

chicago style citation examples thesis

Mastering Chicago Style Citation Examples for Your Thesis

chicago style citation examples thesis are crucial for academic integrity and clear communication, particularly when crafting a master's or doctoral dissertation. Navigating the nuances of the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) can seem daunting, but understanding its core principles and common applications for thesis work will streamline your writing process. This comprehensive guide will delve into the essentials of Chicago style, providing detailed examples for various source types frequently encountered in thesis research, from books and journal articles to websites and unpublished works. We will explore both the notes-bibliography system and the author-date system, highlighting their respective strengths and common usage patterns in academic disciplines. By mastering these citation examples, you will ensure your thesis adheres to rigorous academic standards, lending credibility and authority to your research.

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Understanding Chicago Style: Notes-Bibliography vs. Author-Date

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) offers two primary citation systems: the notes-bibliography system and the author-date system. While both aim for accuracy and clarity, they differ in how sources are acknowledged within the text and compiled at the end of the work. Understanding which system is appropriate for your thesis is the first critical step in applying Chicago style correctly.

The notes-bibliography system, often preferred in the humanities (literature, history, art history), uses numbered footnotes or endnotes within the text to cite sources. Each note provides full bibliographic information for the first mention of a source, and subsequent mentions are often shortened. A comprehensive bibliography listing all cited sources alphabetically is included at the end of the document.

The author-date system, commonly used in the social sciences and natural sciences, employs in-text parenthetical citations that include the author's last name and the year of publication (e.g., Smith 2020, 45). This system also requires a reference list at the end, which includes all sources cited in the text, arranged alphabetically by author's last name.

Crafting Footnotes and Endnotes in Chicago Style

For those utilizing the notes-bibliography system, mastering the format of footnotes and endnotes is paramount. These notes serve as the primary mechanism for acknowledging borrowed material within your thesis text, whether it's direct quotation, paraphrased ideas, or specific data.

First Reference Notes

When you cite a source for the first time in your thesis using the notes-bibliography system, the corresponding footnote or endnote should contain complete bibliographic information. This includes the author's full name, the title of the work (italicized for books, in quotation marks for articles), publication details (city, publisher, year), and the specific page number(s) being referenced.

- For a book: 1. John Smith, *The History of Citation Styles* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2022), 78.
- For a journal article: 2. Jane Doe and Robert Johnson, "The Evolution of Academic Writing," *Journal of Scholarly Publishing* 15, no. 2 (2023): 112.

Subsequent Reference Notes

Once a source has been cited in full, subsequent references to the same work can be shortened. This makes the notes more concise and easier to read. Typically, this includes the author's last name, a shortened version of the title if necessary, and the specific page number(s).

- 3. Smith, *History of Citation Styles*, 95.
- 4. Doe and Johnson, "Evolution of Academic Writing," 120.

Using "Ibid."

The Latin abbreviation "Ibid." (meaning "in the same place") is used when you are citing the immediately preceding source consecutively. If the page number is also the same, you can simply use "Ibid." If the page number differs, you would follow "Ibid." with the new page number.

- 5. Smith, *History of Citation Styles*, 101.
- 6. Ibid.
- 7. Ibid., 105.

Citing Books in Your Thesis

Books are foundational sources for most theses. Whether you are citing a classic monograph or a recent edited volume, proper Chicago style ensures your readers can easily locate the works you've consulted.

Books with One Author

For a book with a single author, the citation includes the author's full name, the title of the book (italicized), publication information (place of publication, publisher, and year), and the specific page number(s).

- Footnote/Endnote: 1. Michael Brown, *Research Methodologies in the Digital Age* (New York: Academic Publishing House, 2021), 150.
- Bibliography: Brown, Michael. *Research Methodologies in the Digital Age*. New York: Academic Publishing House, 2021.

Books with Two or Three Authors

When a book has two or three authors, list all authors in the bibliography. In footnotes/endnotes, the first author's name is listed in full, followed by "and" and the second author's name. For more than three authors, cite the first author followed by "et al." in both notes and the bibliography.

- Footnote/Endnote: 2. Sarah Green and David White, *Advanced Statistical Analysis* (London: Science Press, 2020), 42.
- Bibliography: Green, Sarah, and David White. *Advanced Statistical Analysis*. London: Science Press, 2020.

Edited Books

For edited books, the editor(s) are listed instead of authors, preceded by "ed." or "eds." after their names.

- Footnote/Endnote: 3. Emily Carter, ed., *Contemporary Literary Theory* (New Haven: University Press, 2019), 210.
- Bibliography: Carter, Emily, ed. *Contemporary Literary Theory*. New Haven: University Press, 2019.

Chapters in Edited Books

When citing a specific chapter within an edited book, you include the chapter author, the chapter title (in quotation marks), the book title (italicized), and the editor(s) and page range for the chapter.

- Footnote/Endnote: 4. Jessica Lee, "Theories of Representation," in *Contemporary Literary Theory*, ed. Emily Carter (New Haven: University Press, 2019), 210-235.
- Bibliography: Lee, Jessica. "Theories of Representation." In *Contemporary Literary Theory*, edited by Emily Carter, 210-235. New Haven: University Press, 2019.

Citing Journal Articles for Your Thesis

Journal articles are a cornerstone of academic research, and citing them correctly in Chicago style is essential for acknowledging the contributions of other scholars.

Articles with One Author

Cite the author's full name, the article title (in quotation marks), the journal title (italicized), the volume and issue number, the publication year, and the page range of the article. For notes, also include the specific page number you are referencing.

- Footnote/Endnote: 5. Robert Adams, "The Impact of Social Media on Political Discourse," *Journal of Communication Studies* 30, no. 4 (2023): 560.
- Bibliography: Adams, Robert. "The Impact of Social Media on Political Discourse." *Journal of Communication Studies* 30, no. 4 (2023): 555-570.

Articles with Two or More Authors

Similar to books, list all authors in the bibliography. In notes, list the first author followed by "et al." if there are more than two authors.

- Footnote/Endnote: 6. Maria Garcia and John Chen, "Analyzing Data Trends in Urban Development," *Urban Planning Review* 18, no. 1 (2022): 88.
- Bibliography: Garcia, Maria, and John Chen. "Analyzing Data Trends in Urban Development." *Urban Planning Review* 18, no. 1 (2022): 85-105.

Referencing Websites and Online Resources

In the digital age, citing online resources is increasingly common. Chicago style provides guidelines for these as well, ensuring consistency and verifiability.

Websites

When citing a webpage, include the author or organization (if known), the title of the page (in quotation marks), the name of the website (*italicized*), the publication date (if available), and the URL. It's also recommended to include an access date.

- Footnote/Endnote: 7. "Climate Change Statistics." National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Accessed October 26, 2023. <https://www.noaa.gov/climate-data>.
- Bibliography: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "Climate Change Statistics." Accessed October 26, 2023. <https://www.noaa.gov/climate-data>.

Online Journal Articles

If you access a journal article online through a database, include the database name and any DOI (Digital Object Identifier) if available, in addition to the standard journal article citation. If no DOI is available, provide the URL and access date.

- Footnote/Endnote: 8. Emily Davis, "The Ethics of Artificial Intelligence," *Technology and Society* 22, no. 3 (2024): 300, doi:10.1000/ts.22.3.300.
- Bibliography: Davis, Emily. "The Ethics of Artificial Intelligence." *Technology and Society* 22, no. 3 (2024): 295-315. doi:10.1000/ts.22.3.300.

Citing Dissertations and Theses

When your thesis itself refers to other dissertations or theses, you must cite them appropriately to give credit to the previous research.

Published Dissertations and Theses

If a dissertation or thesis has been published and is available commercially (e.g., through ProQuest), cite it as you would a book.

- Footnote/Endnote: 9. Kevin Miller, *Urban Renewal Policies in Post-War America* (Ph.D. diss.,

University of California, Berkeley, 2018), 115.

- Bibliography: Miller, Kevin. *Urban Renewal Policies in Post-War America*. Ph.D. diss., University of California, Berkeley, 2018.

Unpublished Dissertations and Theses

For unpublished works, you will need to indicate that it is a dissertation or thesis, the degree obtained, the university, and the year of completion.

- Footnote/Endnote: 10. Aisha Khan, "The Role of Community Gardens in Urban Food Security" (Master's thesis, University of Chicago, 2020), 67.
- Bibliography: Khan, Aisha. "The Role of Community Gardens in Urban Food Security." Master's thesis, University of Chicago, 2020.

Incorporating Other Source Types

Your thesis research may involve a variety of other sources, each with its own specific Chicago style citation. Familiarizing yourself with these will ensure comprehensive referencing.

Government Documents

When citing government publications, include the issuing agency, the title of the document, and publication details. For notes, include the page number.

- Footnote/Endnote: 11. U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2022-2023 Edition* (Washington, D.C.: Government Publishing Office, 2022), 145.
- Bibliography: U.S. Department of Labor. *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2022-2023 Edition*. Washington, D.C.: Government Publishing Office, 2022.

Newspaper Articles

For newspaper articles, include the author (if known), article title (in quotation marks), newspaper name (italicized), date, and page number.

- Footnote/Endnote: 12. Mark Thompson, "Local Economy Shows Signs of Growth," *Chicago Tribune*, October 25, 2023, sec. Business, 1.

- Bibliography: Thompson, Mark. "Local Economy Shows Signs of Growth." Chicago Tribune, October 25, 2023. sec. Business.

Interviews

For interviews you have conducted or have access to, cite the interviewee, the context of the interview, and the date.

- Footnote/Endnote: 13. Interview with Professor Eleanor Vance, October 20, 2023.
- Bibliography: Vance, Eleanor. Interview. October 20, 2023.

Building Your Bibliography or Reference List

The bibliography (for notes-bibliography system) or reference list (for author-date system) is a crucial component of your thesis. It provides a complete and organized list of all sources cited within the text.

Alphabetical Order

All entries in the bibliography or reference list must be arranged alphabetically by the author's last name. If a source has no author, alphabetize it by the first significant word of the title, ignoring articles like "a," "an," and "the."

Formatting Consistency

Maintain strict consistency in formatting across all entries. This includes punctuation, capitalization, and the use of italics and quotation marks. Double-check each entry against the Chicago Manual of Style guidelines to ensure accuracy.

Hanging Indents

Typically, bibliographies and reference lists employ a hanging indent format. This means the first line of each entry is flush with the left margin, and subsequent lines are indented.

Common Citation Pitfalls to Avoid

Even with meticulous attention to detail, common errors can creep into citations. Being aware of

these pitfalls can help you produce a more polished and academically sound thesis.

- **Inconsistent Formatting:** Failing to maintain a uniform style for similar source types is a frequent issue. Ensure all books are formatted the same, all journal articles the same, and so on.
- **Missing Information:** Crucial details like publication dates, page numbers, or URLs can be inadvertently omitted. Always review your citations against the source material.
- **Incorrect Use of "Ibid.":** Overusing or misusing "Ibid." can lead to confusion. Ensure it is only used for immediately preceding sources.
- **Plagiarism:** The most severe pitfall is failing to cite sources altogether, which constitutes plagiarism. Always err on the side of caution and cite everything you use.
- **Mixing Citation Systems:** Using elements from both the notes-bibliography and author-date systems within the same thesis is a common mistake. Choose one system and adhere to it exclusively.

By thoroughly understanding and applying these Chicago style citation examples thesis guidelines, you can ensure your academic work is credible, transparent, and adheres to the highest scholarly standards. Remember that consistent application and careful proofreading are key to a successful thesis.

Q: What is the main difference between the notes-bibliography and author-date systems in Chicago style for a thesis?

A: The primary difference lies in how sources are cited within the text and compiled at the end. The notes-bibliography system uses numbered footnotes or endnotes for in-text citations and concludes with a bibliography of all sources. The author-date system uses parenthetical author-date citations within the text and concludes with a reference list of all sources.

Q: How do I cite a book with multiple authors in my thesis using Chicago style?

A: For a book with two or three authors, list all authors in the bibliography. In the notes-bibliography system, list the first author followed by "et al." in subsequent notes. For more than three authors, you list the first author followed by "et al." in both notes and the bibliography.

Q: What information should I include when citing a website in

my thesis using Chicago style?

A: When citing a website, include the author or organization (if known), the title of the specific page (in quotation marks), the name of the website (italicized), the publication date (if available), the URL, and ideally, the date you accessed the page.

Q: If I cite the same source multiple times in a row in my thesis, how should I format the citations using the notes-bibliography system?

A: If you cite the same source immediately following the previous citation, you can use "Ibid." If the page number is the same, just use "Ibid." If the page number is different, use "Ibid." followed by the new page number.

Q: What is the correct way to cite an interview I conducted for my thesis in Chicago style?

A: For an interview, you would cite the interviewee's name, indicate that it was an interview, and provide the date of the interview. For example, in a footnote/endnote: Interview with Dr. Jane Smith, April 15, 2024. In the bibliography: Smith, Jane. Interview. April 15, 2024.

Q: How do I handle citing sources that have no author in my thesis using Chicago style?

A: If a source has no author, you cite it by its title in both the notes and the bibliography. In the bibliography, you will alphabetize the entry by the first significant word of the title, ignoring articles like "a," "an," and "the."

Q: Should I use a bibliography or a reference list for my thesis if I am using Chicago style?

A: The choice depends on the Chicago style system you are using. If you are employing the notes-bibliography system, you will create a bibliography. If you are using the author-date system, you will create a reference list. Both are an alphabetized list of all sources cited.

Q: What is a DOI and how do I include it in my Chicago style citation for a thesis?

A: A DOI (Digital Object Identifier) is a unique string of characters used to identify an object, such as an online article or document. When available for an online journal article, it should be included in your citation as it provides a stable link. The format is typically doi:10.xxxx/xxxxxxx.

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