

chicago style paper citation examples

The Chicago Manual of Style is a widely respected style guide for academic writing, particularly in the humanities and social sciences. Mastering its citation system is crucial for any student or researcher aiming for clarity, accuracy, and academic integrity. This comprehensive guide will delve into the intricacies of Chicago style paper citation examples, covering both the author-date and notes-bibliography systems. We will explore the fundamental principles of citing various source types, from books and journal articles to websites and interviews, providing clear, practical examples for both in-text citations and corresponding bibliography entries. Understanding these examples is key to avoiding plagiarism and giving proper credit to your sources, thereby strengthening your arguments and enhancing the credibility of your work. This article aims to equip you with the knowledge to confidently apply Chicago style to your own academic writing.

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Key Takeaways for Chicago Style Paper Citation Examples

Understanding the Two Chicago Style Systems

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) offers two distinct systems for referencing sources: the notes-bibliography system and the author-date system. While both systems aim for accuracy and clarity, they differ in their application and where citation information appears. The notes-bibliography system, often favored in the humanities, uses footnotes or endnotes to cite sources within the text, with a comprehensive bibliography at the end of the paper. The author-date system, more common in the sciences and social sciences, uses parenthetical in-text citations (author, year) that correspond to a reference list at the end. Understanding the nuances of each system is the first step toward correctly implementing Chicago style paper citation examples.

Choosing the appropriate system often depends on the specific requirements of your discipline, your instructor, or the publisher. Both systems require meticulous attention to detail to ensure that every source is properly attributed. This guide will provide examples for both, allowing you to adapt them to your specific needs. Regardless of the system chosen, consistency is paramount. Once you select a system, adhere to its rules throughout your entire paper.

Author-Date System: In-Text Citations

The author-date system is characterized by brief parenthetical citations placed directly within the text, usually at the end of a sentence or clause. These citations typically include the author's last name and the year of publication, and sometimes a page number for direct quotations. The goal is to provide just enough information for the reader to locate the full citation in the reference list without disrupting the flow of the text.

Basic Author-Date In-Text Citation

For a general reference to a work, you include the author's last name and the publication year. If the author's name is already mentioned in the sentence, you only need to provide the year in parentheses.

- (Smith 2020)
- According to Smith (2020), the findings were significant.

Including Page Numbers

When quoting directly or paraphrasing a specific idea from a particular page, it is essential to include the page number. This helps readers pinpoint the exact location of the information in the source.

- (Johnson 2019, 45)
- The study highlighted the importance of collaboration (Davis 2021, 112-115).

Citing Multiple Authors

The treatment of multiple authors in the author-date system follows specific guidelines. For two authors, both names are included. For three or more authors, only the first author's last name is used, followed by "et al."

- (Williams and Brown 2018)
- (Garcia et al. 2022)

Citing Works with No Author

If a work lacks an author, you typically use a shortened version of the title (italicized if it's a standalone work like a book, or in quotation marks if it's an article or chapter) in place of the author's name.

- (The Future of AI 2023, 30)
- ("Understanding Climate Change" 2021, 8)

Author-Date System: Reference List Examples

The reference list is an alphabetical compilation of all sources cited in the paper, providing full bibliographic details for each entry. This list allows readers to find and consult the original sources.

Book (Monograph) Example

This format is used for single-author books.

- Author Last Name, First Name. Year. *Title of Book*. City of Publication: Publisher.
- Smith, John. 2020. *Theories of Modern Art*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Journal Article Example

This example shows how to cite a scholarly article from a journal.

- Author Last Name, First Name. Year. "Article Title." *Journal Title* Volume, no. Issue (Month/Season): Page Numbers.
- Johnson, Emily. 2019. "The Impact of Social Media on Youth." *Journal of Psychology* 25, no. 3 (July): 145-160.

Website Article Example

Citing online content requires careful attention to detail, including URLs and access dates.

- Author Last Name, First Name (if available). Year. "Article Title." Website Name. Last modified Month Day, Year (if available). Accessed Month Day, Year. URL.
- Davis, Robert. 2021. "Sustainable Urban Planning." *Green Living Today*. Last modified March 15, 2021. Accessed October 26, 2023.
<https://www.greenlivingtoday.com/sustainable-urban-planning>.

Notes-Bibliography System: Footnotes and Endnotes

The notes-bibliography system uses numbered notes (either footnotes at the bottom of the page or endnotes at the end of the document) to cite sources. Each note corresponds to a superscript number in the text. The first time a source is cited, the note includes full bibliographic information. Subsequent citations of the same source are abbreviated.

First Note Citation Example

This is how a source would be cited the first time it appears in your notes.

- 1. Author Last Name, First Name, *Title of Book* (City of Publication: Publisher, Year), Page Number.
- 1. Smith, John, *Theories of Modern Art* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2020), 55.

Subsequent Note Citation Example

After the first full citation, shorter notes are used for subsequent references to the same work.

- 2. Author Last Name, *Shortened Title*, Page Number.
- 2. Smith, *Modern Art*, 78.

Notes for Journal Articles and Websites

Similar principles apply to citing journal articles and websites in notes, with full details for the first mention and abbreviated details thereafter.

- 3. Emily Johnson, "The Impact of Social Media on Youth," *Journal of Psychology* 25, no. 3 (July 2019): 150.
- 4. Robert Davis, "Sustainable Urban Planning," *Green Living Today*, last modified March 15, 2021, accessed October 26, 2023, <https://www.greenlivingtoday.com/sustainable-urban-planning>.
- 5. Johnson, "Social Media," 155.
- 6. Davis, "Sustainable Urban Planning."

Notes-Bibliography System: Bibliography Examples

The bibliography is an alphabetical list of all sources consulted and cited in the paper, providing full bibliographic details for each entry, similar to the author-date reference list. The key difference lies in the formatting of names and punctuation, which can vary slightly from the reference list in the author-date system.

Book (Monograph) Example

This is the standard format for a book in the bibliography.

- Author Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. City of Publication: Publisher, Year.
- Smith, John. *Theories of Modern Art*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2020.

Journal Article Example

This format is used for citing scholarly articles in a bibliography.

- Author Last Name, First Name. "Article Title." *Journal Title* Volume, no. Issue (Month/Season

Year): Page Numbers.

- Johnson, Emily. "The Impact of Social Media on Youth." *Journal of Psychology* 25, no. 3 (July 2019): 145-160.

Website Article Example

Online resources are cited comprehensively in the bibliography.

- Author Last Name, First Name (if available). "Article Title." Website Name. Last modified Month Day, Year (if available). Accessed Month Day, Year. URL.
- Davis, Robert. "Sustainable Urban Planning." *Green Living Today*. Last modified March 15, 2021. Accessed October 26, 2023.
<https://www.greenlivingtoday.com/sustainable-urban-planning>.

Citing Common Source Types

Beyond the basic examples, Chicago style requires specific formatting for a wide array of source materials. Precision in these details ensures your citations are both correct and informative.

Books (Monographs)

When citing books, consider variations like edited volumes, books with multiple authors, or subsequent editions.

- Single Author: Author Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. City: Publisher, Year.
- Edited Book: Editor Last Name, First Name, ed. *Title of Book*. City: Publisher, Year.
- Book with Two Authors: Author 1 Last Name, First Name, and Author 2 Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. City: Publisher, Year.
- Subsequent Edition: Author Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. Edition Number. City: Publisher, Year.

Journal Articles

Journal article citations need to accurately reflect the publication details of the journal itself.

- Standard Journal Article: Author Last Name, First Name. "Article Title." *Journal Title* Volume, no. Issue (Month/Season Year): Page Numbers.
- Article from an Online Database: Author Last Name, First Name. "Article Title." *Journal Title* Volume, no. Issue (Month/Season Year): Page Numbers. Accessed Month Day, Year. Database Name.

Websites and Online Resources

The dynamic nature of online content necessitates clear identification of publication or modification dates and access dates.

- Web Page with Author: Author Last Name, First Name. "Page Title." Website Name. Last modified Month Day, Year. Accessed Month Day, Year. URL.
- Web Page without Author: "Page Title." Website Name. Last modified Month Day, Year. Accessed Month Day, Year. URL.
- Organization as Author: Organization Name. "Report Title." Publication Year. URL.

Interviews

Citing interviews, whether published or personal, requires specifying the interviewee, interviewer (if applicable), date, and location/medium.

- Personal Interview: Interviewee Last Name, First Name. Personal interview by Interviewer Last Name, First Name. Month Day, Year.
- Published Interview: Interviewee Last Name, First Name. Interview by Interviewer Last Name, First Name. *Publication Title*, Month Day, Year.

Other Less Common Sources

Chicago style also provides guidance for citing a variety of other materials, ensuring comprehensive coverage.

- Newspaper Article: Author Last Name, First Name. "Article Title." *Newspaper Title*, Month Day, Year.
- Book Chapter: Author Last Name, First Name. "Chapter Title." In *Book Title*, edited by Editor Last Name, First Name, Page Numbers. City: Publisher, Year.
- Film: Film Title. Directed by Director Last Name. Production Company, Year.

Adhering to these detailed Chicago style paper citation examples will significantly enhance the professionalism and credibility of your academic work. By consistently applying the correct formatting for in-text citations, footnotes, endnotes, bibliographies, and reference lists, you demonstrate a commitment to academic rigor and ensure that your research is well-supported and properly attributed.

FAQ

Q: What are the two main citation systems in the Chicago Manual of Style?

A: The Chicago Manual of Style offers two primary citation systems: the notes-bibliography system, which uses footnotes or endnotes for in-text citations and a bibliography at the end, and the author-date system, which uses parenthetical author-date citations in the text and a reference list at the end.

Q: When should I use the author-date system versus the notes-bibliography system?

A: The choice between the two systems often depends on the academic discipline. The notes-bibliography system is frequently preferred in the humanities (literature, history, arts), while the author-date system is more common in the social sciences and sciences. Always check your instructor's or publisher's guidelines.

Q: How do I cite a source for the first time in a footnote using

the notes-bibliography system?

A: For the first citation of a source in a footnote, you provide the full bibliographic information: Author's First Name Last Name, *Title of Work* (City of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication), Page Number(s).

Q: How do I cite a source I've already cited in a subsequent footnote using the notes-bibliography system?

A: For subsequent citations of the same source in a footnote, you use an abbreviated form: Author's Last Name, *Shortened Title*, Page Number(s).

Q: What is the difference between a bibliography and a reference list in Chicago style?

A: In the notes-bibliography system, the list at the end is called a bibliography, and it includes all sources consulted, not just those cited. In the author-date system, the list is called a reference list, and it typically includes only the sources that were actually cited in the text.

Q: How do I cite a website in Chicago style author-date?

A: For a website article in the author-date system's reference list, you would typically format it as: Author Last Name, First Name (if available). Year. "Article Title." Website Name. Last modified Month Day, Year (if available). Accessed Month Day, Year. URL.

Q: What is the correct way to cite a book with two authors in the author-date system's reference list?

A: For a book with two authors in the author-date system's reference list, you format it as: Author 1 Last Name, First Name, and Author 2 Last Name, First Name. Year. *Title of Book*. City of Publication: Publisher.

Q: Should I italicize book titles in Chicago style citations?

A: Yes, in both the notes-bibliography and author-date systems, book titles, journal titles, and other standalone works are generally italicized. Article titles within journals or collections are typically placed in quotation marks.

Q: How do I handle citing sources that have no author or editor?

A: If a source has no author, you typically use a shortened version of its title in the in-text citation (author-date) or the bibliography/reference list entry. For standalone works like books, the title is italicized; for articles or chapters, it is put in quotation marks.

Q: Where can I find more detailed Chicago style paper citation examples?

A: The most authoritative source for detailed Chicago style paper citation examples is The Chicago Manual of Style itself. Additionally, many university writing centers and online resources offer comprehensive guides and examples based on the latest edition of the manual.

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