

chicago style citation examples for dissertations

chicago style citation examples for dissertations are a critical component of academic writing, ensuring scholarly integrity and proper attribution of sources. Navigating the intricacies of the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) for dissertations can be daunting, but understanding its principles is essential for graduate students. This comprehensive guide will demystify Chicago style citations, providing clear examples for various source types commonly encountered in dissertations. We will cover both the author-date and notes-bibliography systems, highlighting key differences and offering practical advice. Furthermore, we will explore common challenges and best practices for effectively incorporating Chicago style into your doctoral research. This article aims to equip you with the knowledge and tools necessary to confidently cite your sources according to Chicago style.

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Understanding Chicago Style for Dissertations

The Chicago Manual of Style offers two primary citation systems: the notes-bibliography system and the author-date system. For dissertations, the notes-bibliography system is generally preferred,

especially in the humanities, as it allows for more detailed explanatory notes. However, some disciplines, particularly in the social sciences and sciences, may opt for the author-date system, which uses parenthetical citations within the text followed by a reference list. The choice of system often depends on departmental or university guidelines, so it is crucial to confirm which system is mandated for your dissertation.

Regardless of the chosen system, the core principles remain consistent: accurately and consistently attributing all borrowed material, including direct quotes, paraphrased ideas, and factual information. Proper citation not only avoids plagiarism but also allows readers to locate your sources and engage with the scholarly conversation your dissertation contributes to. Understanding the structure of both notes and bibliographic entries is fundamental to mastering Chicago style for your doctoral work.

The Notes–Bibliography System in Chicago Style

The notes-bibliography system is characterized by the use of numbered footnotes or endnotes within the text, keyed to a corresponding entry in a bibliography at the end of the document. This system is favored for its flexibility, allowing authors to include supplementary information or tangential discussions in the notes without disrupting the flow of the main text. Each note provides specific publication details for the source being referenced.

Footnotes appear at the bottom of the page where the citation occurs, while endnotes are compiled at the end of the chapter or the entire dissertation. The first citation of a source in a note is typically more detailed than subsequent citations of the same source, which can be shortened. The bibliography, on the other hand, provides a comprehensive alphabetical list of all sources consulted and cited.

First Note vs. Subsequent Notes

The first time a source is cited in a note, it requires a full bibliographic entry format. This includes the author's full name, the title of the work in italics, publication information (place, publisher, year), and page number(s). Subsequent references to the same source can be abbreviated, usually including the author's last name, a shortened title, and the page number. This distinction helps to keep notes concise while still providing sufficient information for readers to identify the source.

The Bibliography Entry

The bibliography at the end of the dissertation is an alphabetical listing of all sources. For books, the author's last name comes first, followed by their first name, then the italicized title, publication details, and year. For articles, the author's name is followed by the article title in quotation marks, the journal title in italics, and then volume, issue, date, and page range. Consistency in formatting these entries is paramount.

The Author-Date System in Chicago Style

The author-date system uses in-text parenthetical citations that include the author's last name and the publication year, often with a page number. This system is commonly used in scientific and social science disciplines where brevity and direct access to source information are prioritized. The parenthetical citation directly links to a corresponding entry in a reference list at the end of the work.

The reference list in the author-date system is similar to the bibliography in the notes-bibliography system in that it lists all cited sources alphabetically. However, the format of the entries and the in-text citations themselves are distinct. The primary goal is to allow readers to quickly locate the full source information from the brief in-text citation.

In-Text Parenthetical Citations

An in-text citation in the author-date system typically appears like this: (Author Last Name Year, page number). For example, (Smith 2020, 45). If the author's name is mentioned in the sentence, only the year and page number are needed in parentheses: Smith (2020, 45) argues... . This method keeps the main text uncluttered while providing immediate source attribution.

The Reference List

The reference list comprises full bibliographic entries for all sources cited in the text. The format for books is generally: Author Last Name, First Name. Year. Title of Work. Place of Publication: Publisher. For journal articles: Author Last Name, First Name. Year. "Article Title." Journal Title Volume, no. Issue (Season/Month): page range. The year is typically placed immediately after the author's name in this system.

Citing Books in Chicago Style for Dissertations

Citing books is a fundamental aspect of dissertation writing. Whether you are using the notes-bibliography system or the author-date system, the basic information required remains similar, though the placement and format vary. For books, you will always need the author's name, the title, the publisher, and the publication year.

Notes-Bibliography System: Book Examples

Full Note:

1. John Smith, *The History of Chicago* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018), 75.

Subsequent Note:

2. Smith, *History of Chicago*, 92.

Bibliography Entry:

Smith, John. 2018. *The History of Chicago*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

For edited books, include the editor's name. For books with multiple authors, list them as they appear on the title page. For chapters in edited volumes, cite the chapter author and title, followed by the editor and book title.

Author-Date System: Book Examples

In-Text Citation:

(Smith 2018, 75)

Reference List Entry:

Smith, John. 2018. *The History of Chicago*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Citing Journal Articles in Chicago Style for Dissertations

Academic journals are a cornerstone of research, and proper citation of journal articles is crucial for dissertations. The format for journal articles differs slightly from books due to the inclusion of volume, issue, and page ranges for the article itself.

Notes–Bibliography System: Journal Article Examples

Full Note:

1. Jane Doe, “The Impact of Urbanization on American Literature,” *Journal of Modern Studies* 25, no. 3 (Fall 2019): 215.

Subsequent Note:

2. Doe, “Impact of Urbanization,” 220.

Bibliography Entry:

Doe, Jane. 2019. “The Impact of Urbanization on American Literature.” *Journal of Modern Studies* 25, no. 3 (Fall): 210–230.

Author–Date System: Journal Article Examples

In-Text Citation:

(Doe 2019, 215)

Reference List Entry:

Doe, Jane. 2019. "The Impact of Urbanization on American Literature." *Journal of Modern Studies* 25, no. 3 (Fall): 210–230.

Citing Websites and Online Resources in Chicago Style

In the digital age, citing websites and online resources is increasingly common in dissertations. The key is to provide enough information for the reader to locate the specific online content. This typically includes the author (if known), the title of the page or document, the website name, and a stable URL or DOI. For Chicago style, the retrieval date is often included for content that is likely to change.

Notes–Bibliography System: Website Examples

Full Note:

1. "About the National Archives," National Archives, accessed October 26, 2023, <https://www.archives.gov/about>.

Bibliography Entry:

National Archives. "About the National Archives." Accessed October 26, 2023. <https://www.archives.gov/about>.

Author–Date System: Website Examples

In–Text Citation:

(National Archives, n.d.) (if no date is available) or (National Archives 2023) if a date can be ascertained.

Reference List Entry:

National Archives. n.d. "About the National Archives." Accessed October 26, 2023.
<https://www.archives.gov/about>.

Citing Dissertations and Theses in Chicago Style

When your dissertation draws upon other dissertations or theses, it's essential to cite them correctly. This demonstrates your engagement with prior research in your field. The format will vary slightly depending on whether you are citing a printed copy or an electronic version.

Notes–Bibliography System: Dissertation Examples

Full Note (Unpublished Dissertation):

1. Sarah Lee, "A Study of Graduate Pedagogy" (PhD diss., Northwestern University, 2021), 110.

Full Note (Published Dissertation/Thesis):

1. Michael Chen, *The Evolution of Urban Planning* (PhD diss., Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2019), ProQuest Dissertations Publishing (3123456).

Bibliography Entry (Unpublished Dissertation):

Lee, Sarah. "A Study of Graduate Pedagogy." PhD diss., Northwestern University, 2021.

Bibliography Entry (Published Dissertation/Thesis):

Chen, Michael. The Evolution of Urban Planning. PhD diss., Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2019. ProQuest Dissertations Publishing (3123456).

Author-Date System: Dissertation Examples

In-Text Citation (Unpublished Dissertation):

(Lee 2021, 110)

Reference List Entry (Unpublished Dissertation):

Lee, Sarah. 2021. "A Study of Graduate Pedagogy." PhD diss., Northwestern University.

In-Text Citation (Published Dissertation):

(Chen 2019)

Reference List Entry (Published Dissertation):

Chen, Michael. 2019. The Evolution of Urban Planning. PhD diss., Massachusetts Institute of Technology. ProQuest Dissertations Publishing (3123456).

In-Text Citations and Footnotes/Endnotes

The integration of citations within your dissertation's text is a crucial step. For the notes-bibliography system, this involves using superscript numbers keyed to footnotes or endnotes. These numbers should follow punctuation. For the author-date system, parenthetical citations are embedded directly into the text.

For direct quotes, always include the page number. For paraphrased ideas or summaries, it is good

practice to include the page number as well, especially if the idea is specific. Consistent placement of these citations ensures clarity for your readers and demonstrates meticulous attention to detail in your academic work.

Placement of Citation Numbers

In the notes-bibliography system, citation numbers should generally follow the sentence or clause where the borrowed material appears. They should be placed after any terminal punctuation, such as a period, question mark, or exclamation point. This standard practice helps to avoid confusion about what content the citation refers to.

Attributing Direct Quotes

When using a direct quote, the citation number immediately follows the closing quotation mark. For example: “This is a direct quote.”¹ This ensures that the reader knows precisely which part of the text is being quoted and from where it originates.

The Bibliography Page

The bibliography (or reference list for the author-date system) is a vital part of your dissertation. It serves as a comprehensive record of all the sources you have cited. This page should be alphabetized by the author’s last name and formatted consistently according to the chosen Chicago style system.

This alphabetical listing allows readers to quickly locate the full bibliographic information for any source

referenced in your dissertation, fostering transparency and enabling further research. Ensuring that every source cited in the text is present in the bibliography, and vice versa, is a fundamental requirement.

Formatting for Consistency

Consistency is key to a well-formatted bibliography. Pay close attention to the use of italics for titles, quotation marks for article titles, capitalization, and the order of elements. Minor inconsistencies can detract from the professionalism of your dissertation. Double-checking each entry against the Chicago Manual of Style guidelines is highly recommended.

Common Pitfalls in Chicago Style Dissertation Citation

Even seasoned academics can encounter challenges with citation styles. For dissertations, common pitfalls include inconsistent formatting, missing essential publication details, and misinterpreting specific source types. Forgetting to update page numbers after revisions or failing to distinguish between different editions of a book are also frequent errors.

Another common issue is the incorrect application of shortened notes in the notes-bibliography system or the improper use of the “n.d.” (no date) or “n.p.” (no place) indicators. Familiarizing yourself with these common mistakes and proactively addressing them will contribute to a more polished and academically sound dissertation. Always refer to the latest edition of the Chicago Manual of Style or consult your advisor for clarification.

Ensuring Accuracy and Completeness

Accuracy and completeness in your citations are paramount. This means verifying all author names, titles, publication dates, and page numbers. If you are citing an electronic source, ensure the URL is correct and accessible. If a digital object identifier (DOI) is available, it is often preferred over a URL for its stability. Taking the time to meticulously check each citation entry will prevent errors and strengthen the credibility of your research.

Consulting the Chicago Manual of Style

The ultimate authority for Chicago style is the manual itself. For any complex or unusual citation scenario, direct consultation of the Chicago Manual of Style is indispensable. University libraries and academic support centers often provide resources and workshops to assist students with citation formatting. Do not hesitate to seek assistance from your dissertation advisor or the writing center.

FAQ

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

A: The notes-bibliography system uses numbered footnotes or endnotes for in-text citations and a comprehensive bibliography at the end. The author-date system uses parenthetical citations within the text (e.g., Smith 2020, 45) and a reference list at the end. The notes-bibliography system is generally favored in the humanities, while the author-date system is more common in social sciences and sciences.

Q: Should I use footnotes or endnotes in my dissertation with the notes-bibliography system?

A: The choice between footnotes and endnotes is often a matter of personal preference or departmental requirement. Footnotes appear at the bottom of the page where the citation occurs, offering immediate context. Endnotes are compiled at the end of a chapter or the entire dissertation, which can make the main text appear cleaner but requires readers to flip to the back. Always check your university or department's guidelines.

Q: How do I cite a source that has no publication date in Chicago style?

A: For both the notes-bibliography and author-date systems, if a source has no publication date, you should use "n.d." in place of the year. For example, in a note: Author, Title (Place: Publisher, n.d.), page. In the bibliography: Author. Title. Place: Publisher, n.d. In an author-date in-text citation: (Author n.d., page). In the reference list: Author. n.d. Title. Place: Publisher.

Q: What is the correct way to cite a chapter in an edited book in Chicago style?

A: In the notes-bibliography system, the full note would typically be: Author of Chapter, "Title of Chapter," in Title of Book, ed. Editor's Name (Place of Publication: Publisher, Year), page number. The bibliography entry would be: Author of Chapter. "Title of Chapter." In Title of Book, edited by Editor's Name, page range of chapter. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year. For the author-date system, the in-text citation would be (Author of Chapter Year, page) and the reference list entry would follow a similar structure but with the year immediately after the chapter author's name.

Q: How do I cite a website that has no author listed?

A: If a website has no author listed, begin the citation with the title of the page or article. For the notes-bibliography system, the note would be: "Title of Page," Website Name, accessed Month Day, Year, URL. The bibliography entry would be: "Title of Page." Website Name. Accessed Month Day, Year. URL. In the author-date system, you might use the website name as the author if it functions as an organizational author, or if not, you may use the title in the in-text citation and reference list.

Q: What is a DOI, and when should I use it in my Chicago style citations?

A: A DOI (Digital Object Identifier) is a unique string of characters used to identify electronic documents, such as journal articles. It is a more stable and persistent way to link to online content than a URL. When citing electronic journal articles or other online resources that have a DOI, you should generally include it in your citation. Chicago style typically prefers a DOI over a URL when both are available, often placing it at the end of the citation.

Q: How do I handle citing multiple works by the same author in my bibliography?

A: In both the bibliography and reference list, if you have multiple works by the same author, you list them chronologically by publication year. For subsequent works by the same author within the same bibliography entry (i.e., if they have multiple entries), you use a long dash (an em dash) or three hyphens followed by a space in place of the author's name for the second and subsequent entries. For example: Smith, John. 2018. *The History of Chicago*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. ---. 2020. *Modern Urbanism*. New York: Routledge.

Q: Do I need to include the publisher's location in Chicago style citations?

A: Yes, for books and dissertations, the place of publication is generally required in Chicago style citations. You typically include the city where the publisher is located. If there are multiple locations listed, Chicago style suggests using the first one listed. For journal articles, the publisher's location is usually not included.

Q: What is the rule for abbreviating journal titles in Chicago style?

A: Chicago style generally recommends using full journal titles in bibliographies and reference lists unless an extremely common and well-known abbreviation exists (which is rare). For notes, it's best to use the full title or a shortened title as appropriate, but avoid arbitrary abbreviations of journal titles. Consistency is key, and always refer to your institution's specific guidelines.

Q: How do I cite a secondary source where I only read about a work in another work?

A: Chicago style discourages citing secondary sources unless absolutely necessary. If you must, in the notes-bibliography system, you would cite the work you read (the secondary source) and indicate that you are citing it as mentioned in the primary work. For example: Author of Primary Work, Title of Primary Work (Year), quoted in Author of Secondary Work, Title of Secondary Work (Place: Publisher, Year), page number. In the bibliography, you only list the secondary source you consulted. For the author-date system, the in-text citation would reflect the secondary source, and the reference list would only contain the secondary source.

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