

chicago style how to cite illustrations

Title: Chicago Style How to Cite Illustrations: A Comprehensive Guide

chicago style how to cite illustrations is a crucial skill for students, researchers, and writers to ensure proper attribution and avoid plagiarism. Whether you're incorporating a photograph, a painting, a chart, a graph, or a map into your work, understanding the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) guidelines for citing visual materials is paramount. This article will provide a detailed exploration of how to correctly cite illustrations in Chicago style, covering both the notes-bibliography and author-date systems, and addressing common scenarios. We will delve into the essential elements required for a complete citation, the placement of these citations, and best practices for integrating visuals seamlessly into your academic or professional writing.

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Introduction to Citing Illustrations in Chicago Style

Properly citing illustrations in Chicago style is essential for academic integrity and for allowing your readers to locate the source material. The Chicago Manual of Style offers a clear framework for acknowledging the creators and original sources of visual elements that enhance your written work. Failing to cite an illustration can be as serious as plagiarizing text, undermining your credibility. This guide will break down the process, ensuring you can confidently attribute every image, chart, or diagram you use.

The goal of citing illustrations is twofold: to give credit where it is due and to provide context for your audience. Whether it's a historical photograph that illustrates a pivotal moment or a complex graph that clarifies data, the citation bridges the gap between your text and the original artwork or data visualization. We will explore the nuances of both primary citation methods within Chicago style, ensuring you have the knowledge to adapt to different publishing environments.

Understanding the Two Chicago Style Systems

The Chicago Manual of Style primarily operates under two distinct citation systems: the

notes-bibliography system and the author-date system. Each system has its own conventions for how sources, including illustrations, are cited within the text and in the bibliography or reference list. Understanding which system your institution or publication requires is the first step in correctly citing illustrations.

The Notes-Bibliography System

In the notes-bibliography system, short notes (footnotes or endnotes) are used in the text to refer to sources, with a corresponding full bibliographic entry appearing at the end of the paper in a bibliography. This system is common in history, literature, and the arts.

The Author-Date System

The author-date system, conversely, uses parenthetical in-text citations that include the author's last name and the publication year. These are then matched with a reference list at the end of the work. This system is more prevalent in the social sciences and sciences.

Core Components of an Illustration Citation

Regardless of the Chicago style system employed, a complete citation for an illustration typically requires several key pieces of information. These components ensure that your reader can identify the artwork or visual, understand its origin, and potentially find it themselves.

- **Creator/Artist:** The name of the individual or entity responsible for creating the illustration.
- **Title of Illustration:** The specific title of the artwork, photograph, chart, or graph.
- **Date of Creation:** The year or period when the illustration was created.
- **Source Information:** Details about where you accessed the illustration. This could be a book, journal article, website, or archive.
- **Publication/Access Details:** For published works, this includes publisher, city, year, page numbers, or journal volume and issue. For online sources, it includes the URL and date of access.
- **Medium/Type:** Sometimes helpful to specify, such as "oil painting," "digital photograph," "bar graph," etc.

Citing Illustrations in the Notes-Bibliography System

When using the notes-bibliography system, your citation will first appear in a footnote or endnote, followed by a full entry in your bibliography. The level of detail in the note may vary depending on whether the illustration is in a source you have directly consulted or if it's being cited as a secondary source.

Footnote/Endnote Citations for Illustrations

The basic structure for a footnote or endnote for an illustration often includes the creator's name, the title of the illustration, the date of creation, and specific source information. For images found within a book or article, you'll include the publication details and the page number where the illustration appears. For online images, you'll include the website name, URL, and access date.

Example: Illustration from a Book

A typical footnote might look like this:

1. Leonardo da Vinci, "Mona Lisa," ca. 1503-1506, oil on poplar panel, Musée du Louvre, Paris. In *The Art Book*, 2nd ed. (London: Phaidon Press, 1999), 123.

Example: Illustration from a Website

For an illustration found online:

1. National Archives, "Declaration of Independence," accessed October 26, 2023, <https://www.archives.gov/files/digital-gallery/images/dia-med.jpg>.

Bibliography Entries for Illustrations

The bibliography entry provides more complete information. The creator's name is inverted, and all publication details are presented in a standard bibliographic format. The goal is to offer the reader enough information to locate the source independently.

Example: Illustration from a Book (Bibliography)

The corresponding bibliography entry for the da Vinci example would be:

- da Vinci, Leonardo. "Mona Lisa." Ca. 1503-1506. Oil on poplar panel. Musée du Louvre, Paris. In *The Art Book*, 2nd ed., 123. London: Phaidon Press, 1999.

Example: Illustration from a Website (Bibliography)

And for the online image:

- National Archives. "Declaration of Independence." Accessed October 26, 2023.
<https://www.archives.gov/files/digital-gallery/images/dia-med.jpg>.

Citing Illustrations in the Author-Date System

In the author-date system, citations are more concise within the text, directly referencing the author and year. The full details are then provided in a reference list at the end of the document.

In-Text Citations for Illustrations

In-text citations for illustrations are typically placed parenthetically after the illustration is mentioned or after the illustration itself if it's embedded in the text. The format usually includes the creator's last name and the year of creation or publication.

For example, if you are discussing the "Mona Lisa" and its creator:

The iconic "Mona Lisa" (da Vinci ca. 1503-1506) has captivated audiences for centuries.

If the illustration is from a specific source, the citation would be:

As seen in the graph detailing population growth (Smith 2020, 45), there has been a significant increase.

Reference List Entries for Illustrations

The reference list provides complete bibliographic details for each source cited in the text. The format will closely resemble the bibliography entries in the notes-bibliography system, with some variations in punctuation and order.

Example: Illustration from a Book (Reference List)

For the "Mona Lisa" example:

- da Vinci, Leonardo. Ca. 1503-1506. "Mona Lisa." Oil on poplar panel. Musée du Louvre, Paris. In *The Art Book*, 2nd ed., 123. London: Phaidon Press.

Example: Illustration from a Website (Reference List)

For the online image:

- National Archives. 2023. "Declaration of Independence." Accessed October 26, 2023. <https://www.archives.gov/files/digital-gallery/images/dia-med.jpg>.

Special Cases and Considerations

Citing illustrations can become complex when dealing with unique situations, such as personal photographs, unpublished works, or when an illustration is reproduced with permission from a source that is not its original creator.

Illustrations from Personal Collections or Archives

When citing an illustration from a personal collection or a special archive, you will need to provide as much identifying information as possible. This includes the name of the collection, the archival box or folder number, and any identifying accession numbers.

Illustrations from Unpublished Works

For unpublished illustrations, such as sketches or drafts found in an archive, the citation should reflect its unpublished status. Include the date of creation if known, the creator, and the specific location within the archive or collection.

Permissions and Copyright

It is crucial to remember that proper citation is only one aspect of using illustrations. You must also be mindful of copyright laws and obtain necessary permissions for use, especially if your work is intended for publication or widespread distribution. Chicago style does not dictate copyright compliance, but it is a critical ethical and legal consideration.

Charts and Graphs

Charts and graphs, even if created by you based on data from another source, require careful citation. If you create a graph using data from a published study, you must cite the original study. If you reproduce a chart or graph directly from a publication, cite it as you would any other illustration from that source.

When citing a chart or graph you have created, you would typically cite the data source in your bibliography or reference list. If the chart/graph is in your own work, and it directly presents data from a source, then the citation in your text or note would point to that data source.

Identifying Missing Information

If certain details for an illustration citation are unavailable (e.g., the date of creation for an old photograph), note this absence clearly in your citation. You might use "n.d." for "no date" or explicitly state that the date is unknown.

The process of Chicago style how to cite illustrations requires attention to detail but is ultimately about ensuring clarity, providing credit, and enabling readers to explore the visual evidence you present. By adhering to these guidelines, you uphold academic standards and enrich your written work.

FAQ: Chicago Style How to Cite Illustrations

Q: How do I cite an illustration that I found on a museum's website?

A: You would cite the museum as the author (or the specific department if named), the title of the artwork, the date of creation, and then the museum's website name, the URL, and the date you accessed it. For example, in notes-bibliography: 1. Metropolitan Museum of Art, "The Starry Night," 1889, oil on canvas, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, accessed October 26, 2023, www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/436532. In a reference list: Metropolitan Museum of Art. 1889. "The Starry Night." Oil on canvas. The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Accessed October 26, 2023. www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/436532.

Q: What if the illustration has no known creator?

A: If the creator is unknown or anonymous, you would begin the citation with the title of the illustration. For example, "Untitled Photograph." You would then proceed with the date of creation (if known), the source, and access information. In notes-bibliography: 1. "Untitled

Photograph," ca. 1920, gelatin silver print, private collection. In a reference list: "Untitled Photograph." Ca. 1920. Gelatin silver print. Private collection.

Q: Do I need to cite an illustration if it is in a book I am citing?

A: Yes, if you are using an illustration that appears within a book you are citing, you must cite the illustration itself, in addition to the book. The citation for the illustration will indicate its location within the book, such as a page number or figure number.

Q: How do I cite a chart or graph that I created myself using data from another source?

A: When you create a chart or graph based on data from a published source, you cite the original source of the data. In your text or note, you would refer to your chart/graph and indicate that the data is from the original source. For example: "Figure 1 shows the projected population growth (data from Johnson 2021, 55)." Your bibliography or reference list would then include the full entry for Johnson's work.

Q: What is the difference in citing a photograph versus a painting in Chicago style?

A: The core components of the citation remain the same: creator, title, date, and source. The primary difference might be in describing the medium. For a photograph, you might specify "digital photograph," "gelatin silver print," or "daguerreotype." For a painting, you would specify "oil on canvas," "watercolor," etc. The format of the citation (notes-bibliography vs. author-date) will dictate the precise punctuation and order.

Q: How do I cite an illustration that is part of a larger work, like a chapter in an edited book?

A: You cite the illustration with its specific title and creation date, and then the source of the larger work it appears in, including the editor, title of the edited book, publication details, and page number. For example, in notes-bibliography: 1. Vincent van Gogh, "The Bedroom," 1888, oil on canvas, in Van Gogh: Complete Paintings, ed. Ingo F. Walther (Cologne: Taschen, 1990), 345. In a reference list: van Gogh, Vincent. 1888. "The Bedroom." Oil on canvas. In Van Gogh: Complete Paintings, edited by Ingo F. Walther, 345. Cologne: Taschen.

Q: What if I can only find the publication date of the

source, not the creation date of the illustration itself?

A: If the creation date of the illustration is unknown, you can use "n.d." for "no date." However, if the illustration is part of a publication and you have the publication date of that source, you might use that date as a proxy, but it's best practice to be as precise as possible. If the artwork is old and its creation date is truly unknown, clearly stating "n.d." is acceptable.

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