

chicago style dissertation citation

Understanding Chicago Style Dissertation Citation: A Comprehensive Guide

chicago style dissertation citation, when approached correctly, ensures academic integrity and allows readers to trace your research origins with precision. This guide offers an in-depth exploration of how to properly cite your dissertation using the Chicago Manual of Style, covering everything from the fundamental principles to specific examples for various source types. We will delve into the nuances of both the Notes-Bibliography and Author-Date systems, explaining their application within the context of doctoral and master's theses. Furthermore, this article will address common challenges and provide actionable strategies for formatting citations accurately, including when and how to cite original research and secondary sources effectively. Mastering these elements is crucial for any scholar preparing to submit their work.

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Understanding the Chicago Manual of Style for Dissertations

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) is a widely respected and frequently utilized style guide in academic writing, particularly within the humanities and social sciences. When it comes to dissertations, adhering to its guidelines is paramount for clear and consistent academic communication. The manual provides comprehensive rules for manuscript preparation, including citation practices, to ensure that scholarly work is presented in a standardized and professional manner. Understanding the core principles of CMOS will not only facilitate your dissertation writing process but also enhance the credibility of your research.

The Chicago Manual of Style offers two primary citation systems: the Notes-Bibliography system and the Author-Date system. While both are permissible for dissertations, the choice often depends on the specific requirements of your academic department or institution. Understanding the differences and applications of each system is crucial for selecting the most appropriate method for your work. The subsequent sections will explore each of these systems in detail.

Key Components of a Chicago Style Dissertation Citation

Regardless of the chosen system, a Chicago style dissertation citation typically includes several core pieces of information. These components work together to provide a complete and unambiguous identification of the source material. Ensuring accuracy in these elements is fundamental to avoiding plagiarism and enabling readers to locate your sources.

The essential elements that generally appear in a Chicago style citation for a dissertation include:

- Author's full name
- Title of the dissertation (italicized if published, or in quotation marks if unpublished)
- Type of work (e.g., Ph.D. dissertation, Master's thesis)
- Name of the institution where the degree was awarded
- Year of completion or submission
- For published dissertations: Publisher information, if applicable
- For unpublished dissertations: Location or database where it can be accessed

These elements form the foundation of any citation, and their precise arrangement will vary depending on whether you are using the Notes-Bibliography or Author-Date system.

The Notes-Bibliography System for Dissertations

The Notes-Bibliography system is characterized by the use of footnotes or endnotes to cite sources within the text, supplemented by a comprehensive bibliography at the end of the document. This system is often favored in historical research and the humanities due to its flexibility in allowing for extensive commentary and nuanced referencing. For dissertations, this means incorporating detailed citations in notes and a structured bibliography.

In the Notes-Bibliography system, the first citation of a source in a note typically includes the full bibliographic information. Subsequent citations of the same source can be abbreviated. The bibliography then provides a consolidated, alphabetized list of all sources consulted, formatted consistently. This dual approach ensures both immediate clarity for the reader and a comprehensive overview of the research.

The Author-Date System for Dissertations

The Author-Date system, as the name suggests, uses parenthetical in-text citations that include the author's last name and the year of publication, along with page numbers where necessary. This system is more common in the social sciences and natural sciences. It offers a concise method for referencing sources directly within the flow of the text.

When using the Author-Date system for a dissertation, an in-text citation might look like (Smith 2020, 45). The bibliography at the end of the dissertation is then organized alphabetically by the author's last name and includes full bibliographic details for each cited work. This system emphasizes the

author and date of publication as primary identifiers.

Citing Dissertations Within Your Bibliography

The bibliography section of your Chicago style dissertation is a crucial component that allows readers to locate the original sources you consulted. For dissertations, citing other dissertations, as well as various other materials, follows specific formatting rules. Consistency is key, ensuring that each entry provides enough information for retrieval.

When listing a dissertation you authored in your bibliography, the format will depend on whether it's published or unpublished. For published dissertations, you treat it similarly to a book. For unpublished dissertations, the focus is on indicating it's a thesis and where it can be found.

Citing Published Dissertations

A published dissertation is one that has been made available through a commercial publisher or a dissertation database service like ProQuest. In your Chicago style bibliography, this type of source requires specific details to be included. The process is similar to citing any other book.

For a published dissertation, your bibliography entry should include:

- Author's full name
- Title of the dissertation (italicized)
- Type of work (e.g., Ph.D. dissertation)
- Name of the institution
- Year of publication
- Publisher information

For example: Smith, John. *The Impact of Social Media on Political Discourse*. Ph.D. dissertation, University of Chicago, 2018. Ann Arbor, MI: ProQuest Dissertations Publishing, 2019.

Citing Unpublished Dissertations

Unpublished dissertations are those that have not been formally published or distributed by a commercial entity. These are often accessed through university libraries or interlibrary loan. The citation format for unpublished dissertations emphasizes the institutional context and the original submission.

The Chicago style citation for an unpublished dissertation in your bibliography typically includes:

- Author's full name

- Title of the dissertation (in quotation marks)
- Type of work (e.g., Ph.D. dissertation)
- Name of the institution
- Year of completion
- Information about its availability (e.g., "Available through University Microfilms")

For instance: Doe, Jane. "Urban Planning in Post-War America." Ph.D. dissertation, Yale University, 2015.

Citing Government Documents

Government documents are a common source in many dissertations, ranging from legislative records to statistical reports. Chicago style provides clear guidelines for citing these materials, recognizing that authorship can be attributed to a specific agency or a general government body.

When citing government documents, consider whether the document has a specific author or if it should be attributed to the issuing agency. The title, publication date, and source are crucial. For reports or publications, the series title and number, if available, should also be included.

Citing Archival Materials

Archival materials, such as letters, manuscripts, and photographs, form the bedrock of many historical dissertations. Citing these sources requires careful attention to detail, including the collection name, box and folder numbers, and the repository where the materials are housed.

A typical citation for archival material in your Chicago style bibliography would include:

- Name of the archive or repository
- Name of the collection
- Specific item or folder number
- Dates of the material
- Any relevant descriptive information

For example: University of Illinois Archives. "The Papers of Eleanor Roosevelt." Box 3, Folder 15. 1940-1945.

Citing Interviews

Interviews are a valuable primary source for many dissertations. Chicago style provides specific

guidelines for citing interviews, whether they are personal interviews, recorded, or conducted over the phone. The key is to provide enough information for the reader to understand the context and potentially access the interview if it has been recorded or transcribed.

For personal interviews, the citation should include the interviewee's name, the date of the interview, and the location or method by which it was conducted. If the interview has been recorded or is part of a collection, that information should also be noted.

Citing Electronic Sources and Databases

In today's digital research landscape, citing electronic sources and databases is a frequent necessity for dissertations. Chicago style requires clear and complete information for online materials to ensure they are locatable. This includes URLs, DOIs, and access dates.

When citing electronic sources, such as journal articles found online or websites, include the author, title, publication information, and the URL or DOI. For databases, specify the database name and the access date.

Formatting Your Dissertation's Bibliography and Notes

The consistent and accurate formatting of your bibliography and notes is a hallmark of professional academic writing. Chicago style offers detailed rules for arrangement, punctuation, and capitalization that must be followed meticulously. Pay close attention to the order of elements within each citation type.

For the Notes-Bibliography system, notes are numbered consecutively throughout your dissertation. The bibliography is a single alphabetized list at the end. For the Author-Date system, in-text citations are brief, and the reference list at the end is also alphabetized.

Frequently Asked Questions about Chicago Style Dissertation Citation

Q: What is the primary difference between the Notes-Bibliography and Author-Date systems in Chicago style for dissertations?

A: The primary difference lies in how sources are cited within the text. The Notes-Bibliography system uses footnotes or endnotes for citations, allowing for more extensive commentary, while the Author-Date system uses brief parenthetical citations (Author Year, Page) directly in the text. Both systems conclude with a bibliography.

Q: When should I use italics versus quotation marks for the title of a dissertation in a Chicago style citation?

A: You should italicize the title of a dissertation if it has been published as a book or monograph. If the dissertation is unpublished and has not been formally published, its title should be enclosed in quotation marks.

Q: How do I cite a dissertation that I found in a university library's online repository?

A: For an unpublished dissertation found in an online repository, you would typically cite it as an unpublished dissertation, noting the institution and the year it was awarded. You can also include information about where it is available, such as the repository name or URL, if it's accessible to others.

Q: Can I cite a dissertation written by my advisor in my own dissertation using Chicago style?

A: Yes, you can and should cite any relevant sources, including dissertations written by your advisor, in your own dissertation. Ensure you follow the correct Chicago style format for citing unpublished or published dissertations, depending on its status.

Q: What is the role of the DOI in Chicago style dissertation citations?

A: The Digital Object Identifier (DOI) is a persistent identifier for electronic documents. When available for a source, such as an article or a published dissertation, including the DOI in your Chicago style citation is crucial for aiding readers in locating the online version of the source.

Q: How do I handle citing multiple authors in a Chicago style dissertation citation?

A: For two authors, you list both names. For three or more authors in the Notes-Bibliography system, you typically list the first author's name followed by "et al." in the notes, but the bibliography entry may list all authors or up to ten authors followed by "et al." In the Author-Date system, you always list the first author's name followed by "et al." in the in-text citation.

Q: Is it necessary to include page numbers in all Chicago style dissertation citations?

A: Page numbers are essential when you are quoting directly from a source or when you are referring to specific information within a source. For broader references to a work, page numbers may not be necessary, but they are always recommended for direct quotations and paraphrases of specific ideas.

Q: What if a government document has no clear authoring individual or agency?

A: If a government document lacks a clear individual author or specific agency, you can attribute it to the government itself or the department under which it was produced. For instance, you might start the citation with the name of the country or state, followed by the relevant department.

Q: How do I ensure my bibliography is alphabetized correctly for my dissertation?

A: Your bibliography should be alphabetized by the last name of the first author listed for each entry. If an entry has no author, it is alphabetized by the title of the work, ignoring articles like "A," "An," and "The" at the beginning of titles.

Q: What is the difference between a bibliography and a reference list in Chicago style?

A: In the Notes-Bibliography system, the list at the end is called a bibliography and includes all sources consulted, even those not directly cited. In the Author-Date system, the list is typically called a reference list and includes only those sources cited within the text.

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