from its immediate position after the author. Instead, the year appears with the volume and issue information. The primary citation happens in the footnotes or endnotes. A bibliography entry would be formatted as:

- Baumeister, Roy F. "Identity, Self-Presentation, and Self-Esteem: A Social Cognitive Perspective." *Psychological Inquiry* 8, no. 1 (1997): 37-41.

The footnote or endnote for this article would include more publication details and potentially different punctuation, often with the author's name presented first name first.

Citing Books and Book Chapters in Psychology

Books and book chapters are also frequently cited in psychology research. The citation format for these sources will also vary slightly between the two Chicago style systems.

Author-Date System for Books

For the Author-Date system, a book citation includes the author's last name, first initial(s), the year of publication in parentheses, the book title (*italicized*), and the publisher's city and name. For edited books, the editor(s) would be listed first. A typical entry would be:

- Kahn, Robert L., and Daniel Katz. 1966. *The Social Psychology of Organizations*. New York: John Wiley & Sons.

Author-Date System for Book Chapters

When citing a chapter within an edited book, you need to include the chapter author(s), the chapter title, the editor(s) of the book, the book title (*italicized*), and the page range of the chapter, followed by the publication information. For example:

- Fiske, Susan T. 2004. "Stereotyping, Prejudice, and Discrimination." In *The Handbook of Social Psychology*, edited by Susan T. Fiske, Daniel T. Gilbert, and Gardner Lindzey, 357-404. 4th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Notes-Bibliography System for Books and Chapters

In the Notes-Bibliography system, the bibliography entry for a book omits the year from its immediate position after the author. The year appears at the end of the citation, before the publisher information. For chapters, the structure is similar, with the year appearing last before publication details. The footnotes or endnotes would contain the full publication details and would cite the source differently from the bibliography entry.

Citing Dissertations and Theses in Psychology

Dissertations and theses represent original research and are often valuable resources in academic fields like psychology. Their citation format in Chicago style requires specific information to distinguish them from published books.

Author-Date System for Dissertations/Theses

For the Author-Date system, a dissertation or thesis citation includes the author's last name, first initial(s), the year of completion in parentheses, the dissertation or thesis title (italicized), and the type of work (e.g., Ph.D. dissertation, Master's thesis) followed by the university from which it was awarded. If available, the database where it was accessed (e.g., ProQuest Dissertations & Theses) and its accession number should also be included. A sample entry:

- Smith, Jane A. 2018. *The Impact of Mindfulness on Anxiety Levels in College Students*. Ph.D. dissertation, University of California, Berkeley. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses, AAT 1234567.

Notes-Bibliography System for Dissertations/Theses

In the Notes-Bibliography system, the bibliography entry will follow a similar structure, with the year appearing closer to the end of the entry, and the footnotes or endnotes providing more complete publication information and often presenting the author's name first name first.

Citing Online Resources and Websites in Psychology

The digital age has made citing online resources a regular part of academic writing. For psychology research, it's crucial to cite any online material, from journal articles accessed online to organizational websites and reports.

Author-Date System for Online Resources

When citing online resources, the general principle is to provide as much identifying information as possible. This typically includes the author (if available), the date of publication or last update, the title of the specific page or document, the website name, and the URL. For sources that may change over time or disappear, it's advisable to include the date you accessed the material. A sample entry for a webpage:

- American Psychological Association. 2023. "Understanding Anxiety Disorders." Accessed October 26, 2023. <https://www.apa.org/topics/anxiety>.

Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs)

For online journal articles and some other digital publications, a DOI is the preferred persistent identifier. When a DOI is available, it should be included in the citation. This ensures that the reader can always locate the original source, even if URLs change. The DOI is typically formatted as a URL:

- Cherry, Kendra. 2022. "What Is Cognitive Behavioral Therapy?" Verywell Mind. <https://www.verywellmind.com/what-is-cognitive-behavioral-therapy-2795796>. DOI: 10.1037/e56789.

Note that the DOI is usually placed after the page number or at the end of the citation for online journal articles.

Special Considerations for Psychology Bibliographies

Beyond the standard formatting, psychology bibliographies may encounter unique challenges. For instance, citing research that uses specific statistical software or experimental apparatus might require including manufacturers or version numbers. Furthermore, when discussing theoretical frameworks, it's vital to ensure that foundational texts are accurately cited, even if more recent articles discuss them.

It's also important to be aware of variations in how different psychological subfields approach citation. While the Chicago Manual of Style provides a comprehensive framework, specific journals or departments within psychology might have slight modifications or preferences. Always consult the style guide provided by your instructor, department, or the journal to which you are submitting your work to ensure complete compliance. Paying attention to these details demonstrates a commitment to scholarly rigor and contributes to the overall quality of your research.

The meticulous construction of a Chicago style bibliography for psychology is an integral part of the research process. By adhering to the guidelines for in-text citations and bibliography entries, and by carefully detailing each source, you not only fulfill academic requirements but also contribute to the transparent and verifiable exchange of knowledge within the field of psychology. The consistent application of these principles ensures that your work stands as a credible and well-supported contribution to the psychological discourse.

FAQ: Chicago Style Bibliography for Psychology

Q: What is the primary difference between the Notes-

Bibliography and Author-Date systems in Chicago style for psychology papers?

A: The primary difference lies in how citations are presented. The Notes-Bibliography system uses footnotes or endnotes within the text and a bibliography at the end, while the Author-Date system uses parenthetical in-text citations (author, date, page) and a reference list at the end. For psychology, the Author-Date system is more common.

Q: How do I format a journal article citation in Chicago style for psychology using the Author-Date system?

A: In the Author-Date system, a journal article citation includes the author's last name, first initial(s), the year in parentheses, the article title, the journal title (*italicized*), the volume number (*italicized*), the issue number in parentheses, and the page range. A DOI should be included if available.

Q: What if a psychology source has no author? How is it cited in a Chicago style bibliography?

A: If a source has no author, the entry in the bibliography is alphabetized by the first significant word of the title, excluding articles like "A," "An," or "The." The title then appears at the beginning of the citation, followed by the publication information.

Q: Should I include DOIs in my Chicago style psychology bibliography?

A: Yes, absolutely. DOIs (Digital Object Identifiers) are persistent links that allow readers to reliably access online sources. They should be included in your bibliography entries whenever a DOI is available for a source, usually formatted as a URL.

Q: How do I cite a book chapter in Chicago style for psychology?

A: To cite a book chapter in Chicago style, you need to include the chapter author(s), the chapter title, the editor(s) of the book, the book title (*italicized*), and the page range of the chapter, followed by the publication information (city, publisher, year).

Q: What is a hanging indent, and why is it important for a Chicago style bibliography?

A: A hanging indent means that the first line of each bibliography entry is flush with the left margin, and all subsequent lines of that entry are indented. This formatting convention makes it much easier for readers to scan the bibliography and locate individual entries quickly.

Q: Do I need to cite all online sources, even if they are not academic?

A: Yes, if you use information from any online source, whether it's an academic journal, a website, a blog post, or a news article, and you are referencing it in your psychology paper, you must cite it properly in your Chicago style bibliography.

Q: How do I cite multiple works by the same author in the same year for my psychology bibliography?

A: When citing multiple works by the same author in the same year, you distinguish them by adding lowercase letters (a, b, c, etc.) to the year. This applies to both the in-text citation and the bibliography entry (e.g., Smith, J. (2020a); Smith, J. (2020b)).

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