

# chicago style sociology paper reference examples for students

## Understanding Chicago Style for Sociology Papers

**chicago style sociology paper reference examples for students** can seem daunting at first, but mastering its nuances is crucial for academic credibility in the field of sociology. This comprehensive guide aims to demystify the intricacies of Chicago style, specifically focusing on how to properly cite various sources within sociology papers. We will delve into the two primary citation systems within Chicago style: the Notes-Bibliography system and the Author-Date system, explaining their applications and providing detailed examples. Understanding the fundamental principles of citing books, journal articles, websites, and other common academic resources will equip you with the confidence to present your research accurately and ethically. This article will cover everything from the basic mechanics of in-text citations to the detailed formatting of the bibliography or reference list, ensuring you have all the tools necessary for successful academic writing in sociology.

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## **The Chicago Manual of Style: An Overview**

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) is a widely respected style guide that offers comprehensive instructions on manuscript preparation, punctuation, and citation. For students and scholars in sociology, adhering to CMOS ensures consistency, clarity, and academic integrity in their written work. It is known for its flexibility, offering two distinct citation systems to accommodate different academic disciplines and preferences. Understanding the core principles of CMOS is the first step towards effectively implementing its citation rules for your sociology research papers.

The manual itself is extensive, covering a vast array of topics related to academic writing. However, for the purpose of referencing, the focus narrows down to the specific formats for in-text citations and the subsequent compilation of bibliographical entries. Sociology, as a discipline, often benefits from the detailed referencing capabilities that Chicago style provides, allowing for nuanced attribution of ideas and findings from a wide range of theoretical and empirical sources.

## **Chicago Style Citation Systems in Sociology**

Chicago style presents two main systems for citing sources: the Notes-Bibliography (NB) system and the Author-Date system. Both are acceptable within sociology, but the choice often depends on departmental guidelines or the specific requirements of a professor. The NB system is more common in the humanities, but is also used in some social science fields, while the Author-Date system is prevalent in the sciences and social sciences, including many areas of sociology.

The fundamental difference lies in how sources are acknowledged within the text and compiled at the end of the paper. The NB system uses superscript numbers in the text that correspond to footnotes or endnotes, with a detailed bibliography at the end. The Author-Date system, conversely, uses parenthetical citations in the text, typically including the author's last name and the publication year, followed by a reference list at the end that includes full source details.

# Notes-Bibliography System: In-Text Citations

In the Notes-Bibliography (NB) system, sources are cited within the body of the paper using superscript numbers. Each number directly corresponds to a footnote at the bottom of the page or an endnote at the end of the paper. These notes provide the bibliographic information for the cited source. For example, if you are quoting a sentence from a book, you would place a superscript number after the quotation mark or punctuation.

The first time a source is cited in a note, the full bibliographic information is provided. Subsequent citations of the same source require a shortened format, 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(s). This system allows for extensive commentary and detailed referencing without interrupting the flow of the main text.

## Formatting Footnotes and Endnotes

Footnotes appear at the bottom of the page where the citation is made, while endnotes are collected at the end of the paper. Both serve the same purpose. The initial note for a book entry, for instance, will include the author's full name, the title of the book in italics, the city of publication, the publisher, the year of publication, and the specific page number(s) being referenced.

A typical first note for a book might look like this: 1. Pierre Bourdieu, *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste*, trans. Richard Nice (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1984), 102.

Subsequent notes for the same source would be abbreviated. For example: 2. Bourdieu, *Distinction*, 155.

## Notes-Bibliography System: Bibliography Entries

The bibliography is an alphabetical list of all the sources cited in the paper, presented at the end. Unlike footnotes, bibliography entries are not numbered. The primary purpose of the bibliography is to provide readers with a comprehensive overview of the research materials used and to allow them to easily locate the sources themselves. The formatting of bibliography entries differs slightly from footnotes, particularly in the order of elements and punctuation.

For books, the author's last name comes first, followed by a comma, then the

full first name. The title is italicized, followed by the publication details. For example:

- Bourdieu, Pierre. *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste*. Translated by Richard Nice. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1984.
- Simmel, Georg. *The Philosophy of Money*. Edited by David Frisby and Tom sensitivity. Translated by Tom sensitivity. London: Routledge, 2002.

Journal articles and other source types have their own specific formatting conventions within the bibliography, which we will explore in later sections.

## Author-Date System: In-Text Citations

The Author-Date system, often preferred in sociology for its conciseness, uses parenthetical citations directly within the text. These citations typically include the author's last name and the year of publication, followed by the page number(s) if a specific part of the work is being referenced. This method allows readers to quickly identify the source of information and its publication date, aiding in understanding the intellectual lineage of arguments.

For instance, a direct quotation would be cited as follows: "The concept of the habitus is central to understanding social reproduction" (Bourdieu 1984, 102). If you are paraphrasing an idea, you would cite it similarly: Bourdieu's concept of habitus is central to understanding social reproduction (Bourdieu 1984).

When multiple works by the same author are cited, or if there are multiple authors with the same last name, you may need to include the author's first initial or a more detailed identifier to prevent confusion. For multiple authors, follow the specific rules for "et al." or listing all authors as dictated by the CMOS.

## Handling Multiple Authors and Dates

When citing works with multiple authors, the CMOS specifies how to list them in both the in-text citation and the reference list. For two authors, you would typically list both names separated by "and" in the reference list, and in the in-text citation, you would use "Smith and Jones." For three or more authors, you cite the first author followed by "et al." in the in-text

citation (Smith et al. 2020). In the reference list, however, you would list all authors up to a certain number (usually 10 or 20, depending on the edition of CMOS) before using "et al.".

If citing multiple works by the same author published in the same year, you would assign letters to each publication (e.g., 2020a, 2020b) and use these designations in your citations. For example: (Smith 2020a). This ensures clear differentiation between works published in the same year.

## Author-Date System: Reference List Entries

The Author-Date system concludes with a Reference List, which is an alphabetical listing of all sources cited in the paper. Unlike the Notes-Bibliography system's bibliography, the Author-Date reference list is typically titled "References." Each entry provides complete bibliographic details for the source, allowing readers to locate and verify the information presented in your paper.

The format for entries in the Reference List is similar to that of the bibliography in the NB system, but with slight variations in punctuation and order. The author's last name comes first, followed by their first name. The year of publication is placed immediately after the author's name. Titles of books and journals are italicized.

### Example Reference List Entry for a Book

For a book, the reference list entry in Author-Date style would appear as follows:

- Bourdieu, Pierre. 1984. *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste*. Translated by Richard Nice. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Simmel, Georg. 2002. *The Philosophy of Money*. Edited by David Frisby and Tom sensitivity. Translated by Tom sensitivity. London: Routledge.

This structure clearly presents the author, publication year, title, and publication information, facilitating easy identification of the source.

# Referencing Books in Chicago Style

Books are foundational to sociological research, and proper citation is paramount. Whether using the Notes-Bibliography or Author-Date system, the core information required for a book entry remains consistent, though the order and punctuation vary.

## Notes-Bibliography System: Books

In the NB system, a full footnote or endnote for a book includes:

- Author's full name (First Last)
- Title of Book (in italics)
- (Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication)
- Page number(s)

Example: 1. Anthony Giddens, *The Constitution of Society: Outline of the Theory of Structuration* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1984), 28.

The bibliography entry for the same book omits the page number and uses a different punctuation style:

- Giddens, Anthony. *The Constitution of Society: Outline of the Theory of Structuration*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1984.

## Author-Date System: Books

In the Author-Date system, the reference list entry for a book includes:

- Author's last name, First name.
- Year of Publication.
- Title of Book (in italics)
- Place of Publication: Publisher.

Example: Giddens, Anthony. 1984. *The Constitution of Society: Outline of the Theory of Structuration*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

The in-text citation would be (Giddens 1984, 28) for a direct quote or (Giddens 1984) for a general reference.

## Referencing Journal Articles in Chicago Style

Journal articles are crucial for staying current with sociological research. Citing them correctly ensures you give credit to the authors and allow your readers to find the original studies.

### Notes-Bibliography System: Journal Articles

For a footnote or endnote:

- Author's full name (First Last), "Article Title," Journal Title Volume, no. Issue (Year): Page number(s).

Example: 3. Erving Goffman, "On Face-Work: An Analysis of Ritual Elements in Social Interaction," *Psychiatry: Journal for the Study of Interpersonal Processes* 18, no. 3 (1955): 213.

For the bibliography:

- Goffman, Erving. "On Face-Work: An Analysis of Ritual Elements in Social Interaction." *Psychiatry: Journal for the Study of Interpersonal Processes* 18, no. 3 (1955): 213–31.

### Author-Date System: Journal Articles

For the reference list:

- Author's last name, First name. Year. "Article Title." Journal Title Volume (Issue): Page number(s).

Example: Goffman, Erving. 1955. "On Face-Work: An Analysis of Ritual Elements

in Social Interaction.” *Psychiatry: Journal for the Study of Interpersonal Processes* 18 (3): 213–31.

The in-text citation would be (Goffman 1955, 213) for a quote or (Goffman 1955) for a paraphrase.

## Referencing Websites and Online Resources

In contemporary sociology, online resources are frequently used. Referencing them requires attention to detail to ensure accuracy and accessibility.

### Notes-Bibliography System: Websites

For a footnote or endnote:

- Author’s full name (First Last), “Title of Web Page/Article,” Name of Website, publication or last modified date, URL (accessed Date).

Example: 5. Pew Research Center, “Social Media Use in 2021,” Pew Research Center, May 31, 2021,  
<https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2021/05/31/social-media-use-in-2021/>  
(accessed October 26, 2023).

For the bibliography:

- Pew Research Center. “Social Media Use in 2021.” Pew Research Center. May 31, 2021.  
<https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2021/05/31/social-media-use-in-2021/>.

### Author-Date System: Websites

For the reference list:

- Author’s last name, First name (or Organization Name). Year. “Title of Web Page/Article.” Name of Website. Publication or last modified date. URL (accessed Date).

Example: Pew Research Center. 2021. "Social Media Use in 2021." Pew Research Center. May 31, 2021.  
<https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2021/05/31/social-media-use-in-2021/>  
(accessed October 26, 2023).

In-text citations for websites often omit page numbers if they are not present.

## Referencing Other Common Sociological Sources

Sociological research can draw from a diverse range of materials, including edited volumes, reports, dissertations, and government documents. Each requires specific citation formatting within Chicago style.

### Edited Volumes and Book Chapters

When citing a chapter within an edited volume:

- **Notes-Bibliography System (Note):** Author of chapter, "Chapter Title," in Book Title, ed. Editor's full name (Place: Publisher, Year), page number(s).
- **Notes-Bibliography System (Bibliography):** Author of chapter, Last Name, First Name. "Chapter Title." In Book Title, ed. Editor's Full Name, page range of chapter. Place: Publisher, Year.
- **Author-Date System (Reference List):** Author of chapter, Last Name, First Name. Year. "Chapter Title." In Book Title, ed. Editor's Full Name, page range of chapter. Place: Publisher.

### Government Documents and Reports

For government documents, it's often best to cite the agency as the author if no individual author is listed:

- **Notes-Bibliography System (Note):** Government Agency, Title of Report (Place: Publisher, Year), page number(s).
- **Notes-Bibliography System (Bibliography):** Government Agency. Title of Report. Place: Publisher, Year.
- **Author-Date System (Reference List):** Government Agency. Year. Title of

Report. Place: Publisher.

If an individual author is named, list them first.

## Dissertations and Theses

Dissertations and theses are also important sources:

- **Notes-Bibliography System (Note):** Author's full name, Title of Dissertation (PhD diss., University Name, Year), page number(s).
- **Notes-Bibliography System (Bibliography):** Author's Last Name, First Name. Title of Dissertation. PhD diss., University Name, Year.
- **Author-Date System (Reference List):** Author's Last Name, First Name. Year. Title of Dissertation. PhD diss., University Name.

## Common Pitfalls and Best Practices

Navigating Chicago style can present challenges. Common errors include inconsistent formatting, incorrect placement of punctuation, and failure to distinguish between the NB and Author-Date systems. Paying close attention to the details of each element—author names, titles, publication information, and page numbers—is vital.

Best practices involve:

- Always consulting the latest edition of The Chicago Manual of Style.
- Checking specific departmental or professor guidelines, as they may have minor variations or preferences.
- Using citation management software (like Zotero, Mendeley, or EndNote) to help generate and format citations, but always review the output for accuracy.
- Keeping detailed records of all sources as you research, making the compilation of bibliographies and reference lists much smoother.
- Proofreading carefully for any citation errors before submitting your paper.

Understanding when to use a full citation versus an abbreviated one in the NB system, and ensuring the correct order of elements in both systems, are critical for accuracy.

## **Conclusion: Mastering Chicago Style for Sociological Research**

Successfully implementing Chicago style for your sociology paper references is a mark of rigorous academic work. Whether you opt for the detailed notes of the Notes-Bibliography system or the streamlined in-text citations of the Author-Date system, consistency and accuracy are paramount. By understanding the specific requirements for citing books, journal articles, online materials, and other common academic sources, you can present your research with clarity and credibility.

The commitment to proper citation not only fulfills academic integrity requirements but also enriches your work by situating your own contributions within the broader scholarly conversation. Practice, careful attention to detail, and consistent reference to style guides will ensure you master Chicago style, empowering you to focus on the substance of your sociological inquiry.

## **FAQ**

### **Q: What is the main difference between the Notes-Bibliography and Author-Date systems in Chicago style for sociology papers?**

A: The primary difference lies in how sources are cited within the text and compiled at the end. The Notes-Bibliography system uses superscript numbers in the text that link to footnotes or endnotes, with a bibliography at the end. The Author-Date system uses parenthetical in-text citations (e.g., (Author Year)) and a reference list at the end.

### **Q: Which Chicago style system is more common in sociology papers?**

A: While both are acceptable, the Author-Date system is generally more prevalent in the social sciences, including many subfields of sociology, due to its conciseness. However, always check your specific course or departmental guidelines.

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

A: For two authors, list both names in the in-text citation and reference list (e.g., Smith and Jones). For three or more authors, list the first author followed by "et al." in the in-text citation (e.g., Smith et al.). In the reference list/bibliography, you will list all authors up to a certain number before using "et al." as per CMOS guidelines.

**Q: What is the correct way to cite a journal article that is available online in Chicago style?**

A: For online journal articles, you generally include the journal title, volume, issue, year, and page numbers, along with the DOI (Digital Object Identifier) if available, or the URL and access date if no DOI is provided. The specific format differs slightly between the Notes-Bibliography and Author-Date systems.

**Q: How should I format my bibliography or reference list for a sociology paper in Chicago style?**

A: Both the bibliography (for NB system) and the reference list (for Author-Date system) should be alphabetized by the author's last name. The specific formatting of each entry (e.g., order of elements, punctuation, italicization) depends on the type of source being cited (book, article, website, etc.) and the chosen citation system.

**Q: What are some common mistakes students make when using Chicago style for sociology papers?**

A: Common mistakes include inconsistent formatting, incorrect use of italics, misplacing punctuation, failing to distinguish between footnote/endnote and bibliography/reference list formats, and not properly abbreviating subsequent citations in the Notes-Bibliography system.

**Q: Can I use a DOI instead of a URL for online sources in my Chicago style sociology paper references?**

A: Yes, if a DOI is available for an online source, it is generally preferred over a URL because it is a more stable and persistent identifier for the content. You would typically include the DOI in a format like doi:xxxxxxx.

## **Q: When citing a website, what information is essential for a Chicago style sociology paper reference?**

A: For websites, you'll need the author (or organization name), the title of the specific page or article, the name of the website, the publication or last updated date, and the URL. Including the date you accessed the page is also recommended, especially if the content might change.

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