

chicago style citation examples photograph

chicago style citation examples photograph are essential for academic and professional integrity when incorporating visual evidence into your work. Understanding how to properly cite photographs in Chicago style ensures you give credit to the creator, respect copyright, and allow your readers to locate the original source. This guide will delve into the nuances of citing various types of photographs, from those found online to images captured by yourself, covering both the Notes and Bibliography system. We will explore the core components of a Chicago style citation for photographs, discuss common scenarios and their specific formatting, and provide clear, actionable examples to demystify the process. Mastering these citation practices is crucial for avoiding plagiarism and enhancing the credibility of your research.

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Understanding the Basics of Chicago Style Citation for Photographs

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) provides a comprehensive framework for academic and professional writing, and its guidelines for citing visual materials like photographs are designed for clarity and attribution. When citing a photograph, the goal is to provide enough information for your reader to find the original source. This typically involves identifying the photographer, the title of the photograph (if any), the date it was created or published, and its location or source.

There are two primary systems within Chicago style: the Notes and Bibliography system, and the Author-Date system. For most humanities disciplines, the Notes and Bibliography system is preferred. This system uses footnotes or endnotes for citations within the text and a bibliography at the end of the work. Photographs are treated similarly to other published or created works, requiring specific details to be considered properly cited.

Key elements commonly found in a Chicago style citation for a photograph include:

- Photographer's name
- Title of the photograph (italicized if it's a standalone work)
- Date of creation or publication
- Medium (e.g., photograph, digital image)
- Publisher or collection where it's found
- Page number or URL
- Access date (for online sources)

Citing Published Photographs

Citing photographs that appear in books, journals, or other published materials requires attention to the publication's details. The primary information you'll need is the photographer's name, the photograph's title, the publication details of the book or journal, and the specific page number where the photograph appears. If the photograph itself is the primary subject of the publication (e.g., a book of photographs),

the title of the book becomes paramount.

Photographs in Books

When a photograph is reproduced in a book, you cite it by first acknowledging the photographer, then the title of the photograph, followed by the details of the book where it is found. This includes the book's title, editor or author (if different from the photographer), publication city, publisher, publication year, and the page number of the photograph. In a footnote or endnote, you'll list the photographer first, followed by the photograph's title, then the book's information. The bibliography entry will generally follow a similar structure but will often omit the page number unless the entire book is dedicated to a single photograph or a collection of them.

For a footnote or endnote:

1. Ansel Adams, "Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico," in *Ansel Adams: 400 Photographs*, ed. Andrea G. Stillman (New York: Little, Brown and Company, 1988), plate 23.

For a bibliography entry:

Adams, Ansel. "Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico." In *Ansel Adams: 400 Photographs*, edited by Andrea G. Stillman, plate 23. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 1988.

Photographs in Periodicals

Citing photographs published in journals or magazines follows a similar pattern but incorporates the periodical's specific citation elements. You'll need the photographer's name, the photograph's title, the journal or magazine title, volume and issue number (if applicable), publication date, and the page number. This ensures that your reader can locate the specific issue and page containing the visual evidence.

For a footnote or endnote:

2. Dorothea Lange, "Migrant Mother," *Life*, June 1936, 13.

For a bibliography entry:

Lange, Dorothea. "Migrant Mother." *Life*, June 1936, 13.

Citing Online Photographs

The proliferation of online images presents unique challenges and considerations for citation. When citing a photograph found online, you must provide enough information for the reader to access it, which typically means including a stable URL. It is also crucial to note the access date, as online content can change or be removed.

Photographs from Websites

For photographs found on general websites, museums, or archives, the citation should include the photographer, the photograph's title, the website's name, and the URL. If a specific creator is not credited, you may attribute it to the organization hosting the image. Always aim to be as specific as possible. For example, if the image is part of a larger collection, try to link to that collection or the specific image page.

For a footnote or endnote:

3. Henri Cartier-Bresson, "Behind the Gare Saint-Lazare," The Museum of Modern Art, accessed October 26, 2023, <https://www.moma.org/collection/works/43770>.

For a bibliography entry:

Cartier-Bresson, Henri. "Behind the Gare Saint-Lazare." The Museum of Modern Art. Accessed October 26, 2023. <https://www.moma.org/collection/works/43770>.

Photographs from Databases or Archives

When citing photographs from specialized online databases or digital archives, such as Getty Images or the Library of Congress digital collections, you will include details specific to that database. This might involve a collection name, database name, and a persistent digital identifier if available. The goal remains to facilitate easy retrieval of the image.

For a footnote or endnote:

4. "View of the Lincoln Memorial," Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, accessed October 26, 2023, <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2005676635/>.

For a bibliography entry:

Library of Congress. "View of the Lincoln Memorial." Prints and Photographs Division. Accessed October 26, 2023. <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2005676635/>.

Citing Personal Photographs

Citing your own photographs or those from a personal collection requires a different approach, as they are not published works in the traditional sense. The key here is to describe the photograph and its context sufficiently for your audience. This includes identifying yourself as the creator, providing a descriptive title or caption, and stating the date the photograph was taken and where it is stored or presented.

Your Own Photographs

If you use your own photographs, you should treat them as personal communication or unpublished material. The citation should clearly state that you are the photographer, provide a descriptive title, the date it was taken, and where it is located within your work (e.g., "Figure 1" or "Illustration 3").

For a footnote or endnote:

5. Author photograph, "Street Art in Berlin," taken July 15, 2023. Personal collection.

For a bibliography entry:

Author. "Street Art in Berlin." Photograph, July 15, 2023. Personal collection.

Photographs from Personal Collections (Not Your Own)

If you use a photograph from a friend, family member, or another personal collection, you need to credit the owner or original photographer if known. You should also specify the context of how you obtained the photograph. Similar to published works, provide a title and date if available.

For a footnote or endnote:

6. Photograph of a family reunion, taken by Jane Doe, August 10, 2022. Courtesy of John Smith.

For a bibliography entry:

Doe, Jane. Photograph of a family reunion. August 10, 2022. Courtesy of John Smith.

Specific Scenarios in Chicago Style Citation for Photographs

Beyond the general categories, certain specific situations demand particular attention when citing photographs in Chicago style. These can include photographs used as illustrations, found in special collections, or images where the photographer is unknown.

Photographs as Illustrations within Text

When a photograph is used as an illustration within your text, it is typically referred to by a figure number (e.g., Figure 1, Figure 2). The citation itself will appear in a footnote or endnote referencing that figure, and a simplified version might also be included in a caption accompanying the image. The bibliography will contain the full citation details.

For a footnote or endnote referencing an illustration:

7. Margaret Bourke-White, "Fort Peck Dam, Montana," 1936, photograph, Life Picture Collection, accessed October 26, 2023, <https://time.com/3909280/margaret-bourke-white-fort-peck-dam/>.

Caption for the illustration:

Figure 1. Margaret Bourke-White, "Fort Peck Dam, Montana," 1936.

When the Photographer is Unknown

In cases where the photographer is not credited, the citation should begin with the title of the photograph. If a date and publication source are available, these will follow. The absence of a photographer's name is noted directly in the citation. This ensures that the information available is still presented accurately.

For a footnote or endnote:

8. "View of the Brooklyn Bridge at Night," photograph, ca. 1910, New York Public Library Digital Collections, accessed October 26, 2023,
<https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/976e8200-c638-0133-4e5f-58a3553f1508>.

For a bibliography entry:

"View of the Brooklyn Bridge at Night." Photograph, ca. 1910. New York Public Library Digital Collections. Accessed October 26, 2023.
<https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/976e8200-c638-0133-4e5f-58a3553f1508>.

Photographs in Special Collections or Archives

When citing photographs housed in special collections or physical archives, you'll need to be very specific about the location. This includes the name of the archive or collection, the institution, and any specific identifying numbers or names for the photograph within that collection.

For a footnote or endnote:

9. Walker Evans, "Main Street, Sarah, Alabama," 1936, gelatin silver print, Walker Evans Archive, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, accessed October 26, 2023,
<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/263075>.

For a bibliography entry:

Evans, Walker. "Main Street, Sarah, Alabama." 1936. Gelatin silver print. Walker Evans Archive, The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Accessed October 26, 2023.
<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/263075>.

The Notes and Bibliography System for Photographs

The Notes and Bibliography system in Chicago style is the most common for citing photographs in academic papers, especially in the humanities. This system offers flexibility and allows for detailed referencing within the text through notes, with a consolidated list of all sources in the bibliography at the end.

Footnotes and Endnotes

Footnotes appear at the bottom of the page, and endnotes appear at the end of the document. Both function identically in providing a numbered reference that corresponds to a note containing the citation details. For the first mention of a photograph, the note should be complete, including all necessary bibliographic information. Subsequent citations of the same photograph can be shortened to include just the author's last name, a shortened title, and the page or plate number.

First note:

10. Imogen Cunningham, "Magnolia Blossom," 1925, gelatin silver print, The Art Institute of Chicago, accessed October 26, 2023, <https://www.artic.edu/artworks/35155/magnolia-blossom>.

Subsequent note:

11. Cunningham, "Magnolia Blossom."

The Bibliography Entry

The bibliography is an alphabetical list of all sources cited in your paper. For photographs, the bibliography entry should follow the standard Chicago format for the type of source it is (book, website,

etc.). The primary distinction is how the photograph's details are presented. The photographer is listed first, followed by the photograph's title, then the publication or source information, and finally, the URL or access information for online sources. The bibliography provides a comprehensive overview of your sources, allowing readers to locate them easily.

Example of a bibliography entry for a book illustration:

Adams, Ansel. "Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico." In *Ansel Adams: 400 Photographs*, edited by Andrea G. Stillman, plate 23. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 1988.

Example of a bibliography entry for an online photograph:

Cartier-Bresson, Henri. "Behind the Gare Saint-Lazare." The Museum of Modern Art. Accessed October 26, 2023. <https://www.moma.org/collection/works/43770>.

Frequently Asked Questions about Chicago Style Citation Examples Photograph

Q: What are the essential elements for citing a photograph in Chicago style?

A: The essential elements typically include the photographer's name, the photograph's title (italicized if it's a standalone work), the date of creation or publication, the medium, the publisher or collection where it's found, and the page number or URL. For online sources, an access date is also crucial.

Q: How do I cite a photograph found on a museum's website using Chicago style?

A: You cite it by providing the photographer's name, the photograph's title, the name of the museum or

website, and the specific URL. Include the access date as well. For example: Henri Cartier-Bresson, "Behind the Gare Saint-Lazare," The Museum of Modern Art, accessed October 26, 2023, [URL].

Q: What if the photographer is not credited for a photograph I want to cite?

A: If the photographer is unknown, you begin the citation with the title of the photograph. Follow this with available information such as the date, source, and URL. For instance: "View of the Brooklyn Bridge at Night." Photograph, ca. 1910. New York Public Library Digital Collections. Accessed October 26, 2023. [URL].

Q: How should I cite a photograph I took myself in Chicago style?

A: You cite your own photographs as personal material. Include your name as the photographer, a descriptive title, the date it was taken, and state that it is from your personal collection or is an unpublished work. For example, in a footnote: Author photograph, "Street Art in Berlin," taken July 15, 2023. Personal collection.

Q: Is there a difference in citation format for photographs in books versus online?

A: Yes, while the core information is similar, the format differs. For book photographs, you include the book's title, editor, publisher, and page number. For online photographs, you provide the website's name and a URL, along with an access date.

Q: How do I cite a photograph that is part of a larger collection of

images by the same photographer?

A: When a photograph is part of a larger collection, you cite the specific photograph first, then provide details about the collection it belongs to, including the collection's title, editor (if any), publisher, and page or plate number.

Q: Should I include the medium (e.g., "photograph") in my Chicago style citation for a photograph?

A: Yes, including the medium helps clarify what the source is. For example, you might see "gelatin silver print" or simply "photograph" included in the citation details.

Q: How do I handle photographs from social media platforms in Chicago style?

A: Citing social media can be tricky. Generally, you would include the username of the poster, the post's date, the platform name, and the URL. However, check with your instructor or publisher for specific guidelines, as these sources are sometimes considered less formal.

Q: What is the purpose of the access date when citing online photographs in Chicago style?

A: The access date is essential for online sources because web content can change or be removed. It tells your reader when you viewed the material, providing a timestamp for the information's availability.

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