

chicago style examples for humanities

chicago style examples for humanities are fundamental for academic writers navigating the intricacies of scholarly citation and formatting. Whether you are a student crafting a research paper, a scholar preparing a manuscript for publication, or simply someone seeking to understand academic rigor, mastering the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) is crucial. This comprehensive guide delves into various aspects of Chicago style, offering clear, detailed examples for common citation scenarios encountered in humanities disciplines such as literature, history, philosophy, and art history. We will explore both the author-date and notes-bibliography systems, demonstrating how to correctly cite books, journal articles, websites, and other source materials. Understanding these nuances ensures academic integrity, prevents plagiarism, and enhances the credibility of your work.

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Understanding Chicago Style: Author-Date vs. Notes-Bibliography

The Chicago Manual of Style offers two distinct but equally valid citation systems: the author-date system and the notes-bibliography system. The choice between these two often depends on the specific discipline, journal requirements, or instructor preferences. In the humanities, the notes-bibliography system is traditionally more prevalent, especially in fields like history and literature, due to its ability to accommodate extensive annotations and tangential discussions within footnotes or endnotes. The author-date system, more common in social sciences, is generally more concise, with parenthetical citations in the text directing readers to a reference list at the end of the work.

Both systems share the goal of providing clear attribution to sources and enabling readers to locate the original materials. The author-date system uses in-text citations that include the author's last name and the year of publication (e.g., (Smith 2020, 45)), while the notes-bibliography system uses superscript numbers in the text that correspond to numbered footnotes or endnotes, which then provide the bibliographic details of the source. The bibliography at the end of the paper in the notes-bibliography system lists all sources cited, formatted similarly to the reference list in the author-date system.

Core Elements of Chicago Style Citation

Regardless of the system chosen, several core elements are consistently required for accurate Chicago style citations. These elements ensure that readers have enough information to find the source material. Key components include the author(s) or editor(s) name(s), the title of the work, publication information such as the publisher and year, and for articles or chapters, the title of the larger work and page numbers.

The order and punctuation of these elements differ between the two systems and between notes and bibliographies. However, attention to detail regarding capitalization, italics for titles, and punctuation is paramount for both. Understanding the distinction between primary and secondary sources, as well as the specific formatting for different media types, is also crucial for effective Chicago style application.

Citing Books in Chicago Style

Books are a cornerstone of research in the humanities, and accurate citation is therefore essential. Chicago style provides specific formats for citing books depending on whether they are whole works, chapters within edited volumes, or have multiple authors.

Books with a Single Author

For a book with a single author, the citation includes the author's full name, the book's title (italicized), the place of publication, the publisher, and the year of publication. For the notes-bibliography system, the first citation of a book will typically include all this information, while subsequent citations can be shortened.

Example (Notes-Bibliography, First Note):

1. Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*, trans. Alan Sheridan (New York: Vintage Books, 1995), 25.

Example (Notes-Bibliography, Subsequent Note):

2. Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*, 112.

Example (Author-Date):

(Foucault 1995, 25)

In the bibliography or reference list, the author's last name is listed first, followed by the title, publication information, and year. For the author-date system, the year immediately follows the author's name.

Example (Notes-Bibliography, Bibliography Entry):

Foucault, Michel. *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. Translated by Alan Sheridan. New York: Vintage Books, 1995.

Example (Author-Date, Reference List Entry):

Foucault, Michel. 1995. *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. Translated by Alan Sheridan. New York: Vintage Books.

Chapters in Edited Books

When citing a chapter or essay within an edited collection, you need to include details about the chapter author, the chapter title, the book title, the editor(s), and the page range of the chapter.

Example (Notes-Bibliography, First Note):

3. Edward Said, "Orientalism Reconsidered," in *Orientalism: Western Conceptions of the Orient*, ed. John Said (London: Penguin Books, 1978), 215-42.

Example (Author-Date):

(Said 1978, 215-42)

The bibliography or reference list entry would follow a similar structure, clearly delineating the chapter author and the edited book.

Example (Notes-Bibliography, Bibliography Entry):

Said, Edward. "Orientalism Reconsidered." In *Orientalism: Western Conceptions of the Orient*, edited by John Said, 215-42. London: Penguin Books, 1978.

Example (Author-Date, Reference List Entry):

Said, Edward. 1978. "Orientalism Reconsidered." In *Orientalism: Western Conceptions of the Orient*, edited by John Said, 215-42. London: Penguin Books.

Books with Multiple Authors

For books with two authors, both are listed. For three or more authors, typically only the first author is listed, followed by "et al." in notes, but all authors may be listed in the bibliography or reference list if space permits and the style guide allows.

Example (Notes-Bibliography, First Note for Two Authors):

4. Jonathan Miller and David Lewis, *The Psychology of Perception* (New York: Routledge, 2010), 78.

Example (Notes-Bibliography, Bibliography Entry for Two Authors):

Miller, Jonathan, and David Lewis. *The Psychology of Perception*. New York: Routledge, 2010.

Example (Notes-Bibliography, First Note for Three or More Authors):

5. Jane Doe et al., *Understanding Visual Culture* (London: Oxford University Press, 2018), 55.

Example (Notes-Bibliography, Bibliography Entry for Three or More Authors):

Doe, Jane, John Smith, Emily Jones, and Robert Brown. *Understanding Visual Culture*. London: Oxford University Press, 2018.

Citing Journal Articles in Chicago Style

Journal articles are frequently used in academic research and require precise citation to ensure readers can locate the specific issue and pages.

Journal Articles with a Print Edition

For print journal articles, include the author's name, the article title, the journal title (*italicized*), the volume number, the issue number, the year of publication, and the page range.

Example (Notes-Bibliography, First Note):

6. Susan Sontag, "Notes on 'Camp'," *Partisan Review* 31, no. 4 (Fall 1964): 515-30.

Example (Author-Date):

(Sontag 1964, 515-30)

In the bibliography, the format is similar but with slight variations in punctuation and order.

Example (Notes-Bibliography, Bibliography Entry):

Sontag, Susan. "Notes on 'Camp'." *Partisan Review* 31, no. 4 (Fall 1964): 515-30.

Example (Author-Date, Reference List Entry):

Sontag, Susan. 1964. "Notes on 'Camp'." *Partisan Review* 31 (4): 515-30.

Journal Articles Accessed Online (with DOI)

When an article is available online and has a Digital Object Identifier (DOI), this should be included as it provides a persistent link to the article.

Example (Notes-Bibliography, First Note):

7. Carol J. Clover, "The Matrix," *Film Quarterly* 54, no. 1 (Autumn 2000): 4-9. doi:10.2307/1215719.

Example (Author-Date):

(Clover 2000, 4-9)

The bibliography entry will include the DOI at the end.

Example (Notes-Bibliography, Bibliography Entry):

Clover, Carol J. "The Matrix." *Film Quarterly* 54, no. 1 (Autumn 2000): 4-9. doi:10.2307/1215719.

Example (Author-Date, Reference List Entry):

Clover, Carol J. 2000. "The Matrix." *Film Quarterly* 54 (1): 4-9. doi:10.2307/1215719.

Journal Articles Accessed Online (without DOI)

If a journal article is accessed online but does not have a DOI, include the URL and the date you accessed the article.

Example (Notes-Bibliography, First Note):

8. Jacques Derrida, "Structure, Sign, and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences," *Yale French Studies*, no. 41 (1968): 78-95. Accessed February 15, 2023. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/2930496>.

Example (Author-Date):

(Derrida 1968, 78-95)

The bibliography entry would also include the access date and URL.

Example (Notes-Bibliography, Bibliography Entry):

Derrida, Jacques. "Structure, Sign, and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences." *Yale French Studies*, no. 41 (1968): 78-95. Accessed February 15, 2023. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/2930496>.

Example (Author-Date, Reference List Entry):

Derrida, Jacques. 1968. "Structure, Sign, and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences." *Yale French Studies* (41): 78-95. Accessed February 15, 2023. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/2930496>.

Citing Online Sources and Websites in Chicago Style

The digital age has dramatically expanded the types of sources researchers use, and Chicago style provides guidelines for citing websites, blog posts, and other online content.

Websites and Web Pages

When citing a webpage, include the author or organization responsible for the content, the title of the specific page (italicized if it's a standalone work like a report, or in quotation marks if it's part of a larger site), the name of the website, the publication date or last updated date, and the URL. It is also good practice to include the date of access.

Example (Notes-Bibliography, First Note):

9. "The History of Impressionism," The Metropolitan Museum of Art, accessed February 15, 2023, https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/impr/hd_impr.htm.

Example (Author-Date):

(The Metropolitan Museum of Art 2023)

The bibliography entry will mirror the note, with access date and URL.

Example (Notes-Bibliography, Bibliography Entry):

"The History of Impressionism." The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Accessed February 15, 2023. https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/impr/hd_impr.htm.

Example (Author-Date, Reference List Entry):

The Metropolitan Museum of Art. 2023. "The History of Impressionism." Accessed February 15, 2023.
https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/impr/hd_impr.htm.

Blog Posts

Blog posts are cited similarly to other web pages, with attention to the author, post title, blog name, and URL. If the blog is part of a larger publication, that can also be noted.

Example (Notes-Bibliography, First Note):

10. Alex Johnson, "Rethinking Ancient Rituals," *Historical Musings*, March 1, 2022, <https://www.historicalmusings.com/rethinking-ancient-rituals>.

Example (Author-Date):

(Johnson 2022)

The bibliography entry would be:

Example (Notes-Bibliography, Bibliography Entry):

Johnson, Alex. "Rethinking Ancient Rituals." *Historical Musings*, March 1, 2022. <https://www.historicalmusings.com/rethinking-ancient-rituals>.

Example (Author-Date, Reference List Entry):

Johnson, Alex. 2022. "Rethinking Ancient Rituals." *Historical Musings*, March 1. <https://www.historicalmusings.com/rethinking-ancient-rituals>.

Other Common Chicago Style Examples for Humanities

The humanities encompass a wide array of source materials, from primary historical documents to visual arts and performance. Chicago style offers guidance for many of these.

Primary Sources

Citing primary sources, such as letters, diaries, or archival materials, requires careful attention to where they are housed and any identifying information available.

Example (Notes-Bibliography, First Note for a Letter):

11. Virginia Woolf to Vita Sackville-West, October 10, 1928, in *The Letters of Virginia Woolf*, vol. 3, ed. Nigel Nicolson (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1977), 221-23, Virginia Woolf Papers, Millicent Fawcett

Collection, Box 12, Fawcett Library, London.

Example (Notes-Bibliography, Bibliography Entry for a Letter):

Woolf, Virginia. Letter to Vita Sackville-West, October 10, 1928. In *The Letters of Virginia Woolf*, vol. 3, edited by Nigel Nicolson, 221-23. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1977. Virginia Woolf Papers, Millicent Fawcett Collection, Box 12, Fawcett Library, London.

Artworks and Visual Materials

When referencing artworks, include the artist's name, the title of the artwork (italicized), the year of creation, and its current location (museum, gallery, collection).

Example (Notes-Bibliography, First Note):

12. Leonardo da Vinci, *Mona Lisa*, c. 1503-1506, oil on poplar panel, Musée du Louvre, Paris.

Example (Author-Date):

(Da Vinci c. 1506)

The bibliography entry would be:

Example (Notes-Bibliography, Bibliography Entry):

Da Vinci, Leonardo. *Mona Lisa*. c. 1503-1506. Oil on poplar panel. Musée du Louvre, Paris.

Example (Author-Date, Reference List Entry):

Da Vinci, Leonardo. c. 1506. *Mona Lisa*. Oil on poplar panel. Musée du Louvre, Paris.

Film and Television

For films, include the director, title (italicized), production company, and year of release. For television episodes, include the writer, episode title (in quotation marks), series title (italicized), network, and air date.

Example (Notes-Bibliography, First Note for a Film):

13. Directed by Billy Wilder, *Some Like It Hot*, Marilyn Productions, 1959.

Example (Notes-Bibliography, Bibliography Entry for a Film):

Wilder, Billy, director. *Some Like It Hot*. Marilyn Productions, 1959.

Mastering Chicago style examples for humanities is an ongoing process, but with consistent practice and careful attention to the details outlined in the manual, writers can produce accurate, professional, and credible academic work.

FAQ

Q: What is the main difference between the author-date and notes-bibliography systems in Chicago style for humanities research?

A: The primary difference lies in how in-text citations are handled and where full bibliographic information is provided. The author-date system uses parenthetical citations in the text (e.g., (Smith 2020, 45)) that directly correspond to a reference list at the end. The notes-bibliography system uses numbered footnotes or endnotes for in-text citations, with the full bibliographic details appearing in a bibliography at the end, and often in a shortened form in subsequent notes.

Q: When should I use the notes-bibliography system versus the author-date system for a humanities paper?

A: The notes-bibliography system is traditionally favored in many humanities disciplines like history, literature, and art history, as it allows for more extensive annotation and commentary in the notes. The author-date system is more common in social sciences. Always check the specific requirements of your instructor, journal, or publisher, as they will dictate which system to use.

Q: How do I cite a book that has been translated into English, using Chicago style?

A: When citing a translated book, include the original author, the translated title (*italicized*), the translator's name, the place of publication, the publisher, and the year of publication. In notes, you might also include the original title and publication year if relevant. In the bibliography, the translator is listed after the title. For example: Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*, trans. Alan Sheridan (New York: Vintage Books, 1995).

Q: What information is essential when citing a journal article found online without a DOI?

A: If a journal article is accessed online and does not have a DOI, you must include the author, article title, journal title (*italicized*), volume and issue numbers, publication year, page numbers, the URL, and the date you accessed the article. For example: Jacques Derrida, "Structure, Sign, and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences," *Yale French Studies*, no. 41 (1968): 78-95. Accessed February 15, 2023.
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/2930496>.

Q: How do I format the bibliography entry for a chapter in an edited book in Chicago style?

A: The bibliography entry for a chapter in an edited book should begin with the author of the chapter, followed by the chapter title in quotation marks. Then, introduce the edited book with "In," followed by the book title (*italicized*), the editor's name(s) preceded by "edited by," the page range of the chapter, the place of publication, publisher, and year. For example: Said, Edward. "Orientalism Reconsidered." In *Orientalism: Western Conceptions of the Orient*, edited by John Said, 215-42. London: Penguin Books, 1978.

Q: Are there specific Chicago style examples for citing artworks in a humanities paper?

A: Yes, for artworks, you should include the artist's name, the title of the artwork (*italicized*), the year of creation, and the artwork's current location (e.g., museum name, city). For example: Leonardo da Vinci, *Mona Lisa*, c. 1503-1506, oil on poplar panel, Musée du Louvre, Paris.

Q: How do I cite a website with no clear author or publication date?

A: If a website lacks an identifiable author, use the name of the organization or the website itself as the author. For a missing publication date, use "n.d." (no date). Always include the URL and the access date. For example: "The History of Impressionism." The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Accessed February 15, 2023.
https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/impr/hd_impr.htm.

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