

chicago style citation examples for translations

Understanding Chicago Style Citation Examples for Translations

chicago style citation examples for translations present a unique challenge for scholars and writers, demanding precision in acknowledging both the original author and the translator. This comprehensive guide delves into the intricacies of citing translated works within the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS), covering both notes-and-bibliography and author-date systems. We will explore how to correctly format citations for books, articles, and even less common translated materials, emphasizing the crucial role of providing complete bibliographic information for both the original text and its translated rendition. Mastering these nuances ensures academic integrity and allows your readers to easily locate the sources you've consulted. This article will illuminate the path to accurate and effective citation practices for translated works.

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Understanding the Basics of Citing Translations

When engaging with a text that has been translated from its original language, the citation process in Chicago style requires careful attention to detail. The fundamental principle is to give credit not only to the original author but also to the individual who rendered the work into the language you are using. This dual attribution is essential for intellectual honesty and allows readers to trace the lineage of the ideas. Failing to properly acknowledge both parties can lead to misattribution and a diminished understanding of the work's reception history.

The Chicago Manual of Style offers two primary systems for citation: notes-and-bibliography and author-date. While the specific formatting differs between these systems, the core information required remains consistent. You must always identify the original author, the title of the work in translation, the translator(s), the publisher, and the publication year of the translated edition. Understanding these foundational elements is the first step toward accurate citation.

Chicago Style Notes-and-Bibliography System for Translations

The notes-and-bibliography system is widely used in the humanities and relies on footnotes or endnotes for in-text citations, with a corresponding bibliography at the end of the work. When citing translated materials within this system, the goal is to provide sufficient information in the note for the reader to identify the source, and then to include a more complete entry in the bibliography.

Citing Translated Books in Notes-and-Bibliography

For translated books, the footnote or endnote should include the translator's name prominently. The initial citation in a note will generally follow this structure: First Name Last Name of Translator, trans., Title of Work (Original Author Last Name, Original Author First Name, Original Title of Work), Page(s).

For example, if you are citing a translation of a French novel by Marcel Proust translated by C.K. Scott Moncrieff and Terence Kilmartin, you would cite it as follows in your first note:

1. C.K. Scott Moncrieff and Terence Kilmartin, trans., In Search of Lost Time, trans. by C.K. Scott Moncrieff and Terence Kilmartin (New York: Modern Library, 1993), 25.

Subsequent notes referring to the same work would be shortened to the author's last name, a shortened title, and the page number, assuming the translator is evident from context or the bibliography. However, some scholars prefer to include the translator in subsequent notes as well for absolute clarity, especially if multiple translations of the same work exist. The bibliography entry provides the most complete information. A typical bibliography entry for a translated book looks like this:

Moncrieff, C.K. Scott, and Terence Kilmartin, trans. Proust, Marcel. In Search of Lost Time. Translated by C.K. Scott Moncrieff and Terence Kilmartin. New York: Modern Library, 1993.

Notice how the original author and title are often presented in parentheses, sometimes with an indication of the original language. The translated title is given primary prominence, followed by the translator(s) and publication details of the translated edition.

Citing Translated Articles or Chapters in Notes-and-Bibliography

Citing translated articles or chapters from edited volumes follows a similar logic. The note will identify the translator and the translated title of the article, along with the original author and title. The bibliography entry will be more detailed. For an article from a journal:

Note:

2. Translator's First Name Last Name, trans., "Translated Article Title," Journal Title Volume, no. Issue (Year): Page(s). Original Author's First Name Last Name, "Original Article Title," Original Journal Title Volume, no. Issue (Year): Page(s).

Bibliography Entry:

Translator's First Name Last Name, trans. "Translated Article Title." Journal Title Volume, no. Issue (Year): Page(s). Original Author's First Name Last Name, "Original Article Title," Original Journal Title Volume, no. Issue (Year): Page(s).

For a chapter in an edited book:

Note:

3. Translator's First Name Last Name, trans., "Translated Chapter Title," in Translated Book Title, ed. Editor's First Name Last Name (Place of Publication: Publisher, Year), Page(s). Original Author's First Name Last Name, "Original Chapter Title," in Original Book Title, ed. Editor's First Name Last Name (Original Place of Publication: Original Publisher, Original Year), Page(s).

Bibliography Entry:

Translator's First Name Last Name, trans. "Translated Chapter Title." In Translated Book Title, edited by Editor's First Name Last Name, Page(s). Original Author's First Name Last Name, "Original Chapter Title." In Original Book Title, edited by Editor's First Name Last Name. Original Place of Publication: Original Publisher, Original Year.

The inclusion of original title and publication information is crucial for scholarly rigor when citing translated articles or chapters. It allows readers to locate the original work or verify the accuracy of the translation if necessary.

Chicago Style Author-Date System for Translations

The author-date system, common in social sciences and some natural sciences, uses parenthetical in-text citations and a reference list at the end of the work. The principles for citing translations remain the same, but the presentation in the parenthetical citation and reference list differs.

Citing Translated Books in Author-Date

In the author-date system, the parenthetical citation will typically include the original author's last name, the publication year of the translated edition, and the page number. The translator is acknowledged in the reference list entry. The structure for the parenthetical citation is:

(Original Author Last Name Year, Page)

For instance, citing the Proust example from before would look like this in the text:

(Proust 1993, 25)

The corresponding entry in the reference list would prioritize the original author but clearly identify the translator and the translated edition. A typical reference list entry:

Proust, Marcel. 1993. In Search of Lost Time. Translated by C.K. Scott Moncrieff and Terence Kilmartin. New York: Modern Library.

The key here is that the parenthetical citation links directly to the reference list entry, which then provides the full details, including the translator's contribution. This ensures that readers can quickly find the source and understand its translated nature.

Citing Translated Articles or Chapters in Author-Date

Similar to books, translated articles and chapters in the author-date system will have parenthetical citations referencing the original author and publication year of the translated version. The reference list entry will detail the translation.

For a translated article from a journal:

Parenthetical Citation:

(Original Author Last Name Year, Page)

Reference List Entry:

Original Author's Last Name, First Name. Year. "Translated Article Title." Translated by Translator's First Name Last Name. Journal Title Volume, no. Issue: Page(s). Original Author's First Name Last Name, "Original Article Title." Original Journal Title Volume, no. Issue: Page(s).

For a translated chapter in an edited book:

Parenthetical Citation:

(Original Author Last Name Year, Page)

Reference List Entry:

Original Author's Last Name, First Name. Year. "Translated Chapter Title." Translated by Translator's First Name Last Name. In Translated Book Title, edited by Editor's First Name Last Name, Page(s). Original Author's First Name Last Name, "Original Chapter Title." In Original Book Title, edited by Editor's First Name Last Name. Original Place of Publication: Original Publisher, Original Year.

The principle remains consistent: the in-text citation is concise, pointing to the reference list, which provides the full bibliographic details, including the translator's role and the specifics of the translated edition.

Special Considerations for Translations

When dealing with translated works, there are a few specific scenarios that require additional attention to ensure accuracy and adherence to Chicago style guidelines. These often involve who is considered the primary "author" for citation purposes and how to handle works with multiple translators.

Translators as Primary Authors

In most academic contexts, the original author is considered the primary author of a work, even when citing a translation. The translator's role is acknowledged, but the work is attributed to the original creator. However, there are rare instances where a translation is so transformative or essential that the translator might be given more prominence, especially in fields focused on translation studies themselves. In such cases, consulting the specific requirements of your discipline or instructor is paramount. Generally, Chicago style prioritizes the original author for citation purposes.

Multiple Translators

When a work has been translated by more than one person, it is crucial to list all contributing translators in both the notes and the bibliography. For notes-and-bibliography, you would list them together in the note and bibliography entry, separated by "and." For example, in a note:

4. C.K. Scott Moncrieff and Terence Kilmartin, trans., *In Search of Lost Time*, 45.

And in the bibliography:

Moncrieff, C.K. Scott, and Terence Kilmartin, trans. Proust, Marcel. *In Search of Lost Time*. Translated by C.K. Scott Moncrieff and Terence Kilmartin. New York: Modern Library, 1993.

In the author-date system, the parenthetical citation remains the same, but the reference list entry would also include all translators. The consistency in acknowledging all individuals responsible for the translated text is a hallmark of thorough academic practice.

Identifying Original Language and Edition

While not always strictly required in every citation, it is often good practice to note the original language of the work, especially if the title in the original language is commonly known or if the translation significantly alters nuances. This can be done within parentheses in the bibliography entry or in a footnote. For example:

Proust, Marcel. 1993. *In Search of Lost Time*. Translated by C.K. Scott Moncrieff and Terence Kilmartin. New York: Modern Library. (Original French: *À la recherche du temps perdu*).

This additional detail can be invaluable for readers who may be familiar with the original work or are conducting research that requires cross-referencing different language editions.

Frequently Asked Questions about Chicago Style Citation Examples for Translations

Q: How do I cite a translation when the original author's name is difficult to find or not provided?

A: If the original author's name is unavailable, focus on the translator as the primary author for your citation. You would then list the translated title, translator, and publication details of the translated edition. In the notes-and-bibliography system, the note would begin with the translator's name, and the bibliography entry would also place the translator's name first, followed by the translated title.

Q: Should I include the original title in my citations if I'm only using the translated version?

A: Including the original title is highly recommended, especially in scholarly work. It provides essential context and allows readers to verify

the source or locate the original text if needed. It can be included in parentheses within the bibliography entry or a note, often indicating the original language.

Q: What if the translated work has multiple editions? Which publication year should I use?

A: You should always cite the specific edition you have consulted. The publication year used in your citation should correspond to the year of the translated edition you are referencing, not the original publication year, unless you are also discussing the original work's historical context.

Q: How do I cite a translation of a classical work that has many translations available?

A: For classical works, it is often helpful to cite a specific, reputable translation and include the translator's name. Additionally, Chicago style recommends including information that allows readers to locate the work through standard editions or divisions (like line numbers for poetry or play/act/scene for drama) if available, in addition to page numbers from your edition.

Q: Can the translator be considered the primary author in Chicago style?

A: Generally, no. In Chicago style, the original author is considered the primary author of the work. The translator's contribution is acknowledged as essential but secondary to the original creator. However, in specialized fields focusing on translation itself, there might be exceptions, but this is rare for standard academic citation.

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