

chicago style citations social science examples

Mastering Chicago Style Citations in the Social Sciences: A Comprehensive Guide with Examples

chicago style citations social science examples are crucial for researchers aiming for clarity, accuracy, and academic integrity within fields like sociology, political science, psychology, anthropology, and economics. This guide provides a deep dive into the nuances of the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS), specifically tailored for social science disciplines, demystifying its two primary citation systems: notes-bibliography and author-date. Understanding these systems ensures your work is properly attributed, your arguments are well-supported, and your readers can easily locate your sources. We will explore common source types, provide practical examples, and offer tips for consistent application, empowering you to confidently navigate the citation landscape of social science research.

Table of Contents

Understanding the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS)

The Notes-Bibliography System in Social Sciences

The Author-Date System in Social Sciences

Citing Books in Chicago Style (Social Science Examples)

Citing Journal Articles in Chicago Style (Social Science Examples)

Citing Websites and Online Resources in Chicago Style (Social Science Examples)

Citing Other Common Social Science Sources

Best Practices for Chicago Style Citations in Social Sciences

Understanding the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS)

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) is a widely respected and comprehensive style guide that offers extensive advice on writing, editing, and citation. For social science researchers, it presents a dual approach to academic referencing: the notes-bibliography system and the author-date system. Each system serves distinct purposes and is favored by different disciplines or institutions within the broader social science landscape.

Choosing the appropriate system is often dictated by the specific journal, publisher, or academic department's requirements.

The core principle behind any citation system, including Chicago, is to provide clear and consistent attribution to the original sources of information, ideas, and data. This not only upholds academic honesty by avoiding plagiarism but also allows readers to verify the researcher's findings, explore the subject further, and understand the foundation upon which the current research is built. The social sciences, with their reliance on empirical data, theoretical frameworks, and diverse methodologies, benefit immensely from a standardized citation approach that ensures transparency and reproducibility.

The Notes-Bibliography System in Social Sciences

The notes-bibliography system is characterized by the use of numbered footnotes or endnotes to cite sources within the text, accompanied by a comprehensive bibliography at the end of the work. In social science research, this system is often favored for its ability to incorporate lengthy quotations, supplementary information, or detailed methodological explanations without disrupting the flow of the main text. The notes provide immediate access to source information for the reader, while the bibliography offers a consolidated list of all consulted materials.

Footnotes vs. Endnotes

Within the notes-bibliography system, researchers have the choice between using footnotes, which appear at the bottom of each page, or endnotes, which are collected at the end of the chapter or the entire document. While both serve the same function, endnotes are often preferred in longer works for their tidiness and ease of management, especially in digital formats. The social science researcher must consistently apply whichever method is chosen throughout the entire paper.

Structure of Notes and Bibliography Entries

Each note entry typically includes the author's name, the title of the work, publication details, and the specific page number(s) being referenced. The first citation of a source in a note is usually more complete than subsequent citations, which can be shortened. The corresponding bibliography entry omits the page number for the specific citation but provides full publication details for all consulted sources, alphabetized by the author's last name. This dual presentation ensures both immediate sourcing and comprehensive overview.

The Author-Date System in Social Sciences

The author-date system, another option within Chicago style, offers a more concise in-text citation method. Instead of numbers referring to notes, it uses parenthetical citations that include the author's last name and the year of publication, often with a page number. This system is frequently adopted in disciplines where the immediacy of the source's publication date and authorial voice are paramount, such as in some branches of political science and economics where tracking the evolution of ideas is key.

In-Text Citations

In-text citations in the author-date system appear directly within the sentence or paragraph, enclosed in parentheses. For instance, a citation might look like (Smith 2020, 45) for a direct quote or (Jones 2019) for a general reference to the work. The simplicity of

this format allows readers to quickly identify the source of information and its temporal context, facilitating a faster assessment of the research's influences. It is crucial to maintain consistency in how these in-text citations are formatted.

Reference List

Corresponding to the author-date system is a reference list, which functions similarly to a bibliography but is strictly limited to works cited in the text. Entries in the reference list are organized alphabetically by the author's last name and provide complete bibliographic information for each source. This ensures that readers can easily locate the full details of any work cited parenthetically in the main body of the research paper. The format of the reference list entries closely mirrors that of the notes-bibliography system's bibliography, with slight variations in punctuation and the inclusion of page numbers for articles.

Citing Books in Chicago Style (Social Science Examples)

Books are foundational to social science research, and correctly citing them is paramount. Whether employing the notes-bibliography or author-date system, the fundamental components of a book citation remain consistent: author, title, publication place, publisher, and year of publication. Variations arise in how these elements are presented and what additional information, such as edition or editor, is included.

Notes-Bibliography System: Book Examples

For a book cited for the first time using the notes-bibliography system:

- **Footnote/Endnote:** 1. Jane Doe, *The Social Fabric: Understanding Community Dynamics* (New York: Academic Press, 2021), 78.
- **Subsequent Footnote/Endnote:** 2. Doe, *Social Fabric*, 112.
- **Bibliography:** Doe, Jane. *The Social Fabric: Understanding Community Dynamics*. New York: Academic Press, 2021.

Author-Date System: Book Examples

For a book cited using the author-date system:

- **In-text Citation:** (Doe 2021, 78)
- **Reference List:** Doe, Jane. 2021. *The Social Fabric: Understanding Community*

Dynamics. New York: Academic Press.

When citing a book with multiple authors, editors, or different editions, the format will require adjustments. For instance, a book with two authors would list both names in the initial citation, separated by "and." Edited volumes would prominently feature the editor's name. Always consult the latest edition of the Chicago Manual of Style for specific guidance on these less common scenarios to ensure precision in your social science citations.

Citing Journal Articles in Chicago Style (Social Science Examples)

Journal articles are a cornerstone of contemporary social science research, providing access to the latest findings and debates. Accurate citation of these articles is essential for crediting authors and enabling readers to locate the studies that inform your work. The key elements for a journal article citation include the author(s), article title, journal title, volume and issue numbers, publication year, and page numbers.

Notes-Bibliography System: Journal Article Examples

For a journal article cited using the notes-bibliography system:

- **Footnote/Endnote:** 1. John Smith, "The Impact of Social Media on Political Polarization," *Journal of Political Science* 35, no. 2 (2022): 150.
- **Subsequent Footnote/Endnote:** 2. Smith, "Social Media," 155.
- **Bibliography:** Smith, John. "The Impact of Social Media on Political Polarization." *Journal of Political Science* 35, no. 2 (2022): 145-162.

Author-Date System: Journal Article Examples

For a journal article cited using the author-date system:

- **In-text Citation:** (Smith 2022, 150)
- **Reference List:** Smith, John. 2022. "The Impact of Social Media on Political Polarization." *Journal of Political Science* 35 (2): 145-162.

Pay close attention to the punctuation and the order of elements, especially the use of

italics for the journal title and quotation marks for the article title. For articles found online, including a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) or a stable URL is crucial for accessibility, particularly in the notes-bibliography system's bibliography and the author-date system's reference list. This ensures readers can retrieve the article even if they do not have institutional access.

Citing Websites and Online Resources in Chicago Style (Social Science Examples)

The digital age has made websites and online resources increasingly vital for social science research. Citing these materials accurately requires careful attention to detail, as they can be more fluid and less formally published than traditional print sources. Key information to capture includes the author or organization, title of the specific page or document, name of the website, publication or last updated date, and the URL. When possible, also include an access date.

Notes-Bibliography System: Website Examples

For a website cited using the notes-bibliography system:

- **Footnote/Endnote:** 1. World Health Organization, "Global Health Observatory Data," World Health Organization, last modified October 26, 2023, <https://www.who.int/data/gho>.
- **Bibliography:** World Health Organization. "Global Health Observatory Data." World Health Organization. Last modified October 26, 2023. <https://www.who.int/data/gho>.

Author-Date System: Website Examples

For a website cited using the author-date system:

- **In-text Citation:** (World Health Organization, n.d.) – if no date is available
- **Reference List:** World Health Organization. 2023. "Global Health Observatory Data." World Health Organization. Accessed October 27, 2023. <https://www.who.int/data/gho>.

It is important to note that the "author" of a website can be an individual, an organization, or even the website itself if no distinct author is listed. For online articles or reports that have been formally published online (e.g., by a research institute), the citation format might more closely resemble that of a journal article or a chapter in an edited volume, but

always include the URL and access date. The consistency in retrieving and presenting this information is key for robust social science research.

Citing Other Common Social Science Sources

Beyond books, journal articles, and websites, social science research often draws upon a variety of other sources. These can include reports from government agencies or NGOs, conference proceedings, dissertations, interviews, and unpublished manuscripts. Each of these source types requires a specific citation format within the Chicago style framework, ensuring that the unique characteristics of each are accurately represented.

Government Reports and Documents

Citing government reports is common in political science and public policy research. The format generally includes the issuing agency, title of the report, report number (if applicable), publication place, publisher, and year. For the notes-bibliography system, a footnote might look like: 1. U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *National Crime Victimization Survey: 2022 Report* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 2023), 15. The bibliography entry and author-date reference list would follow similar structures, prioritizing clarity and attribution.

Interviews and Personal Communications

When citing interviews or personal communications, the Chicago Manual of Style recommends providing enough information for the reader to understand the context and nature of the communication. For the notes-bibliography system, a footnote might state: 1. Interview with Dr. Eleanor Vance, sociologist, by the author, September 15, 2023, Chicago, IL. If the communication is ongoing or unpublished, it may not appear in the bibliography. The author-date system would adapt this information for its reference list, often including a description of the interview or communication.

Conference Proceedings and Dissertations

Conference proceedings and dissertations are valuable for understanding ongoing research and scholarly debate. When citing a paper from a conference proceeding, include author, paper title, conference title, date, and location. For a dissertation, include the author, dissertation title, degree sought, university, and year. These formats ensure that researchers can trace the origin and evolution of scholarly arguments within the social sciences.

Best Practices for Chicago Style Citations in Social Sciences

Maintaining consistency and accuracy is paramount when applying Chicago style citations in social science research. Even minor inconsistencies can detract from the professionalism and credibility of your work. Adhering to best practices will not only streamline the citation process but also significantly enhance the clarity and readability of your academic output.

Consult the Latest Edition of CMOS

The Chicago Manual of Style is regularly updated to reflect evolving publishing standards and new source types. Always refer to the most current edition of the manual to ensure your citations are formatted according to the latest guidelines. This proactive approach is particularly important for social scientists who frequently engage with new media and digital resources.

Be Consistent with Your Chosen System

Once you have selected either the notes-bibliography or author-date system, commit to using it uniformly throughout your entire document. Mixing elements from both systems or inconsistently applying formatting rules for different source types can create confusion for your readers and may lead to editorial rejection. Precision in application is key.

Utilize Citation Management Software

Tools such as Zotero, Mendeley, or EndNote can be invaluable for managing your sources and generating citations in Chicago style. While these tools require initial setup and careful input of source data, they can significantly reduce the manual effort and minimize errors, especially in large research projects. They are designed to adapt to various citation styles, including both Chicago systems.

Thoroughly understanding and meticulously applying Chicago style citations is an indispensable skill for any social science researcher. By mastering these guidelines, you ensure that your work is not only ethically sound but also readily accessible and comprehensible to your academic peers and a wider audience, contributing effectively to the scholarly discourse within your field.

FAQ: Chicago Style Citations in Social Science

Q: What are the main differences between the notes-bibliography and author-date systems in Chicago style for social science research?

A: The primary difference lies in how sources are cited within the text. The notes-bibliography system uses numbered footnotes or endnotes, which appear at the bottom of pages or the end of the document, respectively. It is accompanied by a full bibliography. The author-date system uses parenthetical in-text citations, typically consisting of the author's last name and the publication year (e.g., (Smith 2020)). This is followed by a reference list at the end of the document. Social science disciplines may prefer one system over the other based on tradition or specific research methodologies.

Q: How do I cite a book with multiple authors using Chicago style in a social science paper?

A: For the notes-bibliography system, list all authors in the first footnote/endnote. For subsequent notes, you can shorten the entry. In the bibliography, list all authors up to ten; for works with more than ten authors, list the first seven followed by "et al." For the author-date system, the in-text citation will include all authors' last names for two or three authors. For more than three authors, use the first author's last name followed by "et al." in both the in-text citation and the reference list.

Q: I found a crucial statistic on a government website for my sociology research. How should I cite it in Chicago style?

A: For a government website, you'll need the author (which might be the agency), the title of the specific page or report, the name of the website, the publication or last updated date, and the URL. For the notes-bibliography system, a footnote might look like: 1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "National Health Interview Survey," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, updated October 15, 2023, <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/index.htm>. The bibliography entry would follow a similar structure. For the author-date system, the reference list entry would include the year.

Q: What is the correct way to cite a journal article that I accessed online through a database or DOI in Chicago style for my political science paper?

A: When citing a journal article accessed online, include the author(s), article title (in quotation marks), journal title (italicized), volume and issue numbers, year, and page range. Crucially, if a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) is available, include it. If no DOI is available but the article was accessed online, include the name of the database and/or the URL. For the notes-bibliography system, a footnote might be: 1. Sarah Lee, "The Evolving Landscape of International Diplomacy," *Journal of Global Affairs* 45, no. 3 (2021): 210, doi:10.1000/jga.2021.12345. The author-date system would adapt this for its reference

list, including the year.

Q: How do I cite an interview I conducted for my research in Chicago style?

A: For an interview that is unpublished, you typically provide the interviewee's name, the nature of the interview (e.g., "interview by the author"), the date, and the location. For the notes-bibliography system, a footnote might read: 1. Interview with Dr. Anya Sharma, ethnographer, by the author, November 10, 2023, Philadelphia, PA. If the interview is part of a collection or published, you would cite it accordingly. Personal communications are generally not included in the bibliography or reference list but are cited in the notes or parenthetically.

Q: Is it acceptable to mix citation styles within a single social science paper if I'm using Chicago style?

A: No, it is not acceptable to mix citation styles within a single Chicago style paper. You must choose either the notes-bibliography system or the author-date system and apply it consistently throughout the entire document. Inconsistency can lead to confusion for readers and is considered poor academic practice. Always adhere strictly to the chosen system's rules.

Q: When citing a book in Chicago style, should I always include the publisher's location?

A: Yes, for both the notes-bibliography and author-date systems, the publisher's location (city) is generally required for book citations. If a book has multiple publication cities listed, choose the one that appears first. If no location is provided, you can omit it. This detail helps readers locate specific editions of the book.

[Chicago Style Citations Social Science Examples](#)

Chicago Style Citations Social Science Examples

Related Articles

- [chicago style bibliography for thesis](#)
- [chicago style citation examples newspaper article online](#)
- [chicago style ebook publishing rules](#)

[Back to Home](#)