

chicago style sociology citation examples

Mastering Chicago Style Sociology Citation Examples for Academic Success

chicago style sociology citation examples are crucial for students and researchers in the field of sociology to accurately attribute sources and maintain academic integrity. Whether you are crafting a research paper, a literature review, or a dissertation, understanding the nuances of the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) is paramount. This comprehensive guide will demystify the process, providing clear, detailed examples for various source types commonly encountered in sociological research. We will cover the two primary citation systems within Chicago style: notes and bibliography, and author-date. Furthermore, we will explore specific scenarios, such as citing journal articles, books, websites, and even less common sources, ensuring you have the knowledge to cite them correctly. Mastering these citation practices not only prevents plagiarism but also enhances the credibility and professionalism of your academic work, making your research easily verifiable for your readers.

Table of Contents

Understanding the Two Chicago Style Systems

Notes and Bibliography System: In-Text Citations

Notes and Bibliography System: Bibliography Entries

Author-Date System: In-Text Citations

Author-Date System: Reference List Entries

Citing Books in Chicago Style Sociology

Citing Journal Articles in Chicago Style Sociology

Citing Websites and Online Resources in Chicago Style Sociology

Citing Other Common Sociology Sources

Common Citation Pitfalls and How to Avoid Them

Understanding the Two Chicago Style Systems

The Chicago Manual of Style offers two distinct citation systems: the notes and bibliography system, and the author-date system. Both systems are widely accepted in academic disciplines, including sociology, but they serve slightly different purposes and have distinct formatting conventions. Choosing the appropriate system often depends on the specific requirements of your professor, department, or publication. Understanding these differences is the first step to accurately applying Chicago style for your sociology citations.

The Notes and Bibliography System

The notes and bibliography system is characterized by the use of numbered footnotes or endnotes for in-text citations, supplemented by a comprehensive bibliography at the end of the work. This system is often favored in the humanities, but it is also prevalent in many sociology departments, particularly for longer works like dissertations and theses. The notes provide a direct link to the source without interrupting the flow of the text as extensively as some other systems.

The Author-Date System

In contrast, the author-date system uses parenthetical in-text citations that include the author's last

name and the year of publication, and sometimes a page number. This system is generally preferred in the social sciences, including sociology, and in scientific fields. It offers a more concise in-text reference, with full source details provided in a reference list at the end of the document. This system is often favored for its ease of use and its clear indication of when a source was published, which can be important in rapidly evolving fields.

Notes and Bibliography System: In-Text Citations

When employing the notes and bibliography system, in-text citations are handled through footnotes or endnotes. Each citation in the text is marked by a superscript number, which corresponds to a note at the bottom of the page (footnote) or at the end of the document (endnote). The initial citation of a source in the notes typically includes full bibliographic information, while subsequent citations of the same source are abbreviated.

First Reference to a Source

The first time you cite a particular source, the corresponding note will contain complete publication details, resembling a bibliography entry but formatted for a note. This allows readers to immediately identify the source without needing to search the bibliography. For example, a book would be cited with the author's full name, title, publication details, and page number.

Subsequent References to a Source

After the first full citation, subsequent references to the same source can be shortened. This abbreviation usually includes the author's last name, a shortened version of the title (if necessary to distinguish from other works by the same author), and the page number. This convention streamlines the citation process and keeps the notes concise.

Using Page Numbers

It is essential to include specific page numbers whenever you are quoting directly from a source or paraphrasing a particular idea from a specific section. This allows readers to locate the exact information within the source material, a critical aspect of thorough academic research and verification.

Notes and Bibliography System: Bibliography Entries

The bibliography is a crucial component of the notes and bibliography system. It appears at the end of your paper and lists all the sources you have cited in your notes. The bibliography is alphabetized by the author's last name and provides full bibliographic details for each entry, allowing readers to easily find and consult the original sources.

Formatting Book Entries

For books, the bibliography entry typically includes the author's full name (last name first), the full title of the book in italics, the place of publication, the publisher, and the year of publication. For instance, a typical book entry would look like this: Author Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book*. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year.

Formatting Journal Article Entries

Journal articles are also frequently cited in sociological research. The bibliography entry for a journal article includes the author's full name, the title of the article in quotation marks, the title of the journal in italics, the volume and issue numbers, and the year of publication, often followed by a page range. For example: Author Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." *Title of Journal* Volume (Issue): Page Range.

Formatting Website Entries

Citing online resources requires specific information to ensure findability. For websites, a bibliography entry typically includes the author or organization name, the title of the specific page or document, the name of the website, the date of publication or last update, and the URL. Crucially, include the date you accessed the page.

Author-Date System: In-Text Citations

The author-date system for Chicago style is characterized by concise in-text citations that directly reference the author and publication year. These parenthetical citations are embedded within the text and are typically followed by a comma and the page number when quoting or paraphrasing specific content. This system is popular in sociology for its straightforwardness.

Basic Author-Date Citation

The most common form of an author-date in-text citation includes the author's last name and the year of publication enclosed in parentheses. For example, (Smith 2020). This allows readers to quickly identify the source.

Including Page Numbers

When quoting directly or referencing specific ideas, it is essential to include the page number(s) within the parentheses. This is done by adding the page number after the year, separated by a comma. For example, (Smith 2020, 145).

Multiple Authors

Citing works with multiple authors follows specific rules. For two authors, both names are included, connected by "and." For three or more authors, the citation includes the first author's last name followed by "et al." (and others).

Author-Date System: Reference List Entries

The reference list, also known as a Works Cited or References page in some styles, is the comprehensive compilation of all sources cited in the text when using the author-date system. Entries in the reference list are alphabetized by the author's last name and provide full bibliographic details, analogous to the bibliography in the notes and bibliography system, but formatted according to author-date conventions.

Book Entries in Author-Date

For books in an author-date reference list, the entry begins with the author's last name and first name, followed by the year of publication in parentheses. Then comes the title of the book in italics, followed by the place of publication and the publisher. Example: Smith, John A. (2020). *Theories of*

Social Change. New York: Oxford University Press.

Journal Article Entries in Author-Date

Journal articles in the author-date system are listed with the author's last name and first name, the year of publication in parentheses, the title of the article in quotation marks, the journal title in italics, the volume and issue numbers, and the page range. Example: Johnson, Sarah L. (2019). "Urban Gentrification Patterns." *Sociological Quarterly* 60 (2): 210-225.

Website Entries in Author-Date

Citing websites using the author-date system requires the author or organization, the year of publication or last update, the title of the page, the website name, and the URL. The date of access is also crucial for online resources. Example: Pew Research Center. (2021). Trends in Social Media Usage. Retrieved October 26, 2023, from <https://www.pewresearch.org/social-media-trends>.

Citing Books in Chicago Style Sociology

Books are foundational to sociological research, and their correct citation in Chicago style is critical. Whether you are using the notes and bibliography system or the author-date system, the core information required remains consistent, with formatting differences for in-text citations and the final list of sources.

Books with One Author

A single-author book is the most straightforward to cite. In the notes and bibliography system, a footnote might look like: 1. Jane Doe, *The Sociology of Everyday Life* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018), 55. The bibliography entry would be: Doe, Jane. *The Sociology of Everyday Life*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018. In the author-date system, an in-text citation would be (Doe 2018, 55), and the reference list entry: Doe, Jane. 2018. *The Sociology of Everyday Life*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Books with Two or More Authors

Citing books with multiple authors requires careful attention to how many authors are listed. For two authors, both are typically included. For three or more, the first author is listed, followed by "and others" in the notes and bibliography system. In the author-date system, it is common to list all authors up to a certain number (e.g., three or four) and then use "et al." depending on specific guidelines or personal preference for consistency.

Edited Books

When citing an edited book where you are referencing the work of the editor rather than a specific chapter contributor, the format is similar to a single-author book, with the editor's role clearly indicated. If you are citing a specific chapter by a contributor within an edited volume, the citation will typically include the chapter author, chapter title, and then details about the edited book.

Citing Journal Articles in Chicago Style Sociology

Journal articles are a vital source of current sociological research. Their citation requires accuracy in capturing publication details to allow readers to easily locate them. Both Chicago citation systems

provide clear guidelines for these citations.

Articles from Print Journals

For print journal articles, ensure you include the author(s), article title, journal title, volume and issue numbers, and the page range. The specific formatting in notes and bibliography will differ from the author-date system, particularly in the placement of the year and publication details.

Articles from Online Journals (with DOI)

When citing articles accessed online that have a Digital Object Identifier (DOI), it is best practice to include the DOI in your citation. This provides a stable, unique identifier that helps readers access the article even if the URL changes. The DOI is typically placed at the end of the citation.

Articles from Online Journals (without DOI)

If an online journal article does not have a DOI, you will typically include the URL and the date you accessed the article. This ensures that the reader can retrieve the specific version of the article you consulted.

Citing Websites and Online Resources in Chicago Style Sociology

The internet is an indispensable resource for sociological research, but citing websites requires attention to detail to ensure their retrievability and to acknowledge the author or organization responsible for the content.

Citing a Web Page by an Individual Author

When a web page has a clearly identified individual author, that author's name is used as the primary element in the citation. The title of the specific page or article, followed by the name of the website, and the publication or last updated date are then included.

Citing a Web Page by an Organization

If a website's content is attributed to an organization rather than an individual, the organization's name serves as the author. This is common for reports, statistical data, or informational pages published by research institutions, government bodies, or non-profit organizations.

Citing Online Reports and Documents

Many sociological studies and reports are published online. These citations should include the author (individual or organization), title of the report, publication year, and the URL. Including the date of access is also crucial for these dynamic resources.

Citing Other Common Sociology Sources

Beyond books and journal articles, sociologists often draw upon a variety of other sources, each with its own citation requirements. Understanding how to cite these materials ensures comprehensive and accurate referencing.

Government Documents

Government documents, such as census data, reports from government agencies, or legislative records, are rich sources of sociological information. Citations for these typically include the issuing agency, the title of the document, and publication details.

Dissertations and Theses

When citing dissertations or theses, whether your own or those of others, you will need to include the author's name, the title, the degree for which it was submitted, the institution, and the year. If accessed online through a database like ProQuest, that information should also be included.

Conference Proceedings

Citing papers presented at academic conferences requires details about the authors, the title of the paper, the name of the conference, the date of the conference, and the location. If the proceedings are published, publication details are also necessary.

Common Citation Pitfalls and How to Avoid Them

Navigating citation styles can be complex, and even experienced scholars can make mistakes. Being aware of common pitfalls is the first step to avoiding them and ensuring your Chicago style sociology citations are accurate and consistent.

Inconsistent Formatting

One of the most frequent errors is inconsistent formatting across different entries or within the same entry. This can include variations in capitalization, punctuation, or the order of elements. Maintaining a style guide and double-checking each entry can prevent this.

Missing Essential Information

Forgetting to include crucial elements like page numbers, publication dates, or URLs can render a citation incomplete and difficult to verify. Always consult the specific requirements for each source type and ensure all necessary components are present.

Incorrectly Abbreviating Sources

In the notes and bibliography system, improperly abbreviating subsequent citations or failing to use a shortened title when necessary can lead to confusion. Ensure you follow the established conventions for shortened notes.

Over-reliance on Online Citation Generators

While online citation generators can be helpful tools, they are not infallible. Always cross-reference the generated citation with the official Chicago Manual of Style guidelines to ensure accuracy, especially for less common source types.

Failing to Cite Indirect Sources

Citing a source that you found referenced within another source (an indirect citation) requires careful handling. Chicago style generally recommends consulting the original source whenever possible. If this is not feasible, the citation should clearly indicate that the information was obtained

indirectly.

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

A: The primary difference lies in how in-text citations are presented. The notes and bibliography system uses numbered footnotes or endnotes, while the author-date system uses parenthetical citations containing the author's last name and the year of publication.

Q: When should I use the notes and bibliography system versus the author-date system for my sociology research?

A: The choice often depends on departmental or professor requirements. Generally, the notes and bibliography system is more common in humanities and for longer works, while the author-date system is prevalent in the social sciences and sciences, including most sociology contexts.

Q: How do I cite a book with multiple authors in Chicago style for a sociology paper?

A: For two authors, list both names. For three or more authors, list the first author followed by "et al." in the notes and bibliography system. In the author-date system, it's common to list the first author followed by "et al." after a certain number of authors, as per specific guidelines.

Q: What is the importance of the Digital Object Identifier (DOI) when citing online journal articles in Chicago style?

A: The DOI provides a unique and stable identifier for online articles. Including it in your citation makes it easier for readers to locate the exact article, even if the original URL changes over time.

Q: How do I cite a website in Chicago style sociology when the author is an organization and not an individual?

A: When an organization is the author, use the organization's name as the author in your citation. Follow this with the title of the specific page or document, the website's name, and the publication or last updated date.

Q: What is the proper way to cite a direct quotation from a book in the author-date system of Chicago style?

A: In the author-date system, a direct quotation is cited in parentheses within the text as (Author Last Name Year, Page Number). For example: (Smith 2020, 45).

Q: Can I use an online citation generator to create my Chicago style sociology citations?

A: Online citation generators can be a helpful starting point, but it is crucial to verify the generated citations against the official Chicago Manual of Style guidelines. Generators can sometimes make errors, especially with less common source types.

Q: What if I need to cite a source that I only found referenced in another source (an indirect citation) in Chicago style?

A: Chicago style recommends consulting the original source whenever possible. If that is not feasible, you should cite the indirect source and indicate that the information was obtained from a secondary source, often by mentioning the original author and work within your citation of the secondary source.

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