

chicago style examples for citing multiple authors

Mastering Chicago Style: Your Comprehensive Guide to Citing Multiple Authors

chicago style examples for citing multiple authors is a crucial skill for any academic or professional writer. Navigating the nuances of citing works with more than one author can sometimes feel complex, but understanding the established conventions ensures accuracy and credibility in your research. This comprehensive guide will break down the essential rules and provide clear, practical examples for citing sources with two, three, four, or even an extensive list of authors in both the Notes-Bibliography and Author-Date systems. We will explore how to handle these variations consistently throughout your text and bibliography, ensuring your citations are always correct and easy to follow.

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Understanding the Chicago Manual of Style's Approach to Multiple Authors

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) provides detailed guidelines for citing sources, and this includes specific rules for handling works with multiple authors. The primary goal is clarity and consistency, ensuring that your readers can easily locate the original sources you have consulted. CMOS recognizes that scholarly works are often the result of collaborative efforts, and its citation system is designed to reflect this effectively. Whether you are using the Notes-Bibliography system, common in the humanities, or the Author-Date system, preferred in the sciences and social sciences, the principles for managing multiple authors remain consistent, with variations primarily in the placement and formatting of the citation information.

The key distinction in Chicago style regarding multiple authors lies in the number of authors involved. The manual outlines different approaches for citing two authors, three to ten authors, and then a simplified method for works with more than ten authors. This tiered approach aims to balance

completeness with readability, especially in bibliographies where listing every author for a very long list might become unwieldy. Understanding these distinctions is the first step toward mastering the citation of collaborative works.

Citing Two Authors in Chicago Style

Citing a source with two authors in Chicago style is straightforward and requires listing both authors' names in every instance, both in your notes and in your bibliography. The order of the authors' names should match their appearance on the title page of the source. This ensures accuracy and respect for the order in which the authors are credited. For example, if a book is written by Jane Doe and John Smith, you will always refer to them as Doe and Smith, maintaining their original sequence.

Notes-Bibliography System: Two Authors

In the Notes-Bibliography system, when you first cite a work with two authors, you will include their full names and the title of the work in your footnote or endnote. Subsequent citations for the same work can be shortened. For the bibliography, you will list both authors with the first author's name inverted and the second author's name in normal order.

For a footnote or endnote:

- 1. Jane Doe and John Smith, *The Art of Research* (Chicago: University Press, 2022), 45.

For a subsequent note:

- 2. Doe and Smith, *Art of Research*, 112.

For the bibliography:

- Doe, Jane, and John Smith. *The Art of Research*. Chicago: University Press, 2022.

Author-Date System: Two Authors

In the Author-Date system, the in-text citation for two authors is brief, including their last names and the publication year. The bibliography follows the same format as in the Notes-Bibliography system for the author listing.

For an in-text citation:

(Doe and Smith 2022, 45)

For the bibliography:

- Doe, Jane, and John Smith. 2022. *The Art of Research*. Chicago: University Press.

Citing Three to Ten Authors in Chicago Style

When a work has three to ten authors, Chicago style mandates a specific way of listing them in your bibliography and in your notes or in-text citations. The practice aims to provide sufficient attribution without creating overly long entries. This is a critical point of divergence from citing works with only two authors.

Notes-Bibliography System: Three to Ten Authors

In the Notes-Bibliography system, for sources with three to ten authors, you list all authors' names in the first note. For subsequent notes, you list the first author's last name followed by "et al." In the bibliography, you list all authors' names up to ten.

For the first note:

- 3. Eleanor Vance, Robert Chen, Maria Garcia, and David Lee, *Global Perspectives on History* (New York: Academic Publishers, 2021), 88.

For subsequent notes:

- 4. Vance et al., *Global Perspectives*, 150.

For the bibliography:

- Vance, Eleanor, Robert Chen, Maria Garcia, and David Lee. *Global Perspectives on History*. New York: Academic Publishers, 2021.

Author-Date System: Three to Ten Authors

For the Author-Date system, the approach for three to ten authors is similar to the Notes-Bibliography system regarding the use of "et al." in the in-text citation after the first mention. The bibliography lists all authors.

For an in-text citation (first mention):

(Vance, Chen, Garcia, and Lee 2021, 88)

For subsequent in-text citations:

(Vance et al. 2021, 150)

For the bibliography:

- Vance, Eleanor, Robert Chen, Maria Garcia, and David Lee. 2021. *Global Perspectives on History*. New York: Academic Publishers.

Citing More Than Ten Authors in Chicago Style

When a work has an extensive list of authors—more than ten—Chicago style simplifies the citation process considerably to avoid lengthy bibliographies and notes. This is a practical adaptation to accommodate modern scholarly publications, which may feature large research teams or editorial boards.

Notes-Bibliography System: More Than Ten Authors

In the Notes-Bibliography system, for works with more than ten authors, you list only the first author's last name followed by "et al." in both the initial note and all subsequent notes. The bibliography also follows this simplified format, listing only the first author and "et al."

For a note:

- 5. Samuel Goldstein et al., *The Encyclopedia of Contemporary Issues* (London: Global Books, 2019), 23.

For the bibliography:

- Goldstein, Samuel, et al. *The Encyclopedia of Contemporary Issues*. London: Global Books, 2019.

Author-Date System: More Than Ten Authors

The Author-Date system mirrors the simplification for works with more than ten authors. The in-text citation will only include the first author's last name and the year, and the bibliography entry will follow suit.

For an in-text citation:

(Goldstein et al. 2019, 23)

For the bibliography:

- Goldstein, Samuel, et al. 2019. *The Encyclopedia of Contemporary Issues*. London: Global Books.

Author-Date System: Citing Multiple Authors

The Author-Date system, while sharing principles with the Notes-Bibliography system for handling multiple authors, places the emphasis on concise in-text citations and a structured bibliography. The core idea is to provide enough information in the text for the reader to locate the full citation in the bibliography without disrupting the flow of your writing. The treatment of author numbers (two, three to ten, and over ten) dictates the format of these in-text citations.

As previously discussed, for two authors, you list both last names. For three to ten, you list all names in the first in-text citation, then use the first author and "et al." for subsequent citations. For more than ten authors, you consistently use the first author and "et al." from the very first in-text citation. This systematic approach ensures that your in-text references are consistently formatted regardless of the number of authors.

The clarity provided by the Author-Date system for multiple authors makes it particularly useful in fields where citations are frequent and space might be limited. Proper application of these rules is paramount for maintaining academic integrity and allowing readers to trace your sources accurately.

Bibliography and Works Cited: Formatting Multiple Authors

The bibliography (in the Notes-Bibliography system) or the Works Cited list (in the Author-Date system) is where you provide full details for all sources cited in your work. The formatting of author names for multiple authors in this section is crucial for clarity and adherence to Chicago style. While in-text citations or notes might use abbreviations like "et al.," the bibliography typically provides more complete author information, with specific rules based on the author count.

For sources with two authors, both names are listed, with the first author's last name inverted. For sources with three to ten authors, all names are listed, again with the first author's last name inverted. For sources with more than ten authors, Chicago style recommends listing only the first author followed by "et al." to keep the bibliography concise. Consistency in how you apply these rules across all your entries is key to a professional and accurate bibliography.

Here's a summary of the bibliography formatting for multiple authors:

- **Two Authors:** Doe, Jane, and John Smith.
- **Three to Ten Authors:** Vance, Eleanor, Robert Chen, Maria Garcia, and David Lee.
- **More Than Ten Authors:** Goldstein, Samuel, et al.

Remember to follow the specific punctuation and capitalization rules for each element of the bibliographic entry (title, publisher, year, etc.) as outlined in the Chicago Manual of Style.

Common Pitfalls and Best Practices for Multiple Author Citations

When citing multiple authors in Chicago style, writers often encounter a few common challenges. One of the most frequent errors is inconsistency in the use of "et al." For instance, applying "et al." to a work with only two

authors or failing to use it for works with more than ten. Another pitfall is misremembering when to switch from listing all authors to using "et al." in the Notes-Bibliography system; this switch typically occurs in the second and subsequent notes, not the first.

A best practice is to always double-check the exact number of authors listed on the source's title page before deciding on the citation format. Keeping a reliable citation management tool can also help automate some of these processes and reduce errors. Furthermore, it is essential to distinguish between the requirements for notes/in-text citations and the bibliography, as these can differ, particularly with the use of "et al."

Another important consideration is how subsequent citations are handled. For two authors, both are always listed. For three to ten, the first note lists all, and subsequent notes use the first author plus "et al." For more than ten, the first and all subsequent notes use the first author plus "et al." Adhering to these specific rules for each scenario will ensure accuracy and professionalism in your academic writing.

Finally, always refer to the latest edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style* for the most current guidelines. Citation styles can evolve, and staying updated is crucial for maintaining accuracy. Understanding the underlying principles—clarity, completeness where practical, and conciseness when necessary—will guide you in correctly citing any source with multiple authors.

Q: What is the main difference between citing two authors and three authors in Chicago style?

A: The main difference lies in how you use "et al." For two authors, you always list both names in notes and bibliographies. For three to ten authors, you list all names in the first note and bibliography, but use the first author followed by "et al." in subsequent notes and in-text citations (Author-Date system).

Q: When do I start using "et al." for works with multiple authors in Chicago style?

A: In the Notes-Bibliography system, you start using "et al." for works with three to ten authors in the second and subsequent notes. For works with more than ten authors, you use "et al." from the very first note. In the Author-Date system, the switch happens after the first in-text citation for works with three to ten authors; for works with more than ten authors, it's used from the first in-text citation.

Q: How should I format the bibliography for a book with seven authors in Chicago style?

A: For a book with seven authors, you list all seven authors in the bibliography. The first author's name is inverted (Last Name, First Name), and subsequent authors are listed in normal order (First Name Last Name).

Q: What happens if a source has 12 authors? How do I cite it in Chicago style?

A: For sources with more than ten authors, Chicago style simplifies the citation by listing only the first author's last name followed by "et al." This applies to both notes/in-text citations and the bibliography.

Q: Is the rule for citing multiple authors the same for articles as it is for books in Chicago style?

A: Yes, the general rules for citing multiple authors in Chicago style (based on the number of authors) apply consistently to various source types, including articles, book chapters, and books. The specific details of the citation (like journal title, page numbers, etc.) will differ, but the author listing convention remains the same.

Q: What if the authors are listed in a different order on the title page than I usually see them?

A: Always follow the order of authors as they appear on the title page of the work. This is crucial for accurately representing the original publication and giving credit where it is due.

Q: Can I use "et al." for a source with only two authors in Chicago style?

A: No, you should never use "et al." for a source with only two authors. Chicago style requires you to list both authors' names in all instances for two-author works.

Q: How do I cite a work with a corporate author and multiple individual authors?

A: Chicago style generally prioritizes individual authors over corporate authors if they are listed as the primary authors. If a corporate author is credited alongside individual authors, you would typically cite them as you would any other set of authors, following the rules based on the total number

of authors, and ensuring the corporate author is treated as one of the "authors" in the count if it appears in that position. However, the exact formatting can depend on the specific presentation of the title page, and it's best to consult CMOS for nuanced cases.

Chicago Style Examples For Citing Multiple Authors

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