

chicago style journal article bibliography example

The Chicago Manual of Style is a widely respected and frequently used citation style, particularly in the humanities and social sciences. Mastering its intricacies, especially for journal articles, is crucial for academic integrity and clear communication. This comprehensive guide will delve into the specifics of crafting a Chicago style journal article bibliography example, covering essential elements, common scenarios, and best practices. Understanding how to format these entries accurately ensures your research is presented professionally and adheres to scholarly standards. We will explore the core components of a bibliographic entry, differentiate between notes and bibliography styles, and provide concrete examples for various types of journal articles.

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Understanding Chicago Style for Journal Articles

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) offers two primary citation systems: the notes and bibliography system and the author-date system. For journal articles, the notes and bibliography system is more prevalent, especially in disciplines like history, literature, and art history. This system uses numbered footnotes or endnotes to cite sources within the text, with a corresponding bibliography at the end of the work. The bibliography provides a complete list of all sources consulted and cited, offering readers a roadmap to your research and enabling them to locate the original materials. A well-formatted Chicago style journal article bibliography example is a hallmark of rigorous scholarship.

Adhering to Chicago style ensures consistency and credibility in your academic writing. It allows readers to easily identify and verify the sources you have used, reinforcing the foundation of your arguments. Whether you are writing a research paper, a thesis, or a scholarly article for publication, a correctly formatted bibliography is non-negotiable. This guide aims to demystify the process, providing clear instructions and examples.

Key Components of a Chicago Style Journal Article Bibliography Entry

A standard Chicago style bibliography entry for a journal article requires specific pieces of information to be presented in a precise order and format. These components work together to provide a complete citation, allowing any reader to locate the source with ease. Understanding each element is the

first step towards creating accurate entries.

The essential elements typically include:

- Author's full name (last name first)
- Title of the article (in quotation marks)
- Title of the journal (italicized)
- Volume number
- Issue number (if applicable)
- Publication year
- Page numbers for the article
- DOI (Digital Object Identifier) or URL (if accessed online)

The Notes and Bibliography System: A Deeper Dive

The notes and bibliography system, often referred to as the humanities style, is a cornerstone of Chicago style. In this system, citations are presented in two forms: notes within the text and a bibliography at the end. Notes, typically footnotes or endnotes, provide immediate citation information, allowing readers to check sources without disrupting the flow of the main text. The bibliography then serves as a comprehensive and alphabetized list of all works cited in the notes. This dual approach offers a robust method for citing scholarly works, including journal articles. For a Chicago style journal article bibliography example, it's crucial to understand how these notes translate into the final bibliography.

The initial note for a journal article will often contain more detailed information, such as the specific page number referenced in the text. Subsequent notes for the same source can be abbreviated. The bibliography, however, provides a more concise yet complete record of each source, focusing on retrieval information rather than specific page references within the article itself.

Bibliography Entries: Core Structure and Examples

The structure of a Chicago style journal article bibliography entry is designed for clarity and ease of retrieval. The general format is as follows: Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." *Title of Journal* Volume, no. Issue (Year): Page Numbers. DOI or URL.

Let's break down a typical Chicago style journal article bibliography example:

Example 1: A Standard Print Journal Article

For a journal article published in a physical format, the entry would look like this:

Smith, John A. "The Evolution of Urban Planning." *Journal of Urban Studies* 45, no. 3 (2022): 112-135.

In this example:

- "Smith, John A." is the author's name, with the last name preceding the first.
- "The Evolution of Urban Planning." is the title of the article, enclosed in quotation marks.
- *Journal of Urban Studies* is the title of the journal, italicized.
- "45, no. 3" indicates the volume and issue number.
- "(2022)" is the publication year.
- "112-135" are the page numbers for the entire article.

Example 2: An Online Journal Article with a DOI

When an article is available online and has a DOI, it's essential to include this persistent identifier. The DOI is preferred over a URL as it is more stable.

Johnson, Maria B. "Digital Humanities and Literary Analysis." *Digital Scholarship Quarterly* 12, no. 1 (2023): 55-78. doi:10.1086/12345678.

Key elements here:

- The structure is similar to the print example, but the DOI is added at the end.
- "doi:10.1086/12345678" is the Digital Object Identifier.

Example 3: An Online Journal Article without a DOI (Accessed via Database)

If an article is accessed through an academic database and lacks a DOI, a URL may be provided. However, for clarity and to adhere to current CMOS recommendations, if the article is available in print, the print citation is generally preferred. If it's an online-only publication, then the URL is necessary.

Davis, Robert L. "The Impact of Social Media on Political Discourse." *Perspectives in Political Science* 38, no. 2 (2021): 201-220.
<https://www.politicalscienceref.org/articles/impactsocialmedia>.

Note that some databases may require a "retrieved from" or "accessed on" date, but CMOS generally omits these unless the content is likely to change or be removed.

Handling Different Types of Journal Articles in Chicago Style

While the core structure remains consistent, certain variations in journal articles may require slight adjustments to the bibliography entry. Understanding these nuances is vital for creating comprehensive and accurate citations.

Articles with Multiple Authors

For bibliographies, Chicago style typically lists the first author's name in reverse order (last, first) and then lists subsequent authors by their first name, followed by their last name. If there are more than two authors, you can list all of them, or, for the bibliography, you can list the first author followed by "et al." (and others) after the initial mention.

For two authors:

Williams, Sarah, and Michael Chen. "New Trends in Renewable Energy." *Energy Futures* 7, no. 1 (2022): 1-25.

For three or more authors (listing all):

Garcia, Maria, David Lee, and Aisha Khan. "The Psychology of Consumer Behavior." *Journal of Applied Psychology* 105, no. 4 (2021): 401-425.

For three or more authors (using et al. in the bibliography):

Brown, Emily, et al. "The Neuroscience of Learning." *Cognitive Science Review* 15, no. 2 (2023): 88-105.

Articles from Edited Volumes of Journals (Less Common)

Occasionally, a journal might publish a special issue edited by guest editors, and an article within that might be cited. The format would acknowledge the editor of the special issue.

Taylor, James P. "Historical Perspectives on Film Noir." In *Studies in Cinematic Genres*, edited by Eleanor Vance, 78-95. *Film Studies Quarterly* 20, no. 3 (2020): 78-95.

Retracted Articles

If an article has been retracted, it is good practice to note this in the bibliography to inform readers.

Anderson, Kevin R. "A Study of Nanoparticle Toxicity." *Journal of Environmental Science* 50, no. 2 (2019): 200-215. Retracted.
doi:10.1038/s41565-019-0550-7.

Common Challenges and Solutions in Chicago Style Bibliographies

Navigating the specifics of Chicago style can present challenges, especially

when dealing with less common source types or variations in publication formats. Being aware of these common pitfalls can help you avoid errors and ensure your bibliography is consistently formatted.

Inconsistent Formatting

The most common challenge is inconsistency in punctuation, capitalization, or the order of information. This can arise from relying on multiple citation guides or not having a clear understanding of the core rules. Solution: Always refer to the latest edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style* or a reliable secondary source that accurately reflects its guidelines. Create a template for your most frequently cited source types.

Handling Missing Information

Sometimes, a piece of required information, like an issue number or page range, might be unavailable. Solution: Chicago style provides guidance for such situations. For instance, if an issue number is not provided, you may omit it or use "no." followed by the year if the journal is paginated by year. If page numbers are missing for an online article, the DOI or URL is even more critical.

Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) vs. URLs

Deciding when to use a DOI versus a URL can be confusing. Solution: Prioritize the DOI whenever available. It is a stable, permanent link to the article. Only use a URL if a DOI is not provided and the article is accessed online. Ensure the URL is complete and leads directly to the article.

Website vs. Journal Article

Distinguishing between a journal article and a piece published on a website can be tricky, especially with online-only publications. Solution: Consider the editorial rigor and peer-review process. If it's published in a recognized scholarly journal, even online, it follows journal article conventions. A regular website article would have a different citation format.

Tips for Maintaining Accuracy in Your Chicago Style Bibliography

Creating a meticulously accurate Chicago style journal article bibliography example requires ongoing attention to detail and a systematic approach. Implementing these tips can significantly improve the quality and reliability of your citations.

- **Start Early:** Begin compiling your bibliography as you begin your research. Keep a running list of all sources you consult, noting down essential bibliographic details as you go. This prevents the last-minute scramble and potential errors.

- **Use Citation Management Software Wisely:** Tools like Zotero, Mendeley, or EndNote can be invaluable. However, always review the generated citations for accuracy against Chicago style guidelines, as they are not always perfect.
- **Develop a Style Sheet:** For larger projects, consider creating a personal style sheet that outlines your specific citation preferences and how you handle common source types according to Chicago style.
- **Proofread Meticulously:** Before submitting any work, conduct a thorough proofread of your bibliography. Check for spelling errors, incorrect punctuation, missing elements, and consistent formatting.
- **Consult the Official Manual:** When in doubt, always refer to the most recent edition of The Chicago Manual of Style. It is the definitive authority on citation practices.
- **Understand the Purpose:** Remember that the bibliography's primary goal is to allow readers to find your sources. Ensure all necessary information for retrieval is present and clearly formatted.

By integrating these practices into your research workflow, you can confidently produce accurate and professional Chicago style bibliographies for your journal articles and other scholarly works.

FAQ

Q: What is the primary difference between the notes and bibliography system and the author-date system in Chicago style?

A: The notes and bibliography system uses numbered footnotes or endnotes within the text for citations, with a comprehensive bibliography at the end. The author-date system uses parenthetical citations in the text, typically including the author's last name and year of publication, which correspond to an alphabetized reference list at the end of the work. For many journal articles, especially in the humanities, the notes and bibliography system is more commonly used.

Q: How do I format the author's name in a Chicago style journal article bibliography entry?

A: In the bibliography, the author's name is listed with the last name first, followed by a comma, and then the first name. For example: Smith, John A. If there are multiple authors, the first author is listed last name first, and subsequent authors are listed first name first.

Q: Should I include page numbers for the entire article or just the specific page cited in my notes?

A: In the bibliography, you should include the page range for the entire article (e.g., 112-135). The specific page number you cited in your footnote

or endnote is included in the note itself, not typically in the bibliography entry.

Q: What is a DOI and why is it important to include in a Chicago style bibliography?

A: A DOI (Digital Object Identifier) is a unique alphanumeric string that identifies an electronic document and provides a persistent link to its location on the internet. It is crucial to include a DOI in your bibliography entry because it is a more stable and reliable way to access the online article than a URL, which can change or become broken over time.

Q: How do I cite a journal article that I accessed through an academic database like JSTOR or ProQuest?

A: If the article has a DOI, you should always use that. If it does not have a DOI and you are accessing it through a database, you generally do not need to include the database name or URL unless the article is online-only and has no DOI. The print citation details are usually sufficient if the article is also available in print. For online-only articles without a DOI accessed via a database, a URL might be used, but check the latest CMOS edition for specific guidance.

Q: What if a journal article has no author?

A: If a journal article has no identifiable author, you begin the bibliography entry with the title of the article. The title is then followed by the journal title, volume, issue, year, and page numbers, as usual. The entry would be alphabetized by the first significant word in the title.

Q: How do I format the title of the journal article and the journal itself in a Chicago style bibliography?

A: The title of the journal article is enclosed in quotation marks (e.g., "The Impact of Climate Change"). The title of the journal itself is italicized (e.g., *Environmental Science Journal*).

Q: Is it acceptable to use an abbreviation for a journal title in the bibliography?

A: Generally, it is best to use the full journal title in the bibliography for clarity and ease of retrieval, unless a widely recognized abbreviation is standard in your field, and even then, consistency is key. The Chicago Manual of Style advises against abbreviations in most cases in the bibliography.

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