

chicago style citation examples website page

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) is a widely respected and comprehensive guide for academic and professional writing, particularly in the humanities and social sciences. Understanding how to properly cite web pages is crucial for avoiding plagiarism and giving credit to sources. This article will provide detailed, practical chicago style citation examples for website pages, covering both the author-date and notes-bibliography systems. We will explore the essential components of a website citation, common variations, and best practices for ensuring accuracy and consistency in your bibliographies and notes. Whether you're a student working on a research paper or a professional creating content, mastering these citation examples will enhance the credibility and clarity of your work.

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Understanding the Core Components of a Website Citation

When crafting a citation for a website page in Chicago style, several key pieces of information are indispensable. These elements help readers locate and verify your sources. The specific requirements can vary slightly depending on whether you are using the notes-bibliography system or the author-date system, but the fundamental information remains the same. Identifying the author (or responsible organization), the title of the specific page or article, the name of the overall website, the date of publication, and the URL are paramount. Additionally, the date you accessed the page can be crucial, especially for content that is subject to change.

Chicago Style Notes and Bibliography System: Website Page Examples

The notes-bibliography system, common in the humanities, uses footnotes or endnotes for citations and a bibliography at the end of the work. Each system requires a slightly different format for citing website pages.

General Website Page Citation in Notes

For a standard website page with an author and publication date, the note format prioritizes clarity for in-text referencing. It typically includes the author's name, the title of the page in quotation marks, the name of the website in italics, and publication information including the date and URL.

For example, a footnote might look like this:

- 1. Jane Doe, "The Evolution of Digital Art," *Art Today Online*, September 15, 2023, <https://www.arttodayonline.com/digitalart/evolution>.

General Website Page Citation in Bibliography

The bibliography entry expands on the note, providing a more complete record for readers. The author's last name comes first, followed by the title of the page, the website name, publication date, and URL.

A typical bibliography entry for the same source would be:

- Doe, Jane. "The Evolution of Digital Art." *Art Today Online*. September 15, 2023. <https://www.arttodayonline.com/digitalart/evolution>.

Website Page with No Author

When an author is not clearly identified, the citation often begins with the title of the page. This ensures the reader can still find the source by its content.

In a note:

- 2. "Understanding Quantum Computing." *Tech Innovations Hub*, October 2, 2023, <https://www.techinnovationshub.com/quantum/intro>.

In a bibliography:

- "Understanding Quantum Computing." *Tech Innovations Hub*. October 2, 2023. <https://www.techinnovationshub.com/quantum/intro>.

Website Page with an Organization as Author

If a company, institution, or group is responsible for the content, treat the organization name as the author.

In a note:

- 3. World Health Organization, "Global Health Trends 2023," *WHO Website*, November 1, 2023, <https://www.who.int/reports/global-health-trends-2023>.

In a bibliography:

- World Health Organization. "Global Health Trends 2023." *WHO Website*. November 1, 2023. <https://www.who.int/reports/global-health-trends-2023>.

Website Page with a Specific Date of Publication

When a precise date is available, it should be included. This is common for news articles or blog posts.

In a note:

- 4. Smith, John. "Local Election Results Announced." *City News Daily*, November 7, 2023, <https://www.citynewsdaily.com/elections/results>.

In a bibliography:

- Smith, John. "Local Election Results Announced." *City News Daily*. November 7, 2023. <https://www.citynewsdaily.com/elections/results>.

Website Page with No Publication Date

If no publication date is evident, use "n.d." (no date) in place of the date. However, always include the access date in such cases.

In a note:

- 5. Davis, Emily. "The Future of Renewable Energy." *EcoFuture Magazine*, n.d., accessed November 10, 2023, <https://www.ecofuturemagazine.com/energy/future>.

In a bibliography:

- Davis, Emily. "The Future of Renewable Energy." *EcoFuture Magazine*. n.d. Accessed November 10, 2023. <https://www.ecofuturemagazine.com/energy/future>.

Website Page with a Title and No Author or Date

In instances where neither an author nor a publication date is available, the citation begins with the title of the page.

In a note:

- 6. "Guide to Parisian Cafes." *Traveler's Corner*, accessed November 12, 2023, <https://www.travelerscorner.com/paris/cafes>.

In a bibliography:

- "Guide to Parisian Cafes." *Traveler's Corner*. Accessed November 12, 2023. <https://www.travelerscorner.com/paris/cafes>.

Web Article with Author and Title

This is a very common scenario. The format is consistent with the general website page examples,

emphasizing author and article title.

In a note:

- 7. Miller, Sarah. "The Impact of AI on Healthcare." *Digital Health Journal*, October 20, 2023, <https://www.digitalhealthjournal.com/ai/healthcareimpact>.

In a bibliography:

- Miller, Sarah. "The Impact of AI on Healthcare." *Digital Health Journal*. October 20, 2023. <https://www.digitalhealthjournal.com/ai/healthcareimpact>.

Blog Post Citation

Blog posts are cited similarly to web articles, with the author's name and the blog post title being key.

In a note:

- 8. Brown, Robert. "My Journey Learning Python." *Coder's Blog*, November 15, 2023, <https://www.codersblog.com/python/journey>.

In a bibliography:

- Brown, Robert. "My Journey Learning Python." *Coder's Blog*. November 15, 2023. <https://www.codersblog.com/python/journey>.

Online Encyclopedia or Reference Work

For entries in online encyclopedias or reference works, include the author (if known), the entry title, the name of the encyclopedia, and the URL.

In a note:

- 9. Johnson, David. "Photosynthesis." In *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*, 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/science/photosynthesis>.

In a bibliography:

- Johnson, David. "Photosynthesis." In *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*. 2023. <https://www.britannica.com/science/photosynthesis>.

Video or Audio on a Website

When citing multimedia content, include the creator, title of the video/audio, the name of the website (if different from the creator), and the URL.

In a note:

- 10. TED Conferences. "The Power of Imagination." *TED Talks*, video, April 5, 2023, https://www.ted.com/talks/the_power_of_imagination.

In a bibliography:

- TED Conferences. "The Power of Imagination." *TED Talks*. Video. April 5, 2023. https://www.ted.com/talks/the_power_of_imagination.

Website Page with a DOI

If a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) is available for the web content, it should be used instead of a URL, as it provides a more stable link.

In a note:

- 11. Lee, Sophia. "The Impact of Climate Change on Coastal Ecosystems." *Environmental Science Journal* 45, no. 2 (2023): 112-130. doi:10.1002/esj.12345.

In a bibliography:

- Lee, Sophia. "The Impact of Climate Change on Coastal Ecosystems." *Environmental Science Journal* 45, no. 2 (2023): 112-130. doi:10.1002/esj.12345.

Chicago Style Author-Date System: Website Page Examples

The author-date system, prevalent in the sciences, uses parenthetical in-text citations and a reference list at the end.

General Website Page Citation

In this system, in-text citations are brief, including the author's last name and the year of publication. The reference list entry is more comprehensive.

In-text citation:

(Doe 2023)

Reference list entry:

- Doe, Jane. 2023. "The Evolution of Digital Art." *Art Today Online*. September 15. <https://www.arttodayonline.com/digitalart/evolution>.

Website Page with No Author

When no author is listed, the citation begins with the title, followed by the year.

In-text citation:

("Understanding Quantum Computing" 2023)

Reference list entry:

- "Understanding Quantum Computing." 2023. *Tech Innovations Hub*. October 2. <https://www.techinnovationshub.com/quantum/intro>.

Website Page with an Organization as Author

Similar to the notes-bibliography system, the organization is used as the author.

In-text citation:

(World Health Organization 2023)

Reference list entry:

- World Health Organization. 2023. "Global Health Trends 2023." *WHO Website*. November 1. <https://www.who.int/reports/global-health-trends-2023>.

Website Page with No Date of Publication

If no date is available, "n.d." is used for no date. It's crucial to include the access date for these sources.

In-text citation:

(Davis n.d.)

Reference list entry:

- Davis, Emily. n.d. "The Future of Renewable Energy." *EcoFuture Magazine*. Accessed November 10, 2023. <https://www.ecofuturemagazine.com/energy/future>.

Blog Post Citation

Blog posts are cited with the author and year.

In-text citation:

(Brown 2023)

Reference list entry:

- Brown, Robert. 2023. "My Journey Learning Python." *Coder's Blog*. November 15. <https://www.codersblog.com/python/journey>.

Online Encyclopedia or Reference Work

For online reference works, include the author (if applicable), year, entry title, and source.

In-text citation:

(Johnson 2023)

Reference list entry:

- Johnson, David. 2023. "Photosynthesis." In *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*. <https://www.britannica.com/science/photosynthesis>.

Key Elements to Identify for Accurate Website Citations

To effectively create accurate Chicago style citations for website pages, it's essential to know what

information to look for on the page itself. Not all websites present this information prominently, so a careful examination is often required.

Author or Creator

This is the individual, group, or organization responsible for the content. Look for names at the beginning or end of the article, or a copyright notice.

Title of the Specific Page or Article

This is the main heading or title of the particular web page or document you are referencing.

Title of the Overall Website

This is the name of the larger website or platform where the specific page is hosted. It helps distinguish between different publications.

Publication Date

Look for a date associated with the content, such as "Published," "Last Updated," or the date of the news article. If no date is available, note this absence.

URL

The Uniform Resource Locator is the web address. Ensure it is the direct link to the page you are citing.

Access Date

This is the date you last visited the webpage. It is particularly important for content that may change or be removed over time, or when no publication date is available.

Best Practices for Citing Websites in Chicago Style

Adhering to specific practices ensures your citations are clear, consistent, and professional.

Consistency is Key

Maintain a uniform approach to formatting throughout your entire document. If you choose to include access dates for all website citations, do so consistently.

When in Doubt, Be More Specific

If you are unsure about an element of the citation, it's generally better to include more information rather than less. This aids your reader in locating the source.

Prioritize Stable Sources

Whenever possible, cite stable and authoritative websites like those of established institutions, academic journals, or reputable news organizations. Avoid citing ephemeral content if more reliable sources are available.

Understanding the Difference Between Notes and Bibliography Entries

Remember that notes are designed for in-text references and are often shorter, while bibliography entries are more comprehensive and provide full details for the reader to find the source themselves. The author-date system consolidates this information into a single reference list.

Q: What is the main difference between citing a website page in the notes-bibliography system versus the author-date system in Chicago style?

A: In the notes-bibliography system, you use footnotes or endnotes for in-text citations and a bibliography at the end. Website page citations in notes are often more detailed than simple parenthetical citations. In the author-date system, in-text citations are brief parenthetical references (Author Year) and all source details are compiled in a reference list at the end, which is similar in content to a bibliography but with a different format.

Q: When should I include the access date for a website page citation in Chicago style?

A: You should always include the access date for website pages if no publication date is available. It is also good practice to include the access date for frequently updated content, such as news sites or blogs, even if a publication date is present, as it helps readers understand when you viewed the

information, which might differ from its original publication.

Q: What if a website page has a corporate author but no individual author listed?

A: If a website page is attributed to a corporation, institution, or organization rather than an individual, you should use the name of that organization as the author in your citation for both the notes-bibliography and author-date systems.

Q: How do I cite a website page if there is no clear author, title, or publication date?

A: If there is no identifiable author, begin the citation with the title of the web page. If there is no publication date, use "n.d." (no date). If the website title is also absent, you might have to rely solely on the URL if no other information is available, though this is a last resort for highly informal or unstable content.

Q: Is there a difference in citing a blog post compared to a regular web article in Chicago style?

A: The basic principles are the same. For both blog posts and web articles, you will need to identify the author, the title of the post/article, the name of the blog/website, the publication date (if available), and the URL. The format for notes-bibliography and author-date systems will apply accordingly.

Q: What is a DOI and why is it important in Chicago style website citations?

A: A DOI (Digital Object Identifier) is a persistent, unique identifier for digital objects, including scholarly articles and web content. If a website page or an online article has a DOI, you should use it in your citation instead of the URL. This is because DOIs are more stable than URLs, which can change or become defunct, ensuring readers can always locate the source.

Q: How should I format the title of the website in Chicago style citations?

A: The title of the overall website should generally be italicized, while the title of the specific page or article within that website should be in quotation marks. For example, "Article Title" *Website Name*.

Q: Are there any specific rules for citing an online image or video in Chicago style?

A: Yes, when citing online multimedia like images or videos, you should include the creator (individual

or organization), the title of the specific image or video, the name of the website it is hosted on, the date of publication (if available), and the URL. Specify the type of media (e.g., "video," "photograph") if it aids clarity.

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