

chicago style examples for citing editors

Understanding Chicago Style Citations for Edited Works

chicago style examples for citing editors are crucial for academic integrity and providing clear attribution when referencing works compiled or introduced by an editor. When you encounter a book or collection with a central figure who curated or organized the content rather than authored it entirely, understanding how to properly cite that editor is paramount. This guide will delve into the nuances of citing editors in Chicago style, covering both footnote/endnote citations and bibliographic entries. We will explore the distinct requirements for different types of edited works, including anthologies, collections of essays, and critical editions, ensuring you can accurately represent your sources. Mastering these citation practices is essential for scholars, students, and anyone needing to adhere to the rigorous standards of the Chicago Manual of Style.

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The Role and Significance of Editors in Chicago Style

Defining the Editor's Contribution

In Chicago style, an editor plays a distinct role from an author. While an author creates original content, an editor's contribution typically involves selecting, arranging, introducing, or annotating existing material. This can encompass a wide range of activities, from compiling a collection of essays by various authors to preparing a scholarly edition of a classic text with extensive

commentary. Understanding this distinction is fundamental to correctly attributing credit and providing readers with the necessary information to locate the source material. The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) provides specific guidelines to reflect these varied editorial contributions.

Why Accurate Editor Citation Matters

Accurate citation of editors is not merely a stylistic formality; it is a critical component of academic honesty and scholarly communication. It acknowledges the intellectual labor involved in curating and presenting a work, especially in anthologies or collections where the editor's selection and arrangement significantly shape the reader's experience. Furthermore, proper citation allows other researchers to trace the origin of ideas, verify information, and engage with the primary sources or the editor's scholarly apparatus. Failing to cite editors correctly can lead to misattribution and a diminished understanding of the work's genesis.

General Principles for Citing Editors in Chicago Style

Identifying Key Information for Editor Citations

When preparing to cite an edited work in Chicago style, several key pieces of information must be identified. This includes the editor's full name, the title of the work, and the publication details such as the place of publication, publisher, and year. For collections or anthologies, it is also vital to identify the author(s) of the specific chapter or essay you are referencing within the larger work. The exact presentation of this information will vary slightly between footnotes/endnotes and the bibliography.

When to Include the Editor's Name

The editor's name is typically included when the editor is the primary organizing force behind the publication, especially in anthologies, collections of essays, or critical editions where their introduction or notes are significant. If the work is primarily authored by one individual, but an editor has been involved in its publication (e.g., a posthumous publication or a revised edition), the editor's role and inclusion in the citation will depend on the extent of their contribution and how the title page presents them.

The Importance of the Title Page

Always consult the title page of the book for the most accurate information regarding authorship and editorship. The title page will clearly indicate who is credited as the author and who is credited as the editor. It will also provide the full title, subtitle, and any other relevant publication details. In Chicago style, the title page is the authoritative source for bibliographic data. If the title page lists the editor prominently, their inclusion in the citation becomes essential.

Footnote and Endnote Citations for Edited Works

Basic Footnote/Endnote Format for Edited Books

In Chicago style, footnotes and endnotes are the primary means of citing sources within the text. When citing an edited book where the editor is the main point of reference, the format generally begins with the editor's name, followed by a comma, and then the word "ed." or "eds." for multiple editors. The title of the book follows, italicized, and then the publication information. If you are citing a specific chapter or essay within an edited collection, you will also include the author of that specific piece.

Example: Footnote for a Chapter in an Edited Anthology

Here is a standard example for citing a specific chapter within an edited anthology:

- 1. Jane Doe, "The Evolution of Modern Art," in *Artistic Movements: A Comprehensive Study*, ed. John Smith (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2020), 150.

In this example, Jane Doe is the author of the chapter, and John Smith is the editor of the entire collection. The "in" before the title of the edited collection is crucial for distinguishing between the chapter author and the collection editor.

Subsequent Footnote/Endnote Citations

For subsequent references to the same source within the same work, Chicago style typically uses a shortened form of the citation. This usually includes the editor's last name and a shortened version of the title. If you are citing the same work and page number multiple times consecutively, you may use "Ibid." followed by the page number.

Example: Subsequent Footnote

Following the first full citation, a subsequent citation would look like this:

- 2. Doe, "The Evolution of Modern Art," 155.
- 3. Smith, *Artistic Movements*, 78.

Note that if you are citing a different page in the same collection but not a specific chapter author, you would cite the editor and the collection title.

Citing Multiple Editors

When a work has two or three editors, all their names should be listed in the initial citation. For works with four or more editors, you typically list the first editor's name followed by "et al." (meaning "and others").

Example: Two Editors

For a book with two editors:

- 4. Alice Brown and Charles Green, eds., *Modern Philosophy: Key Debates* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018), 45.

Example: Four or More Editors

For a book with four or more editors, the format changes:

- 5. David Lee et al., eds., *Global Economic Trends* (London: Routledge, 2022), 210.

Bibliographic Entries for Edited Works

Standard Bibliographic Format for Edited Books

The bibliography section of a Chicago-style paper lists all the sources cited in the text, formatted in a specific way to provide full publication details. For an edited book, the bibliographic entry generally begins with the editor's name, followed by "ed." or "eds." The title of the work is then provided, followed by the publication details. When citing a specific chapter from a collection, the author of the chapter is listed first, followed by the chapter title, and then the editor's information for the collection.

Example: Bibliographic Entry for a Chapter in an Edited Anthology

This is how the example from the footnote section would appear in a bibliography:

- Doe, Jane. "The Evolution of Modern Art." In *Artistic Movements: A Comprehensive Study*, edited by John Smith, 145–160. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2020.

Key differences to note from the footnote include the author's last name first, the use of quotation marks for the chapter title, and the page range for the entire chapter. The editor's name appears with "edited by" preceding it.

Bibliographic Entries for Critical or Scholarly Editions

For critical or scholarly editions of a single author's work, where an editor has provided extensive notes, introductions, or commentary, the editor is often credited prominently. The format generally lists the editor first, followed by the title of the work and publication details.

Example: Bibliographic Entry for a Critical Edition

Consider an edited version of a classic novel:

- Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice*. Edited by Nora Johnson. Oxford World's Classics. New York: Oxford University Press, 2015.

Here, Nora Johnson is credited as the editor of this specific edition. If there were multiple editors for a critical edition, the rules for citing multiple editors would apply as described earlier.

Specific Examples: Anthologies and Collections

Citing a Standalone Edited Collection

When you are referencing the edited collection as a whole, rather than a specific essay within it, the citation focuses primarily on the editor. This is common when you are discussing the editor's introduction or the overall scope of the collection.

Example: Bibliographic Entry for an Edited Collection

If you are citing the entire work:

- Smith, John, ed. *Artistic Movements: A Comprehensive Study*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2020.

In this instance, the focus is on John Smith as the editor responsible for the entire compilation.

Citing an Essay within a Collection with a General Editor

As shown in previous examples, when citing a specific piece within a larger edited work, you must credit both the author of the specific piece and the editor of the collection. The structure ensures clarity about who wrote what and who curated the volume.

Example: Footnote for an Essay

Reiterating the footnote format for clarity:

- 6. Robert Davis, "The Impact of Industrialization," in *Economic Transformations: Essays on the Modern Era*, ed. Maria Garcia (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2019), 55.

Citing an Essay within a Collection with an Editor of the Essay

In some cases, an essay might also have its own editor, especially in older or specialized collections. Chicago style allows for this complexity, ensuring all contributors are properly credited.

Example: Footnote with Multiple Levels of Editing

This scenario is less common but possible:

- 7. Emily White, "Literary Criticism in the 19th Century," in *Selected Essays on Literature*, edited by Thomas Black, originally published in *Essays on Literary Theory*, edited by Susan Green (London: Penguin Books, 2021), 92.

This example demonstrates how to navigate layers of editorial work. The citation would be more complex in a bibliography, clearly delineating original publication and the current edited version.

Specific Examples: Critical and Scholarly Editions

Citing a Modern Edition of a Classic Work

Scholarly editions of older texts are invaluable resources, often featuring extensive introductions, annotations, and textual variations provided by the editor. Chicago style requires acknowledging this editorial contribution prominently.

Example: Footnote for a Scholarly Edition

When referencing such a text:

- 8. Shakespeare, William. *Hamlet*. Edited by Harold Bloom. Modern Library Classics. New York: Modern Library, 2007.

Here, Harold Bloom is credited as the editor of this specific edition of Shakespeare's play. The focus is on the edition's editor, not necessarily a different editor of the original text itself.

Citing a Scholarly Edition with Editor's Notes

If the editor's notes are integral to your argument or if you are quoting directly from the editor's commentary, your citation should reflect this. The page numbers will correspond to the specific edition you are using.

Example: Footnote Quoting Editor's Commentary

If you are citing Bloom's introduction or notes:

- 9. Harold Bloom, introduction to *Hamlet*, by William Shakespeare, Modern Library Classics (New York: Modern Library, 2007), viii.

This highlights the editor's own contribution (the introduction) alongside the original author's work.

Works with Editor and Translator

For translated works that are also edited, Chicago style typically prioritizes the editor and translator if they are central to the edition. The order and inclusion depend on how the title page presents the information.

Example: Footnote for an Edited and Translated Work

For a work like this:

- 10. Cervantes, Miguel de. *Don Quixote*. Translated and edited by Edith Grossman. New York: HarperCollins, 2003.

In this case, Edith Grossman is credited for both translating and editing the work. The bibliographic entry would also reflect this dual role.

Common Pitfalls When Citing Editors

Confusing Editors with Authors

One of the most frequent errors is treating an editor as if they were the original author of the entire work. This leads to incorrect citation formats and misrepresents the nature of the publication. Always check the title page carefully to distinguish between authors of individual pieces and the editor of the entire volume.

Incorrect Placement of "ed." or "eds."

The abbreviation "ed." (for editor) or "eds." (for editors) must be placed correctly. In footnotes/endnotes, it follows the editor's name. In bibliographies, it also follows the editor's name, but the overall entry begins with the editor's last name first.

Omitting Chapter Authors in Collections

When citing a specific part of an anthology or collection, it is crucial to include the author of that specific chapter or essay, in addition to the editor of the collection. Failing to do so obscures the original authorship of the material.

Inconsistent Formatting Between Notes and Bibliography

Chicago style has distinct formatting rules for footnotes/endnotes and bibliographic entries. Ensuring consistency between these two systems is vital for a polished and professional paper. For instance, the order of names and the punctuation often differ.

Conclusion: Ensuring Accurate and Professional Citations

Mastering the intricacies of citing editors in Chicago style is an essential skill for any academic or professional writer. By diligently consulting the title page, understanding the roles of authors and editors, and adhering to the specific formats for footnotes, endnotes, and bibliographies, you can ensure your citations are both accurate and professional. Paying attention to details such as the placement of "ed." or "eds." and the distinction between citing a chapter versus an entire edited collection will prevent common errors. The goal is always to provide your readers with clear, precise, and complete information, allowing them to easily locate and verify your sources and to appreciate the full context of the works you engage with.

FAQ

Q: What is the primary difference between citing an author and citing an editor in Chicago style?

A: The primary difference lies in the nature of their contribution. An author creates original content, while an editor curates, compiles, introduces, or annotates existing content. Chicago style reflects this by using specific phrasing like "ed." or "edited by" for editors, and typically lists the author of an individual piece first when citing from an edited collection.

Q: How do I cite a book with two editors in a Chicago style footnote?

A: For a footnote with two editors, you list both editors' names, separated by "and," followed by "eds." and then the italicized title and publication information. For example: "Alice Brown and Charles Green, eds., *Modern Philosophy: Key Debates* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018), 45."

Q: What is the bibliographic entry format for a chapter from an edited anthology in Chicago style?

A: In a Chicago style bibliography, you would cite the author of the chapter first, followed by the chapter title in quotation marks. Then, you use "In," followed by the italicized title of the edited collection, "edited by" and the editor's name, and finally the publication details. For example: "Doe, Jane. 'The Evolution of Modern Art.' In *Artistic Movements: A Comprehensive Study*, edited by John Smith, 145-160. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2020."

Q: When should I use "et al." when citing editors in Chicago style?

A: You should use "et al." in Chicago style when a work has four or more editors. You list the first editor's name followed by "et al." and then "eds." For example: "David Lee et al., eds., *Global Economic Trends* (London: Routledge, 2022), 210."

Q: How do I cite an introduction written by the editor of a book in Chicago style?

A: When citing an introduction written by the editor, you typically list the editor's name first, followed by "introduction to" and the book's title. You then provide the author of the main work (if different) and the publication details. For example: "Harold Bloom, introduction to *Hamlet*, by William Shakespeare, Modern Library Classics (New York: Modern Library, 2007), viii."

Q: Can I cite a translator and an editor differently if both are listed on the title page?

A: Yes, the citation format will depend on how the title page presents the information and the primary focus of your citation. If the editor's contribution is more significant to your argument, they might be listed first. For translated works that are also edited, Chicago style often lists the translator and editor together, as in "Translated and edited by Edith Grossman." You would follow the ordering and phrasing presented on the title page as closely as possible.

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