

chicago style illustration citation examples

Chicago Style Illustration Citation Examples: A Comprehensive Guide

chicago style illustration citation examples are essential for academic and professional integrity when incorporating visual elements into your work. Properly citing illustrations, whether they are photographs, drawings, diagrams, or other forms of visual art, ensures that you give credit to the original creators and allow your readers to locate the source material. This guide will delve deeply into the nuances of citing illustrations in Chicago style, covering both the notes-bibliography and author-date systems, and providing clear, actionable examples for various types of visual media. Understanding these principles is crucial for researchers, students, and anyone aiming for accurate and ethical documentation.

Table of Contents

- Understanding Chicago Style for Illustrations
- Key Elements of an Illustration Citation
- Citing Illustrations in Notes-Bibliography System
- Citing Illustrations in Author-Date System
- Specific Examples for Different Illustration Types
- Common Challenges and Solutions in Illustration Citation
- Best Practices for Citing Visuals

Understanding Chicago Style for Illustrations

Chicago style, also known as the Turabian style when adapted for student papers, offers two primary systems for citation: notes-bibliography and author-date. Both systems require careful attention to detail when citing illustrations. The fundamental goal is to provide enough information so that a reader can identify and, if necessary, retrieve the original source of the illustration. This involves accurately describing the illustration itself and providing details about where it was found.

The choice between the notes-bibliography system and the author-date system often depends on the specific publication venue or instructor guidelines. The notes-bibliography system uses footnotes or endnotes for citations, with a corresponding bibliography at the end of the work. The author-date system, conversely, uses parenthetical in-text citations that refer to a reference list at the end. Both are robust methods for ensuring proper attribution of visual materials.

Key Elements of an Illustration Citation

Regardless of the Chicago style system used, several key pieces of information are generally required for a complete illustration citation. These elements help to clearly identify the artwork and its source. Failing to include any of these can make a citation incomplete or even misleading.

The essential components typically include:

- The name of the artist or creator.
- The title of the illustration, if one exists.
- The year of creation or publication.
- The medium or type of illustration (e.g., photograph, oil painting, digital illustration).
- The institution or collection where the original artwork is housed, if applicable.
- The source where the illustration was found (e.g., book, website, journal article).
- Page or figure numbers, if applicable.
- Access information for online sources, such as a URL or DOI.

Citing Illustrations in Notes-Bibliography System

In the notes-bibliography system, citations appear in footnotes or endnotes. The first note for a given source is typically more detailed than subsequent notes. The bibliography entry provides a comprehensive listing of all sources cited.

Footnotes/Endnotes for Illustrations

When citing an illustration in a footnote or endnote, you'll provide details about the illustration and where you encountered it. The structure will vary depending on whether you are citing the original artwork or a reproduction of it in a publication.

For an illustration found in a book:

Example:

1. Leonardo da Vinci, *Mona Lisa*, c. 1503–1506, oil on poplar panel, Musée du Louvre, Paris, reproduced in Walter Isaacson, *Leonardo da Vinci* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2017), 321, fig. 12.

For an illustration found online:

Example:

2. Ansel Adams, *Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico*, 1941, gelatin silver print, developed by Ansel Adams, in the collection of the Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tucson, accessed November 15, 2023, <https://www.anseladams.com/moonrise-hernandez-new-mexico/>.

Bibliography Entries for Illustrations

The bibliography entry for an illustration found in a book or online should be more structured, typically including the creator's name, the title of the illustration, the date of creation, the medium, and the source information. For reproductions, the source where you found it is paramount.

For an illustration reproduced in a book:

Example:

Da Vinci, Leonardo. *Mona Lisa*. c. 1503–1506. Oil on poplar panel. Musée du Louvre, Paris.
Reproduced in *Leonardo da Vinci*, by Walter Isaacson, 321, fig. 12. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2017.

For an illustration found online:

Example:

Adams, Ansel. *Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico*. 1941. Gelatin silver print. Developed by Ansel Adams. Collection of the Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tucson. Accessed November 15, 2023. <https://www.anseladams.com/moonrise-hernandez-new-mexico/>.

Citing Illustrations in Author-Date System

The author-date system of Chicago style uses in-text parenthetical citations, which are then elaborated upon in a reference list at the end of the document. This system is often preferred in scientific and social science fields.

In-Text Citations for Illustrations

In-text citations in the author-date system are brief, typically including the author's last name and the year of publication. For illustrations, you might also include a figure number if you are referring to a specific visual element within a larger work.

Example:

The dramatic contrast in Adams's landscape photography is evident in his iconic *Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico* (Adams 1941).

When referring to a specific illustration within a book or article, you would include the figure number:

Example:

The enigmatic smile of the *Mona Lisa* has captivated viewers for centuries (Da Vinci 2017, fig. 12).

Reference List Entries for Illustrations

The reference list provides full bibliographic details for all sources cited in the text. The format for illustrations will mirror the principles of the notes-bibliography system but will be structured for a list keyed to author and date.

For an illustration reproduced in a book:

Example:

Da Vinci, Leonardo. 2017. *Mona Lisa*. c. 1503–1506. Oil on poplar panel. Musée du Louvre, Paris. Reproduced in *Leonardo da Vinci*, by Walter Isaacson, 321, fig. 12. New York: Simon & Schuster.

For an illustration found online:

Example:

Adams, Ansel. 1941. *Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico*. Gelatin silver print. Developed by Ansel Adams. Collection of the Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tucson. Accessed November 15, 2023. <https://www.anseladams.com/moonrise-herandez-new-mexico/>.

Specific Examples for Different Illustration Types

The principles of Chicago style illustration citation extend to a wide variety of visual media. It's important to adapt the general guidelines to fit the specific nature of the artwork.

Photographs

Photographs are frequently cited. The key is to identify the photographer, the title of the photograph, the date it was taken, and the source where it is found. If the photograph is a famous artwork, include information about the original medium and collection.

Notes-Bibliography Example:

3. Dorothea Lange, *Migrant Mother*, 1936, gelatin silver print, Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, Washington, D.C., accessed November 15, 2023, <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/fsa.8b2951/>.

Bibliography Example:

Lange, Dorothea. *Migrant Mother*. 1936. Gelatin silver print. Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, Washington, D.C. Accessed November 15, 2023. <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/fsa.8b2951/>.

Paintings and Drawings

When citing paintings or drawings, focus on the artist, the title of the work, the year of creation, the medium, and its current location. If you are referencing a reproduction, also include the publication details.

Notes-Bibliography Example:

4. Vincent van Gogh, *The Starry Night*, 1889, oil on canvas, Museum of Modern Art, New York, in Van Gogh: *The Complete Paintings*, by Ingo F. Walther (Cologne: Taschen, 1990), 145, plate 78.

Bibliography Example:

Van Gogh, Vincent. *The Starry Night*. 1889. Oil on canvas. Museum of Modern Art, New York. In Van Gogh: *The Complete Paintings*, by Ingo F. Walther, 145, plate 78. Cologne: Taschen, 1990.

Diagrams and Charts

Diagrams, charts, graphs, and other informational graphics are often created by authors or publishers, rather than being standalone artworks. In these cases, the source of the publication becomes more important.

Notes-Bibliography Example:

5. Figure 3, showing the lifecycle of a butterfly, in *Introduction to Entomology*, by John Smith (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2020), 45.

Bibliography Example:

Smith, John. 2020. *Introduction to Entomology*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Figure 3.

Works of Art from Museums or Galleries

When citing a work of art housed in a museum or gallery that you have visited, or whose collection you are referencing, you should include the museum's name and location, along with the artwork's details.

Notes-Bibliography Example:

6. Georgia O'Keeffe, *Ram's Head White Hollyhock and Little Hills*, 1935, oil on canvas, Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Bibliography Example:

O'Keeffe, Georgia. *Ram's Head White Hollyhock and Little Hills*. 1935. Oil on canvas. Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Common Challenges and Solutions in Illustration Citation

Citing illustrations can sometimes present unique challenges. Identifying the creator, determining the correct title, or finding accurate publication dates are common hurdles.

One significant challenge is determining who to credit as the author. For photographs, it's typically the photographer. For commissioned illustrations or artwork in a book, it might be the artist. If the creator is unknown or the work is anonymous, you would generally start the citation with the title of the illustration.

Another common issue is distinguishing between the date of creation and the date of publication of a reproduction. Always prioritize the date of the original artwork, but ensure the publication date of the source where you found it is also clearly indicated.

For digital illustrations or online art, attribution can be complex due to the ease of reproduction and potential for copyright infringement. Always try to trace the image to its original source and provide stable URLs or DOIs.

When in doubt about a specific element, consult the latest edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style* or the specific guidelines provided by your institution or publisher. Precision and clarity are paramount.

Best Practices for Citing Visuals

To ensure your citations are accurate and effective, consider these best practices. Following these guidelines will enhance the credibility of your work and demonstrate respect for intellectual property.

- Always aim to cite the original source of an illustration whenever possible.
- When citing a reproduction, clearly indicate that it is a reproduction and provide all necessary details about the publication or website.
- If an illustration lacks a title, you can create a descriptive title in brackets (e.g., [Portrait of an unknown man]).
- Ensure consistency in your citation style throughout your document.
- Double-check all names, dates, and titles for accuracy.
- When using online sources, verify that the links are still active and reliable.
- If you are using an image from a database, note the database name and your access details.
- When referring to images within a text, use a consistent method, such as calling them "figure" and numbering them sequentially.

By meticulously following these guidelines for Chicago style illustration citation examples, you can effectively integrate visual elements into your work while upholding academic and professional standards of attribution and integrity. Accurate citation not only avoids plagiarism but also enriches the reader's experience by providing avenues for further exploration.

FAQ

Q: What is the most important information to include when citing an illustration in Chicago style?

A: The most important information generally includes the creator's name, the title of the illustration, the date of creation, and the source where you found the illustration. If it's a famous artwork, details about its original medium and current location are also vital.

Q: How do I cite a photograph I found on a museum's website?

A: You would cite the photographer (if known), the title of the photograph, the year it was taken, the medium, the name of the museum, and the URL of the webpage where you accessed it. Include the date you accessed the website.

Q: What if I don't know the artist of an illustration?

A: If the artist is unknown, you should start the citation with the title of the illustration. If no title is provided, you can create a descriptive title in brackets (e.g., [Unidentified medieval manuscript illumination]) and then provide the source information.

Q: How do I differentiate between the creation date of an artwork and the publication date of a book containing it?

A: Chicago style requires you to clearly distinguish these. The creation date of the artwork should be presented first, followed by the publication details of the source where you found the reproduction.

Q: Should I include copyright information in my illustration citations?

A: Generally, copyright information is not required in the citation itself, but it is crucial to ensure you have the right to use the illustration and to respect copyright laws. The citation's purpose is to identify the source and creator, not to grant usage rights.

Q: How do I cite an illustration that is part of a larger work, like a diagram in a textbook?

A: For diagrams, charts, or figures within a book or article, you would typically cite the author and title of the book/article, the publisher, the year, and the specific page or figure number where the illustration appears. You may also note it as "Figure X."

Q: What is the difference between citing an original artwork versus a reproduction in Chicago style?

A: When citing an original artwork, you focus on its creation details and location. When citing a reproduction, you emphasize the source (book, website, etc.) where you encountered it, along with the artwork's original details. The reproduction's publication date or access date is also important.

Q: Are there specific rules for citing illustrations found on social media?

A: Citing social media illustrations can be tricky. Prioritize identifying the original creator and the platform. Include the creator's username, the title of the post (or a description), the date of the post, and the URL. Be aware that social media content can be ephemeral.

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