

chicago style humanities citation examples

The Chicago Manual of Style is a widely respected and comprehensive guide for academic and professional writing, particularly in the humanities. Understanding how to properly cite sources is crucial for academic integrity, allowing readers to locate and verify the information you've used. This article will delve deeply into Chicago style humanities citation examples, covering both the author-date and notes-bibliography systems, and providing clear illustrations for various source types. We will explore the nuances of citing books, journal articles, websites, and other common academic materials. Mastering these Chicago style humanities citation examples will empower you to construct well-supported arguments and present your research with clarity and credibility.

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Understanding the Two Chicago Citation Systems

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) presents two primary systems for citing sources: the author-date system and the notes-bibliography system. While both systems aim for clarity and accuracy in referencing, they differ significantly in their presentation. The author-date system, favored in some social sciences and sciences, uses parenthetical citations within the text and a reference list at the end. The notes-bibliography system, more common in the humanities, employs footnotes or endnotes for in-text citations and a bibliography at the end. Understanding which system your field or instructor requires is the first step in correctly applying Chicago style humanities citation examples.

The choice between these two systems often depends on the discipline and the specific requirements of an academic institution or publisher. The author-date system prioritizes conciseness within the main body of the text, allowing for uninterrupted reading flow. The notes-bibliography system, conversely, provides more detailed bibliographic information directly at the point of reference, which can be advantageous for scholarly works with extensive source engagement or for readers who wish to delve deeply into the citations. Both systems, when implemented correctly, achieve the goal of providing thorough and accurate source attribution.

Author-Date System: In-Text Citations

In the author-date system, in-text citations are brief and appear within the text of your paper, typically in parentheses. The format generally includes the author's last name and the year of publication, followed by a page number if a specific passage is being quoted or paraphrased. For instance, a direct quote would look like (Smith 2020, 45). Paraphrasing or summarizing information would typically include only the author and year, such as (Jones 2019).

When citing multiple works by the same author published in the same year, you would append lowercase letters to the year (e.g., 2021a, 2021b). If the author's name is mentioned in the text, the parenthetical citation only needs the year and page number, if applicable. For example, "As Smith argues, the impact of the policy was significant (2020, 48)." This streamlined approach helps maintain readability while still providing essential citation information.

Author-Date System: Reference List Examples

The reference list, appearing at the end of your paper, provides full bibliographic details for every source cited in the text. Entries are alphabetized by the author's last name. The exact format varies depending on the source type, but a consistent structure is essential. For a book, it would typically include the author's full name, the title of the book in italics, the place of publication, the publisher, and the year of publication.

Here are some common Chicago style humanities citation examples for the author-date reference list:

- Book: Lastname, Firstname. Year. *Title of Book*. Place of Publication: Publisher.
- Journal Article: Lastname, Firstname. Year. "Title of Article." *Title of Journal* Volume (Issue): Page numbers.
- Website: Lastname, Firstname (or Organization Name). Year. "Title of Webpage." Title of Website. Last accessed Month Day, Year. URL.

Notes-Bibliography System: Footnotes and Endnotes

The notes-bibliography system utilizes footnotes (appearing at the bottom of the page) or endnotes (collected at the end of the document) to cite sources. Each note is assigned a superscript number in the text corresponding to its entry in the notes section. The first

time a source is cited, the note provides full bibliographic information, similar to a bibliography entry but often with slight variations in punctuation and order. Subsequent citations of the same source are shortened, typically including the author's last name, a shortened title (if necessary to distinguish from other works by the same author), and the page number.

For example, the first footnote for a book might read: 1. Jane Doe, *The History of Ideas* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2021), 78. A subsequent note for the same book would be: 2. Doe, *History of Ideas*, 102. If quoting directly from a website, the note would include the author, title of the page, title of the website, publication date (if available), and the specific URL.

Notes-Bibliography System: Bibliography Examples

The bibliography, presented at the end of the paper, lists all the sources consulted for the work, even if they were not directly cited in the footnotes or endnotes. Like the reference list in the author-date system, bibliography entries are alphabetized by the author's last name. The formatting for bibliography entries closely resembles that of the first footnote/endnote, but with specific punctuation differences. For instance, the author's name is typically inverted (Lastname, Firstname), and the publication information is enclosed in parentheses.

Here are common Chicago style humanities citation examples for the notes-bibliography system:

- Book: Lastname, Firstname. *Title of Book*. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year.
- Journal Article: Lastname, Firstname. "Title of Article." *Title of Journal* Volume, no. Issue (Year): Page numbers.
- Website: Lastname, Firstname (or Organization Name). "Title of Webpage." Title of Website. Last modified/published Month Day, Year. Accessed Month Day, Year. URL.

Citing Books in Chicago Style Humanities Citation Examples

Citing books is a fundamental aspect of academic writing. Whether you are using the author-date or notes-bibliography system, accuracy in presenting book details is paramount. For a single-author book, the essential components include the author's full name, the complete title (italicized), the city of publication, the publisher's name, and the year of publication. If you are referencing a specific edition other than the first, you should

include the edition number as well.

For edited books, you will include the editor's name(s) in addition to the other bibliographic details. For example, in the notes-bibliography system, an edited book citation might appear as: John Smith, ed., *Readings in Modern History* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018). In the author-date system, it would be Smith, John, ed. 2018. *Readings in Modern History*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

When a book has two or three authors, list all of them in the citation, inverting only the first author's name. For books with more than three authors, cite only the first author followed by "et al." or "and others." For example, a chapter in an edited book requires citing the chapter author, the chapter title, the editor(s), the book title, and the page range of the chapter, along with the standard publication information.

Citing Journal Articles in Chicago Style Humanities Citation Examples

Journal articles are a staple in humanities research, and correctly citing them involves providing specific details about the article and the journal it appears in. For the notes-bibliography system, a typical entry for a journal article would include the article author's name, the article title in quotation marks, the journal title in italics, the volume and issue numbers, the year of publication, and the page range of the article. If citing a specific page, that is included in the footnote/endnote, but the bibliography entry lists the full page range.

Here's an example for the notes-bibliography system: Sarah Lee, "The Evolution of Modern Art," *Journal of Art History* 25, no. 2 (2022): 115-130. For the author-date system, the reference list entry would look like: Lee, Sarah. 2022. "The Evolution of Modern Art." *Journal of Art History* 25 (2): 115-130. Ensure you are consistent with your punctuation, particularly with commas and periods, as these are crucial for accurate Chicago style humanities citation examples.

When citing articles found online, especially those with a DOI (Digital Object Identifier), it is best practice to include the DOI. The DOI is a persistent link that ensures readers can access the article even if the journal's website changes. The format typically places the DOI at the end of the citation, often preceded by "doi:".

Citing Websites and Online Resources in Chicago Style Humanities Citation Examples

The digital landscape presents unique challenges for citation. When citing websites, accuracy in providing access information is key, as web content can change or disappear. For the notes-bibliography system, include the author (if available), the title of the specific

page or article in quotation marks, the title of the overall website in italics, the publication or last modified date (if present), and the exact URL. It's also important to include the date you accessed the material, as this helps readers understand when the information was current.

An example for the notes-bibliography system: Mark Johnson, "The Future of Digital Archives," *Digital Humanities Today*, October 15, 2023, accessed November 10, 2023, <https://www.digitalhumanitiestoday.org/future-archives>. For the author-date system's reference list: Johnson, Mark. 2023. "The Future of Digital Archives." *Digital Humanities Today*. Accessed November 10, 2023.

<https://www.digitalhumanitiestoday.org/future-archives>. When citing a website without an author, you would start with the title of the webpage, and if there's no specific publication date, you might use "n.d." for "no date."

For online journal articles or books, if a stable URL or DOI is available, it is generally preferred over simply listing the URL. This ensures the reader can easily locate the precise version of the source you consulted. Always check the specific guidelines provided by your institution or publisher for their preferred method of citing online resources.

Citing Other Source Types in Chicago Style Humanities Citation Examples

Beyond books and journal articles, the humanities frequently engage with a diverse range of sources, including interviews, lectures, images, and archival materials. Each of these requires specific attention to detail in your Chicago style humanities citation examples. For interviews, whether published or personal, you'll need to identify the interviewee, interviewer, date, and location or medium of the interview.

Citing a lecture or presentation typically involves the speaker's name, the title of the lecture (if any), the occasion or event, the date, and the location. For images or artwork, provide the artist's name, the title of the work, the date it was created, the medium, dimensions, and the location where it can be viewed or accessed. Archival materials require detailed descriptions, including the collection name, box and folder numbers, and the repository where the collection is housed.

The key to citing these varied sources accurately lies in identifying the core components of each: who created it, what it is called, when and where it was created or presented, and where it can be found. Consulting the latest edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style* is always recommended for the most up-to-date and comprehensive guidance on these less common citation types.

FAQ

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

A: The main difference lies in how citations are presented within the text and at the end of the work. The author-date system uses parenthetical in-text citations (Author Year, Page) and a comprehensive reference list at the end. The notes-bibliography system uses numbered footnotes or endnotes for in-text citations, with full citation details in the first note and shortened versions in subsequent notes, followed by a bibliography at the end.

Q: When should I use the author-date system versus the notes-bibliography system in Chicago style for humanities research?

A: The notes-bibliography system is traditionally more common and preferred in many humanities disciplines, such as literature, history, and philosophy. The author-date system is more frequently used in some social sciences and scientific fields. Always check your instructor's or publisher's specific guidelines to determine which system is required for your work.

Q: How do I cite a book chapter in Chicago style humanities citation examples?

A: To cite a book chapter, you need to provide information about the chapter's author, the chapter's title (in quotation marks), the editor of the book (if applicable), the book's title (in italics), the publication information for the book, and the page range of the chapter. In the notes-bibliography system, the first note would include all these details, while the bibliography would follow a similar structure.

Q: What is the proper way to cite a website in Chicago style humanities citation examples?

A: Citing a website requires the author's name (if known), the title of the specific page or article (in quotation marks), the title of the website (in italics), the publication or last modified date, and the URL. It is also crucial to include the date you accessed the website. For the notes-bibliography system, this information goes into the footnote/endnote and bibliography.

Q: How do I handle multiple works by the same author in Chicago style, especially in the author-date system?

A: When citing multiple works by the same author published in the same year, you append lowercase letters (a, b, c, etc.) to the year in both the in-text citation and the reference list entry. For example, (Smith 2020a, 55) and (Smith 2020b, 72). In the notes-bibliography

system, you would distinguish subsequent citations by using the author's last name, a shortened title, and the page number.

Q: What is a DOI and why is it important when citing online journal articles in Chicago style?

A: A DOI (Digital Object Identifier) is a unique and persistent alphanumeric string that identifies a digital object, such as a journal article. It is important because it provides a stable link to the article, ensuring that readers can reliably access the specific version you consulted, even if the website hosting the article changes. Including the DOI in your citation is considered best practice for online sources.

Q: How do I cite an interview in Chicago style humanities citation examples?

A: For an interview, you generally need to identify the interviewee, the interviewer (if applicable), the date of the interview, and the format or location of the interview (e.g., personal interview, published in a journal, online). In the notes-bibliography system, the first note would contain these details, while the bibliography entry would be more concise.

Q: What information is required when citing an image in Chicago style?

A: When citing an image, you should include the artist's name, the title of the work (in italics), the date of creation, the medium used, the dimensions of the artwork, and its current location or how it was accessed (e.g., museum collection, website URL). This information should be formatted according to either the author-date or notes-bibliography system requirements.

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