

# chicago style examples for citing translators

## Chicago Style Examples for Citing Translators

**Chicago style examples for citing translators** are crucial for academic integrity and clear communication when referencing translated works. Navigating the nuances of attribution, especially when the translator's contribution is significant, requires careful attention to the guidelines provided by the Chicago Manual of Style. This article aims to demystify the process, offering comprehensive explanations and practical examples for various source types, including books, articles, and other published materials. We will explore the placement of translator information in both footnotes/endnotes and the bibliography, ensuring you can accurately credit the individuals who bridged linguistic divides. Understanding these examples will enhance your research and writing, making your citations both compliant and informative.

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## Understanding the Role of the Translator in Chicago Style

The Chicago Manual of Style recognizes that translators play a vital role in making foreign-language works accessible to a wider audience. Their work is not merely a mechanical conversion of words but often involves interpretation, cultural adaptation, and stylistic choices. Therefore, citing translators is not just a formality; it is an acknowledgment of their intellectual contribution to the text. The specific method of citation will depend on whether you are using the notes-bibliography system or the author-date system, though this article primarily focuses on the former, which is more common in humanities and literary studies.

When a work has been translated, the translator's name is an integral part of the citation. Chicago style prioritizes providing readers with enough information to locate the original source and understand the mediated experience of reading it. This means including the translator's name prominently, particularly in the bibliography, where it aids in identifying specific editions. The goal is to ensure that the source information is complete and that the labor of the translator is duly recognized.

## Citing Translated Books: Footnotes/Endnotes and Bibliography

Citing translated books is perhaps the most common scenario where you'll need to attribute the translator. The placement and format of the translator's

name differ slightly between the notes and the bibliography.

## Footnotes and Endnotes for Translated Books

In footnotes or endnotes, the translator's name typically appears after the title of the translated work. You introduce the translator using the phrase "translated by."

- For a first citation of a translated book in a footnote or endnote:

1. Author's Original Last Name, Original First Name. *Original Title*.  
Translated by Translator's First Name Translator's Last Name. Place of  
Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication.

Here is a concrete example:

Friedrich Nietzsche, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, translated by Walter Kaufmann and R. J. Hollingdale. Edited by Walter Kaufmann. New York: Modern Library, 1966.

Subsequent citations in notes can be shortened, usually including only the author's last name, a shortened title, and the translator if it's necessary for clarity, though often the translator's name is omitted in subsequent notes if the edition is clear from context or previous notes.

## Bibliography Entries for Translated Books

The bibliography entry follows a slightly different structure, with the translator's name appearing in a specific order to facilitate alphabetization and clarity. The translator is listed after the title, introduced by "trans." (for translator).

- The standard format for a bibliography entry for a translated book is:

1. Author's Original Last Name, Original First Name. *Original Title*.  
Translated by Translator's First Name Translator's Last Name. Place of  
Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication.

Using the same example as above, the bibliography entry would look like this:

Nietzsche, Friedrich. *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*. Translated by Walter Kaufmann and R. J. Hollingdale. Edited by Walter Kaufmann. New York: Modern Library, 1966.

It is essential to note that the translator's name appears in its normal order (First Name Last Name) in both footnotes/endnotes and the bibliography entry when following the translated title. Chicago style emphasizes clarity and ease of access to information for the reader.

# Citing Translated Articles and Chapters

When citing a translated article from a journal or a translated chapter from an edited volume, the principles are similar to citing books, but the context of the larger work must also be acknowledged.

## Footnotes/Endnotes for Translated Articles

For an article originally published in a foreign language and subsequently translated and published in an English-language journal, you will typically cite the original publication details if known and available, alongside the translated version.

- Example for a translated article in a journal:

1. Author's Original Last Name, Original First Name. "Original Article Title." Original Journal Title [Original Language] Volume, no. Issue (Year of Original Publication): page numbers. Reprinted in [or translated in] English in Translator's First Name Translator's Last Name, trans. "Translated Article Title." *English Journal Title* Volume, no. Issue (Year of Translation): page numbers.

A more streamlined approach, common when the original publication is less relevant or harder to find, focuses on the translated version:

1. Author's Last Name, First Name. "Translated Title of Article." Translated by Translator's First Name Translator's Last Name. *English Journal Title* Volume, no. Issue (Year of Translation): page numbers.

Example of the streamlined approach:

Foucault, Michel. "What Is an Author?" Translated by Donald F. Bouchard and Sherry Simon. *Critical Inquiry* 3, no. 4 (Summer 1977): 751-775.

## Bibliography Entries for Translated Articles

The bibliography entry will also prioritize the translated version, with the translator credited.

- Bibliography entry for a translated article:

1. Author's Last Name, First Name. "Translated Title of Article." Translated by Translator's First Name Translator's Last Name. *English Journal Title* Volume, no. Issue (Year of Translation): page numbers.

Using the Foucault example:

Foucault, Michel. "What Is an Author?" Translated by Donald F. Bouchard and Sherry Simon. *Critical Inquiry* 3, no. 4 (Summer 1977): 751-775.

For translated chapters within edited volumes, the format is similar to

translated books, but you must also cite the editor of the volume.

## Citing Translated Works with Multiple Translators

When a work has been translated by more than one person, it is essential to list all translators involved. The Chicago Manual of Style provides specific guidance on how to handle these situations.

### Footnotes/Endnotes with Multiple Translators

For books with multiple translators, list all translators in the footnote/endnote. The primary translator is often listed first, followed by the others, though the order may sometimes reflect the original translator credits on the title page.

- Example with two translators:

1. Author's Original Last Name, Original First Name. *Original Title*. Translated by Translator A's First Name Translator A's Last Name and Translator B's First Name Translator B's Last Name. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication.

Example:

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Translated by Robert Fagles and Bernard Knox. New York: Viking Press, 1996.

### Bibliography Entries with Multiple Translators

In the bibliography, all translators are listed in the same manner as in the notes.

- Bibliography entry with multiple translators:

1. Author's Original Last Name, Original First Name. *Original Title*. Translated by Translator A's First Name Translator A's Last Name and Translator B's First Name Translator B's Last Name. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication.

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Translated by Robert Fagles and Bernard Knox. New York: Viking Press, 1996.

If there are three or more translators, Chicago style suggests listing the first translator followed by "and others" in subsequent notes if the work is cited multiple times, but in the bibliography, all translators should ideally be listed unless the title page itself uses "and others" or similar phrasing. However, for clarity and completeness, listing all is generally preferred.

# Citing Translated Works in Online Formats

The citation of translated works accessed online, whether they are entire books or articles, generally follows the same principles as print sources, with the addition of online access information.

## Online Translated Books

When citing a translated book found online (e.g., from an e-book database or a website), include the URL or DOI. The translator is credited as usual.

- Example of a translated e-book citation:

1. Author's Original Last Name, Original First Name. *Original Title*. Translated by Translator's First Name Translator's Last Name. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. Accessed Month Day, Year. URL or DOI.

Example:

Camus, Albert. *The Stranger*. Translated by Matthew Ward. New York: Vintage International, 1988. Accessed October 26, 2023.

<https://www.randomhouse.com/books/199902/the-stranger-by-albert-camus>.

Note that the access date is included to indicate when you viewed the material, as online content can change.

## Online Translated Articles

Similarly, translated articles found online should include the translator and online access details.

- Example of a translated online article:

1. Author's Last Name, First Name. "Translated Title of Article." Translated by Translator's First Name Translator's Last Name. *English Journal Title* Volume, no. Issue (Year of Translation): page numbers. Accessed Month Day, Year. URL or DOI.

Example:

Baudrillard, Jean. "The Precession of Simulacra." Translated by Sheila Faria Glaser. *Culture Machine*, October 2001.

<https://culturemachine.net/index.php/cm/article/view/253/254>.

It is always best to use a DOI if available, as it provides a stable link to the article.

# Key Considerations for Citing Translators

Beyond the specific formatting rules, several overarching principles should guide your citation of translators in Chicago style.

## Consistency is Key

Maintain consistency throughout your paper. If you cite a translator in one place, ensure you follow the same format for all similar citations. This applies to both your notes and your bibliography.

## Consult the Title Page and Copyright Page

Always refer to the title page and copyright page of the book or article for the most accurate information regarding the author, translator, publisher, and publication year. These pages are the primary source for citation details.

## Translator vs. Editor

Differentiate between the role of a translator and an editor. An editor may compile, organize, or revise a work, while a translator specifically renders it from one language to another. Chicago style requires crediting both if applicable, but their roles and citation formats are distinct.

## When the Translator is Crucial to Your Argument

In some academic disciplines, particularly literary studies, the specific translation choice can be a subject of analysis. In such cases, it is even more critical to accurately cite the translator and perhaps even discuss their interpretive decisions. The detailed citation ensures that readers can access the exact version you are referencing and understand the basis of your analysis.

By adhering to these guidelines and paying close attention to detail, you can effectively and respectfully acknowledge the contributions of translators in your academic work, thereby enhancing the credibility and clarity of your research.

FAQ Section

### **Q: What is the primary difference in how translator information is presented in Chicago style footnotes versus the bibliography?**

A: In Chicago style footnotes and endnotes, the translator is typically introduced with "translated by" immediately following the title of the translated work. In the bibliography, the translator is also listed after the title, but it is introduced with the abbreviation "trans." and the translator's name appears in its normal order (First Name Last Name).

**Q: Should I always include the translator's name when citing a translated work in Chicago style?**

A: Yes, it is generally recommended and often required to include the translator's name when citing a translated work in Chicago style, especially in the bibliography. This acknowledges their contribution and helps readers identify the specific edition being used.

**Q: How do I cite a translated book if the original publication details are unknown or not readily available?**

A: If the original publication details are unknown or difficult to access, you can focus your citation on the translated version. Include the author's name, the translated title, the translator's name (introduced by "translated by" in notes and "trans." in the bibliography), the publisher, and the publication year of the translated edition.

**Q: What is the correct Chicago style format for citing a translated article from a journal?**

A: For a translated article, the Chicago style format generally includes the author's name, the translated title of the article, the translator's name (introduced by "Translated by"), the journal title, volume, issue, and page numbers, along with the year of publication for the translated version. If citing in notes, you might also include original publication details if available and relevant.

**Q: How do I cite a translated work with multiple translators in Chicago style?**

A: When a work has multiple translators, list all of them. In footnotes or endnotes, they are introduced by "translated by." In the bibliography, they are also listed after the title, introduced by "trans." If there are three or more translators, Chicago style permits listing the first translator followed by "and others" in notes, but the bibliography generally lists all translators.

**Q: Does Chicago style require citing the original language title when referencing a translated work?**

A: Chicago style does not always strictly require the original language title, but it can be beneficial to include it, especially if the translated title is significantly different or if you are discussing the nuances of translation. However, the translated title and translator's name are paramount for citation purposes.

**Q: How do I cite translated works accessed online in**

## Chicago style?

A: When citing translated works online, follow the standard Chicago style format for the source type (book, article, etc.), including the translator's name, and then add the URL or DOI and, optionally, an access date. The translator's credit remains a standard part of the citation.

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