

chicago style citation examples online database citation

Chicago Style Citation Examples: Mastering Online Database Citations

chicago style citation examples online database citation are a crucial aspect of academic and professional writing, ensuring proper attribution and allowing readers to locate your sources. Navigating the nuances of citing digital resources, particularly those found within online databases, can present unique challenges. This comprehensive guide aims to demystify the process, providing clear, actionable examples for citing various types of online database content according to the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS). We will delve into the core components of a Chicago style citation for online databases, differentiate between notes and bibliography entries, and offer specific guidance for common scenarios. Whether you are citing journal articles, e-books, reports, or other materials accessed through academic or commercial databases, mastering these citation principles will enhance the credibility and clarity of your work.

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Understanding the Basics of Chicago Style Online Database Citations

The Chicago Manual of Style, a widely respected authority on writing and citation, offers two primary systems: the notes-bibliography system and the author-date system. Both systems require meticulous attention to detail when citing online database content. The fundamental goal is to provide enough information for a reader to find the original source, even when that source is accessed through a digital intermediary. Online databases often present a layer of complexity because they house a vast array of materials, from full-text articles to abstracts and specialized reports.

When citing a source from an online database, it is essential to determine whether the database itself is the primary source of information or merely a platform for accessing a pre-existing publication. For instance, a digitized historical newspaper is often considered a primary source, while a journal article found through a database like JSTOR is a secondary source that can be cited independently. The Chicago style guidelines are designed to accommodate this distinction, focusing on the publication that was accessed, rather than the database interface itself, unless the database provides unique features or

an edition not otherwise available.

Key Components of a Chicago Style Online Database Citation

Regardless of which Chicago style system you employ, several core pieces of information are consistently required for an effective online database citation. These elements work together to reconstruct the path to the source. Understanding each component is the first step toward accurate citation.

Author or Editor Information

This includes the name(s) of the author(s) or editor(s) of the work. For journal articles, this is typically the author of the article. For e-books or edited volumes, it might be the author of the specific chapter or the editor of the entire work. Consistency in formatting names is vital.

Title of the Work

The title of the specific item you are citing, such as an article title, chapter title, or book title. In the notes-bibliography system, article titles are often placed in quotation marks, while book titles are italicized. The author-date system typically italicizes the entire entry for a book or journal, with article titles in roman type.

Publication Information of the Original Source

This is a critical component, as it refers to where the work was originally published before being included in a database. For journal articles, this includes the journal title, volume number, issue number, and publication date. For books, it would include the publisher and publication year. This information helps readers locate the physical or original digital version of the work.

Database Name

You must identify the specific online database from which you accessed the information. This is crucial because databases often provide unique search functionalities, pagination, or versions of works. Examples include JSTOR, ProQuest, EBSCOhost, LexisNexis, or academic library databases.

URL or DOI

The Uniform Resource Locator (URL) or Digital Object Identifier (DOI) is the direct web address or unique identifier for the online resource. A DOI is generally preferred when available, as it is a persistent link that is less likely to break than a standard URL. Ensure the URL or DOI provided is accurate and leads directly to the content.

Access Date

While not always strictly mandatory for stable, archived content, including the date you accessed the online resource can be beneficial, especially if the content is subject to change or if no publication date is readily available. This provides a timestamp for your retrieval of the information.

Chicago Style Notes-Bibliography System: Online Database Examples

The notes-bibliography system uses footnotes or endnotes for in-text citations and a bibliography at the end of the work to list all sources cited. Online database citations in this system require careful formatting to distinguish between the original publication and the database access point.

Footnote/Endnote Examples

The structure of a footnote or endnote typically includes the author's name (first name first), followed by the title of the article or chapter in quotation marks, then the title of the journal or book (italicized), volume and issue numbers, publication date, and finally, the database name, DOI or URL, and access date.

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Journal Article Example:

1. Eleanor Vance, "The Impact of Digital Archives on Historical Research," *Journal of Digital History* 45, no. 3 (Fall 2022): 112, accessed October 26, 2023, ProQuest Central, doi:10.1080/12345678.2022.987654.

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E-book Chapter Example:

2. David Chen, "Navigating Scholarly Databases," in *Academic Research in the Digital Age*, ed. Sarah Lee (New York: Academic Press, 2021), 78, accessed October

26, 2023, EBSCOhost, <https://www.ebscohost.com/ebooks/example>.

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Report Example:

3. Global Economic Forum, *The Future of Work in the Digital Era* (Geneva: GEF Publications, 2023), 45, accessed October 26, 2023, LexisNexis Academic, www.lexisnexis.com/reports/futureofwork.

Bibliography Examples

Bibliography entries are more concise than full footnotes but follow a similar structure, with the author's last name appearing first. The goal is to provide a comprehensive list of all sources consulted.

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Journal Article Example:

Vance, Eleanor. "The Impact of Digital Archives on Historical Research." *Journal of Digital History* 45, no. 3 (Fall 2022): 105–120. Accessed October 26, 2023. ProQuest Central, doi:10.1080/12345678.2022.987654.

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E-book Chapter Example:

Chen, David. "Navigating Scholarly Databases." In *Academic Research in the Digital Age*, edited by Sarah Lee, 75–90. New York: Academic Press, 2021. Accessed October 26, 2023. EBSCOhost, <https://www.ebscohost.com/ebooks/example>.

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Report Example:

Global Economic Forum. *The Future of Work in the Digital Era*. Geneva: GEF Publications, 2023. Accessed October 26, 2023. LexisNexis Academic, www.lexisnexis.com/reports/futureofwork.

Chicago Style Author-Date System: Online Database Examples

The author-date system uses parenthetical in-text citations (Author Year, Page) and a reference list at the end of the work. This system is common in the sciences and social

sciences.

In-Text Citation Examples

In-text citations are brief, usually consisting of the author's last name and the year of publication, with a page number if available and relevant. For online resources without page numbers, you may omit them or use another locator like a paragraph number if the database provides it.

- (Vance 2022)
- (Chen 2021, 85)
- (Global Economic Forum 2023)

Reference List Examples

The reference list includes full bibliographic information for each source cited in the text. The format is similar to the bibliography entries in the notes-bibliography system but may have minor stylistic differences, such as the placement of the publication date.

- **Journal Article Example:**

Vance, Eleanor. 2022. "The Impact of Digital Archives on Historical Research." *Journal of Digital History* 45 (3): 105–120. Accessed October 26, 2023. ProQuest Central, doi:10.1080/12345678.2022.987654.

- **E-book Chapter Example:**

Chen, David. 2021. "Navigating Scholarly Databases." In *Academic Research in the Digital Age*, edited by Sarah Lee, 75–90. New York: Academic Press. Accessed October 26, 2023. EBSCOhost, <https://www.ebscohost.com/ebooks/example>.

- **Report Example:**

Global Economic Forum. 2023. *The Future of Work in the Digital Era*. Geneva: GEF Publications. Accessed October 26, 2023. LexisNexis Academic,

Citing Specific Types of Online Database Content

Beyond standard journal articles and e-books, online databases host a variety of other materials. Chicago style offers guidelines for these as well, with the core principle of providing sufficient detail for retrieval remaining paramount.

News Articles from Databases

When citing news articles accessed through a database, include the author (if known), headline, newspaper title, publication date, database name, and URL or DOI. If the article is from a wire service (e.g., Associated Press), list the service as the author.

- **Notes-Bibliography:**

Jane Doe, "Local Library Secures Major Grant," *Chicago Tribune*, October 25, 2023, accessed October 26, 2023, ProQuest Newspapers, <https://www.proquest.com/news/examplearticle>.

- **Bibliography:**

Doe, Jane. "Local Library Secures Major Grant." *Chicago Tribune*, October 25, 2023. Accessed October 26, 2023. ProQuest Newspapers, <https://www.proquest.com/news/examplearticle>.

- **Author-Date Reference List:**

Doe, Jane. 2023. "Local Library Secures Major Grant." *Chicago Tribune*, October 25. Accessed October 26, 2023. ProQuest Newspapers, <https://www.proquest.com/news/examplearticle>.

Dissertations and Theses from Databases

When citing dissertations or theses found in databases like ProQuest Dissertations & Theses, include the author, title, degree designation (e.g., PhD diss., MA thesis), university, year of completion, and database information with URL or DOI.

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Notes-Bibliography:

John Smith, "Climate Change Adaptation Strategies in Urban Environments" (PhD diss., University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 2020), accessed October 26, 2023, ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global, doi:10.xxxx/yyyy.2020.zzzz.

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Bibliography:

Smith, John. "Climate Change Adaptation Strategies in Urban Environments." PhD diss., University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 2020. Accessed October 26, 2023. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global, doi:10.xxxx/yyyy.2020.zzzz.

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Author-Date Reference List:

Smith, John. 2020. "Climate Change Adaptation Strategies in Urban Environments." PhD diss., University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Accessed October 26, 2023. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global, doi:10.xxxx/yyyy.2020.zzzz.

Government Documents and Reports

Government publications accessed through databases often require citing the issuing agency, title, publication date, and database information. The specific format can vary based on the type of document.

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Notes-Bibliography:

United States, Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *National Diabetes Statistics Report, 2022*. Atlanta, GA: CDC, 2022. Accessed October 26, 2023. National Institutes of Health Database, <https://www.nih.gov/diabetesreport>.

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Bibliography:

United States, Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *National Diabetes Statistics Report, 2022*. Atlanta, GA: CDC, 2022. Accessed October 26, 2023. National Institutes of Health Database, <https://www.nih.gov/diabetesreport>.

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Author-Date Reference List:

United States, Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2022. *National Diabetes Statistics Report, 2022*. Atlanta, GA: CDC. Accessed October 26, 2023. National Institutes of Health Database, <https://www.nih.gov/diabetesreport>.

Mastering Chicago style citation examples for online database citation is an ongoing process, but by understanding the core components and applying the principles consistently, you can ensure your work is properly attributed and readily verifiable. Always refer to the latest edition of the Chicago Manual of Style or consult your instructor or editor for specific requirements.

FAQ

Q: What is the most important element when citing an online database in Chicago style?

A: The most important element is providing enough information for your reader to locate the original source. This often means including details about the original publication (journal title, volume, date, author, article title) in addition to the database name and a stable URL or DOI.

Q: Should I always include the access date when citing an online database?

A: Including the access date is recommended, especially for resources that might change or are not archived permanently. While it might not be mandatory for all stable online sources, it provides a valuable timestamp for when you accessed the information.

Q: How do I cite a journal article found on a database if it has a DOI?

A: When a DOI is available, it should be used in your citation as it provides a persistent link. The format for a DOI in Chicago style is generally doi: followed by the identifier. For example, doi:10.1080/12345678.2023.1234567.

Q: What's the difference between a footnote/endnote and a bibliography entry in Chicago style for online databases?

A: Footnotes/endnotes are typically more detailed and include the author's name in first name last name order. Bibliography entries are more concise and list authors with their

last name first. Both aim to provide complete source information, but the presentation differs for in-text referencing versus a comprehensive list.

Q: How do I cite an e-book chapter from an online database in Chicago style?

A: For an e-book chapter from a database, you would cite the chapter author, chapter title, the title of the e-book (italicized), editor(s) if applicable, publication information of the e-book, the database name, and the URL or DOI.

Q: What if the online database doesn't have page numbers for the content I'm citing?

A: If the online resource lacks page numbers, you can omit them from your citation. In the author-date system, you might use other locators if provided by the database, such as paragraph numbers, but this is not always necessary.

Q: How do I cite a website that functions as a database, like a digital archive?

A: For digital archives or websites that act as databases, treat the specific item you are referencing (e.g., a digitized document, an image) as the source. Include the author or creator, title of the item, name of the digital archive, publication date or access date, and the URL.

Q: Does Chicago style require me to indicate that a source was accessed online?

A: Yes, it is generally good practice to indicate that a source was accessed online, especially if it's not a print equivalent. This is typically done by including the database name and the URL or DOI, and sometimes the access date.

Q: How do I cite a PDF report found through an online database?

A: Cite it similar to a print report, including the authoring organization, title of the report, publication year, and the database name along with the URL or DOI. For example, if it's a government report, list the agency as the author.

Q: What if I can't find the publication date for an online

database source?

A: If a publication date is unavailable, use "n.d." (no date) in place of the date in your citation. However, try your best to find a publication or copyright date, as it's crucial for establishing the source's timeliness.

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