

chicago style citation examples map

chicago style citation examples map is crucial for academic integrity and clear communication when referencing cartographic materials. Understanding how to correctly cite maps according to the Chicago Manual of Style ensures your readers can locate the exact sources you've consulted, whether they are historical atlases, digital mapping platforms, or individual cartographic prints. This guide will delve into the specifics of citing maps, covering various types of maps and the necessary components for accurate bibliographic entries and in-text citations. We will explore the nuances of citing maps found in books, journals, and as standalone items, providing clear examples and explanations to demystify the process.

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Understanding Chicago Style for Maps

Chicago style, renowned for its flexibility and comprehensiveness, offers specific guidelines for citing a wide array of sources, including maps. Whether you are a student researching historical urban development or a scholar analyzing geographic trends, adhering to these rules is paramount. The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) emphasizes providing enough information for a reader to find the original source. This often means detailing not just the map title and author (if applicable) but also its publication details, scale, and any relevant geographic or temporal context.

The goal of Chicago style is to facilitate source verification and acknowledge the intellectual property of cartographers and publishers. For maps, this involves capturing the unique characteristics of cartographic works, which may differ significantly from books or journal articles. Proper citation helps avoid plagiarism and builds credibility by demonstrating a thorough engagement with the source material.

Essential Components of a Map Citation

When citing a map in Chicago style, several key pieces of information are generally required to create a complete and useful citation. The specific elements can vary depending on whether the map is part of a larger work or a standalone item, but certain core components are fundamental.

Author or Cartographer

If a specific individual or organization is credited with creating the map, their name should be listed first. This is often the cartographer, surveyor, or the governmental agency responsible for its production. If no specific author is identifiable, the citation may begin with the title of the map.

Title of the Map

The title of the map is a crucial identifying element. It should be presented as it appears on the map itself, often italicized in notes-bibliography style or enclosed in quotation marks in author-date style. Subtitles and any descriptive information that clarifies the map's content are also important.

Publication Information

This includes the publisher, place of publication, and date of publication. For maps found within books or atlases, this will refer to the publication details of the larger work. For standalone maps, it refers to the entity that produced and distributed the map.

Scale and Projection (if relevant)

While not always mandatory, including the map's scale (e.g., "Scale 1:24,000") and projection (e.g., "Lambert Conformal Conic projection") can be highly beneficial for readers to understand the map's geographic representation and accuracy. This is particularly important for scholarly works where precision is key.

Source of the Map

Clearly identifying where you accessed the map is vital. This could be a physical atlas, a library collection, a digital archive, or a specific website. Providing location details, such as a library call number or a URL, aids in retrieval.

Citing Maps within Books and Atlases

Maps frequently appear as illustrations or integral components of books and atlases. Citing them in Chicago style requires acknowledging both the map's creator and the larger work it resides within. The primary goal here is to guide the reader to the specific page or location within the book where the map can be found.

Maps as Illustrations in Books

When a map is treated as an illustration within a book, the citation will typically include the author of the book, the title of the book, and details about the map itself, followed by the page number(s) where the map appears. In the bibliography, you'll list the book in full and then specify the map's details and location.

- **Bibliography Example:** Smith, John. *The Geography of Ancient Rome*. New York: Academic Press, 2020. Map: "Plan of Rome, c. 100 AD," illustrated on pages 45-46.
- **Note Example:** John Smith, *The Geography of Ancient Rome* (New York: Academic Press, 2020), map, "Plan of Rome, c. 100 AD," 45-46.

Maps within Atlases

Atlases are collections of maps, and citing a specific map from an atlas involves identifying the atlas's editor or author, the atlas title, and then the specific map's title, along with its page numbers or plate number within the atlas.

- **Bibliography Example:** Williams, Eleanor, ed. *Historical Atlas of Europe*. London: Cartographica Publishing, 2018. Map: "Europe after the Congress of Vienna, 1815," 78.
- **Note Example:** Eleanor Williams, ed., *Historical Atlas of Europe* (London: Cartographica Publishing, 2018), map, "Europe after the Congress of Vienna, 1815," 78.

Citing Standalone Maps

Standalone maps, those not bound within a larger publication, require a citation that focuses directly on the cartographic item itself. This includes maps purchased individually, found in archives, or accessed as separate entities.

Physical Maps

For a physical map you've obtained, the citation should include the cartographer (if known), the title, the scale, the place and publisher, and the year of publication. If you accessed it in a library, you may also include the library's collection information or call number.

- **Bibliography Example:** United States Geological Survey. *Topographic Map of Yosemite National Park*. Scale 1:24,000. Reston, VA: USGS, 1995.

- **Note Example:** United States Geological Survey, *Topographic Map of Yosemite National Park*, scale 1:24,000 (Reston, VA: USGS, 1995).

Historical Maps in Archives

When citing historical maps found in archives, it's crucial to provide enough detail for someone to locate the map within that specific collection. This includes the map's title, creator, date, and the archive's name and collection identifier.

- **Bibliography Example:** Anonymous. "Map of the City of Chicago, 1871." Chicago Historical Society, ca. 1871. Photograph Collection, Box 12, Folder 5.
- **Note Example:** Anonymous, "Map of the City of Chicago, 1871," Chicago Historical Society, ca. 1871, Photograph Collection, Box 12, Folder 5.

Citing Digital Maps and Online Cartography

The proliferation of digital mapping tools and online geographic resources necessitates clear guidelines for citing these dynamic sources. Chicago style provides frameworks for referencing websites, digital map services, and other electronic cartographic materials.

Online Map Services

For maps generated from online services like Google Maps or ArcGIS Online, the citation should include the service provider, the specific map or layer accessed, the date accessed, and the URL. It's often helpful to describe the view or query used to generate the map.

- **Bibliography Example:** Google Maps. "Street Map of Central Park, New York City." Accessed May 15, 2023. <https://www.google.com/maps/place/Central+Park>.
- **Note Example:** Google Maps, "Street Map of Central Park, New York City," accessed May 15, 2023, <https://www.google.com/maps/place/Central+Park>.

Digital Cartographic Databases

When using data from digital cartographic databases or interactive maps, specify the database name, the specific data or map viewed, the creator or maintainer of the database, and the access date and URL.

- **Bibliography Example:** Esri. "World Topographic Map." ArcGIS Online. Updated

2023. Accessed May 15, 2023.

<https://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=10df2279f9684e4a9508d6626300c5f2>.

- **Note Example:** Esri, "World Topographic Map," ArcGIS Online, updated 2023, accessed May 15, 2023, <https://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=10df2279f9684e4a9508d6626300c5f2>.

In-Text Citations for Maps in Chicago Style

Chicago style offers two primary systems for in-text citations: the notes-bibliography system and the author-date system. Both require clear referencing to the source, but the format differs.

Notes-Bibliography System

In this system, a superscript numeral is placed in the text after the relevant information is discussed. This numeral corresponds to a note (either footnote or endnote) that contains the full citation details. For maps, this note will provide the necessary bibliographic information.

- **Text:** The strategic importance of the port was evident on the map created shortly after the conflict.¹
- **Note:** 1. Historical Society of Boston, "Map of Boston Harbor, 1776," in *Revolutionary War Cartography Collection* (Boston: Historical Society of Boston, 1955), map, plate 3.

Author-Date System

The author-date system uses parenthetical citations within the text, typically including the author's last name and the year of publication. If page numbers are available and relevant, they are also included. For maps without a clear author, the title or a shortened version of it may be used.

- **Text:** The city's expansion patterns are clearly depicted in the early twentieth-century municipal survey (Adams 1912, map).
- **Note:** This example assumes an entry like: Adams, Robert. *Urban Development of Metropolis*. Metropolis: City Planning Office, 1912. (This would be the full bibliographic entry.)

Common Challenges and Solutions in Map Citation

Citing maps can present unique challenges, primarily due to the variety of their origins and formats. However, by understanding the principles of Chicago style, these challenges can be effectively addressed.

Missing Author or Date

For anonymous maps or those where the publication date is unclear, use "Anonymous" or "n.d." (no date) respectively in your citation. If an approximate date can be determined, indicate this with "ca." (circa).

Scale and Projection Clarity

When scale or projection information is crucial for your analysis, ensure it is explicitly stated in your citation. If it's not readily available on the map, try to find it through accompanying documentation or the source where you found the map.

Interpreting Map Types

Whether it's a political map, topographic map, or thematic map, be descriptive in your citation. For example, specifying "political map" or "relief map" can add helpful context to your reference.

Accurate citation of maps is a vital skill for any researcher. By diligently following the principles outlined in the Chicago Manual of Style, you can ensure your work is credible, your sources are accessible, and the contributions of cartographers are appropriately acknowledged. Whether dealing with historical charts or modern digital globes, the core tenets of providing clear, detailed, and retrievable information remain constant.

Q: What is the most important information to include when citing a map in Chicago style?

A: The most important information generally includes the map's title, the cartographer or creator, the publisher, the place and date of publication, and the scale if applicable. For digital maps, the access date and URL are crucial.

Q: How do I cite a map found on a website like Google Maps?

A: You should cite the service provider (e.g., Google Maps), the specific map or view you

accessed, the date you accessed it, and the URL. It's also helpful to describe the area or query used to generate the map.

Q: What if a map has no author listed?

A: If a map has no identifiable author or cartographer, you begin the citation with the title of the map, often italicized in notes or enclosed in quotation marks in the bibliography, followed by other relevant publication details.

Q: How do I handle citing a map that is part of a book?

A: When a map is part of a book, you cite the book as the primary source, but you must also include details about the map itself (title, creator if different from the book author) and the specific page numbers where the map appears within the book.

Q: Is it necessary to include the map's scale in a Chicago style citation?

A: Including the map's scale is not always mandatory but is highly recommended, especially in academic or scholarly contexts where the map's accuracy and representation are important. It provides essential context for understanding the geographic data presented.

Q: How does the Chicago style citation for a map differ between notes and bibliography?

A: In the notes-bibliography system, notes provide a more condensed citation for immediate reference, while the bibliography entry is more complete. For example, notes might abbreviate publisher names, while bibliography entries are more detailed.

Q: What if I am citing a historical map from an archive?

A: When citing a historical map from an archive, include the map's title, creator, date, and then the name of the archive, along with the specific collection, box, or folder where the map is housed.

Q: Can I use a shortened title in my in-text citation for a map?

A: Yes, in the author-date system, you can often use a shortened version of the map's title if it's clear and unambiguous in context, especially if the map lacks a clear author and you are referencing it by title.

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