

chicago style citation examples for secondary sources

Mastering Chicago Style Citation Examples for Secondary Sources

chicago style citation examples for secondary sources are crucial for academic integrity and scholarly communication, ensuring proper attribution and allowing readers to locate original works. Navigating the intricacies of the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) can be daunting, especially when dealing with the diverse array of secondary sources scholars frequently consult. This comprehensive guide breaks down the essential components of citing secondary sources in Chicago style, covering both the notes-bibliography system and the author-date system. We will delve into specific examples for common secondary source types, including books, journal articles, websites, and more, equipping you with the knowledge to accurately and effectively cite your research. Understanding these citation formats is fundamental to producing polished academic work that adheres to scholarly standards.

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Understanding Chicago Style: Notes-Bibliography vs. Author-

Date

The Chicago Manual of Style offers two primary systems for citation: the notes-bibliography system and the author-date system. While both aim for clarity and accuracy, they differ in their presentation. The notes-bibliography system utilizes footnotes or endnotes to cite sources within the text, with a corresponding bibliography at the end of the work. This system is often favored in humanities disciplines like literature, history, and the arts. Conversely, the author-date system employs parenthetical citations within the text, consisting of the author's last name and the year of publication, which are then detailed in a reference list at the end of the paper. This method is more prevalent in social sciences and natural sciences.

Both systems require meticulous attention to detail when it comes to secondary sources. Secondary sources are works that analyze, interpret, or comment on primary sources. They play a vital role in academic research by providing context, offering different perspectives, and building upon existing scholarship. Whether you are using a book that discusses a historical event or a journal article that analyzes a literary text, understanding how to properly attribute these secondary sources is paramount.

Essential Components of a Chicago Style Citation for Secondary Sources

Regardless of the chosen citation system, several key pieces of information are generally required for a complete Chicago style citation of a secondary source. These components help readers identify and locate the original source with precision. While the order and punctuation may vary slightly between the notes-bibliography and author-date systems, the core elements remain consistent.

The fundamental elements typically include:

- Author(s) or Editor(s) name(s)
- Title of the work (book, article, website, etc.)
- Publication information (city of publication, publisher, year for books)
- Journal title, volume number, issue number, and page numbers for journal articles
- Website name, URL, and access date for online sources
- Any relevant DOI (Digital Object Identifier)

Paying close attention to these details ensures that your citations are both accurate and complete, upholding the integrity of your research and respecting the work of others.

Citing Secondary Sources: Books

Books are a cornerstone of academic research, and citing them correctly in Chicago style is essential. The format for books differs slightly between the notes-bibliography system and the author-date system, but the core information remains the same.

Books in the Notes-Bibliography System

For a note (footnote or endnote), the format generally includes the author's full name, the title of the book in italics, the place of publication, the publisher, the year of publication, and the specific page number(s) being referenced. The bibliography entry is similar but omits the page number for the specific reference and reverses the author's name (last name first).

Example Note:

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

Example Bibliography Entry:

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

Books in the Author-Date System

In the author-date system, in-text citations are brief, typically (Author Last Name Year, Page). The reference list entry is very similar to the bibliography entry in the notes-bibliography system.

Example In-Text Citation:

(Pollan 2006, 99)

Example Reference List Entry:

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

Citing Secondary Sources: Journal Articles

Academic journal articles are vital secondary sources, offering in-depth analysis and research findings. Proper citation is critical for allowing your readers to access this valuable scholarly work.

Journal Articles in the Notes-Bibliography System

For notes, you will include the author(s)' full name(s), the article title in quotation marks, the journal title in italics, the volume and issue numbers, the year of publication, and the page number(s) of the article. The bibliography entry follows a similar pattern, with the author's name reversed and specific page numbers for the reference omitted.

Example Note:

2. Sarah Johnson, "The Evolution of Victorian Narratives," *Journal of Literary Studies* 45, no. 2 (2018): 150.

Example Bibliography Entry:

Johnson, Sarah. "The Evolution of Victorian Narratives." *Journal of Literary Studies* 45, no. 2 (2018): 145-165.

Journal Articles in the Author-Date System

Author-date citations for journal articles include the author's last name and the year in the in-text citation, followed by the full entry in the reference list.

Example In-Text Citation:

(Johnson 2018, 150)

Example Reference List Entry:

Johnson, Sarah. 2018. "The Evolution of Victorian Narratives." *Journal of Literary Studies* 45 (2): 145-165.

Citing Secondary Sources: Websites and Online Content

The digital landscape offers a vast array of secondary sources, from academic blogs to online encyclopedias. Citing online content requires careful attention to accessibility information.

Websites in the Notes-Bibliography System

For notes, include the author (if known), the title of the specific page or article in quotation marks, the website name in italics, the publication date or last updated date, and the URL. Crucially, include the date you accessed the page. The bibliography entry mirrors this, often omitting the access date unless the content is likely to change frequently.

Example Note:

3. National Archives and Records Administration, "About Us," accessed July 15, 2023, <https://www.archives.gov/about>.

Example Bibliography Entry:

National Archives and Records Administration. "About Us." Accessed July 15, 2023.
<https://www.archives.gov/about>.

Websites in the Author-Date System

In-text citations will typically include the author's last name and the year. The reference list entry will resemble the bibliography entry but with the year immediately following the author.

Example In-Text Citation:

(National Archives and Records Administration [2023])

Example Reference List Entry:

National Archives and Records Administration. [2023]. "About Us." Accessed July 15, 2023.
<https://www.archives.gov/about>.

Note: For websites without a clear publication date, the year may be omitted or indicated as "n.d." (no date).

Citing Secondary Sources: Edited Volumes and Book Chapters

When you cite a chapter or essay within an edited collection, the citation needs to reflect both the specific contribution and the larger work it is part of.

Edited Volumes and Chapters in the Notes-Bibliography System

The note will identify the chapter author, the chapter title, followed by "in," the book title (in italics), the editor(s)' name(s), publication details, and page numbers. The bibliography entry will list the chapter author first, then the chapter title, followed by the editor(s) and the full publication information for the volume.

Example Note:

4. David Greene, "The Impact of Industrialization," in *Modern European History*, ed. Eleanor Vance (Chicago: University Press, 2015), 210.

Example Bibliography Entry:

Greene, David. "The Impact of Industrialization." In *Modern European History*, edited by Eleanor Vance, 205-230. Chicago: University Press, 2015.

Edited Volumes and Chapters in the Author-Date System

The in-text citation will include the chapter author's last name and the year. The reference list entry will

be structured similarly to the bibliography entry, with the year placed after the chapter author's name.

Example In-Text Citation:

(Greene 2015, 210)

Example Reference List Entry:

Greene, David. 2015. "The Impact of Industrialization." In *Modern European History*, edited by Eleanor Vance, 205-230. Chicago: University Press.

Citing Secondary Sources: Dissertations and Theses

Dissertations and theses, often available through university libraries or online databases, can be valuable secondary sources. Their citation format requires specifying the institution and availability.

Dissertations and Theses in the Notes-Bibliography System

For notes, you'll include the author's full name, the dissertation or thesis title in italics, the degree sought (e.g., PhD dissertation, MA thesis), the university, the year, and for online access, the database name and item number or URL. The bibliography entry follows a similar structure.

Example Note:

5. Emily Carter, "Analyzing Postcolonial Literature in the 21st Century" (PhD diss., University of California, Berkeley, 2020), ProQuest Dissertations Publishing, 3054876.

Example Bibliography Entry:

Carter, Emily. "Analyzing Postcolonial Literature in the 21st Century." PhD diss., University of California, Berkeley, 2020. ProQuest Dissertations Publishing, 3054876.

Dissertations and Theses in the Author-Date System

The in-text citation uses the author's last name and the year. The reference list entry is similar to the bibliography entry.

Example In-Text Citation:

(Carter 2020)

Example Reference List Entry:

Carter, Emily. 2020. "Analyzing Postcolonial Literature in the 21st Century." PhD diss., University of California, Berkeley. ProQuest Dissertations Publishing, 3054876.

Citing Secondary Sources: Newspapers and Magazines

Newspaper and magazine articles, while sometimes considered ephemeral, can serve as important secondary sources for commentary and reporting on events. Their citation format is relatively straightforward.

Newspapers and Magazines in the Notes-Bibliography System

For notes, include the author's full name, the article title in quotation marks, the newspaper or magazine title in italics, the date of publication, and the page number(s). The bibliography entry is similar, with the author's name reversed.

Example Note:

6. John Smith, "Local Elections Show Shift in Public Opinion," *Chicago Tribune*, November 8, 2022, sec. A, p. 3.

Example Bibliography Entry:

Smith, John. "Local Elections Show Shift in Public Opinion." *Chicago Tribune*, November 8, 2022, sec. A, p. 3.

Newspapers and Magazines in the Author-Date System

In-text citations use the author's last name and the year. The reference list entry follows the typical author-date structure.

Example In-Text Citation:

(Smith 2022, A3)

Example Reference List Entry:

Smith, John. 2022. "Local Elections Show Shift in Public Opinion." *Chicago Tribune*, November 8, sec. A, p. 3.

Common Pitfalls and Best Practices for Chicago Style Citations

Navigating Chicago style citation examples for secondary sources can present challenges, but understanding common pitfalls and adhering to best practices can significantly improve accuracy and consistency. One frequent error is inconsistent formatting between notes and the bibliography or reference list. Ensure that every element that appears in a note also appears in its corresponding bibliography/reference entry, albeit with variations in punctuation and order.

Another common mistake is misinterpreting or omitting crucial publication details. Always double-check publication dates, publisher names, and page numbers. For online sources, the access date is vital, especially if the content is subject to change. Another pitfall is using incorrect punctuation, such as commas instead of periods, or vice versa, or misplacing quotation marks and italics. When in doubt, always refer to the latest edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style* for definitive guidance.

To ensure accuracy, consider the following best practices:

- Maintain a running list of all sources consulted as you conduct your research.
- Create your bibliography or reference list concurrently with your writing process, rather than waiting until the end.
- Utilize citation management software if your project is extensive, but always double-check its output for accuracy.
- Proofread your citations carefully for any typographical errors or formatting inconsistencies.
- When in doubt about a specific source type or formatting nuance, consult *The Chicago Manual of Style* directly or seek assistance from your institution's library or writing center.

By consistently applying these principles, you can ensure your Chicago style citations are accurate, professional, and contribute to the credibility of your scholarly work.

FAQ

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

A: The notes-bibliography system uses footnotes or endnotes for in-text citations and a comprehensive bibliography at the end of the work. The author-date system uses brief parenthetical in-text citations (Author Last Name Year) and a reference list at the end.

Q: When should I use the notes-bibliography system versus the author-date system for Chicago style citations?

A: The notes-bibliography system is typically preferred in the humanities (e.g., literature, history, art), while the author-date system is more common in the social sciences and natural sciences. Your instructor or the specific publication's guidelines will usually dictate which system to use.

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

A: For the notes-bibliography system, a note would include the chapter author, chapter title, "in," the book title (italicized), editor(s), publication details, and page numbers. The bibliography entry would list the chapter author, chapter title, then editor(s), and full book publication information. For the author-date system, the in-text citation is (Chapter Author Year, Page), and the reference list entry follows a similar structure to the bibliography entry with the year immediately after the chapter author.

Q: What is the correct way to cite a website in Chicago style if there is no author?

A: If there is no author for a website, you typically begin the citation with the title of the page or article in quotation marks, followed by the website name in italics, publication date (if available), and the URL and access date. For the author-date system, the title of the page might function as the author in the in-text citation.

Q: Do I need to include page numbers for every Chicago style citation of a secondary source?

A: Page numbers are generally required for direct quotations or specific paraphrases of information in Chicago style. For a general reference to a book or article, page numbers are not always necessary in the bibliography or reference list entry, but they are essential in the note or in-text citation when referring to a particular passage.

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

A: A DOI (Digital Object Identifier) is a persistent, unique identifier for electronic documents, especially journal articles. You should include the DOI in your Chicago style citation whenever it is available, as it provides a stable link to the source, even if the URL changes.

Q: How should I format the title of a secondary source in Chicago style?

A: Book titles and journal titles should be italicized. Titles of articles, essays, website pages, and book chapters should be enclosed in quotation marks.

Q: What is the purpose of an "access date" for online sources in Chicago style?

A: The access date is crucial for online sources because web content can be updated or removed without notice. It indicates when you last viewed the material, allowing readers to understand the version of the content you consulted.

Q: How do I cite a source that I found cited within another source (a secondary-secondary source)?

A: The Chicago Manual of Style generally advises against citing sources you have not directly consulted. However, if you must refer to a source through another, you would cite the secondary source that you read, and in the note or text, indicate that you are quoting or referencing a work cited in that source. For example, "as cited in John Smith, *Book Title* (Publisher, Year), page."

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