

# chicago style sociology paper reference guide examples for students

## Chicago Style Sociology Paper Reference Guide: Examples for Students

**chicago style sociology paper reference guide examples for students** is a crucial topic for anyone undertaking academic writing in the social sciences. Mastering this citation style ensures academic integrity, allows readers to verify your research, and demonstrates a thorough understanding of scholarly conventions. This comprehensive guide will demystify the intricacies of Chicago style, providing clear explanations and practical examples for citing various sources commonly encountered in sociology papers. We will cover the fundamental principles of both the Notes-Bibliography system and the Author-Date system, offering step-by-step instructions and illustrative examples that students can readily apply to their own work. By the end of this article, you will feel confident in your ability to format citations accurately and efficiently, enhancing the credibility and professionalism of your sociological research.

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## Understanding the Chicago Manual of Style

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) is a widely respected style guide published by the University of Chicago Press. It provides comprehensive guidelines for manuscript preparation, citation, and publishing. For academic papers, particularly in the humanities and social sciences, CMOS offers two distinct citation systems: the Notes-Bibliography system and the Author-Date system. Understanding the fundamental differences between these two systems is the first step toward correctly referencing your sociological research.

The choice between the Notes-Bibliography system and the Author-Date system often depends on the specific requirements of your professor, department, or the journal you intend to publish in. The Notes-Bibliography system uses numbered footnotes or endnotes to cite sources within the text, along with a bibliography at the end of the paper. The Author-Date system, on the other hand, uses parenthetical in-text citations followed by a reference list. Both systems aim to provide clear and consistent attribution of sources.

# Notes-Bibliography System Explained

The Notes-Bibliography system is characterized by its use of superscript numbers within the text, which correspond to detailed notes (either footnotes at the bottom of the page or endnotes at the end of the document). This system is particularly common in history and literature but is also frequently used in sociology. The primary advantage of this system is that it allows for detailed annotations and commentary without disrupting the flow of the main text.

In this system, each piece of information borrowed from an external source, whether it's a direct quote, a paraphrase, or a summary of an idea, requires a corresponding note number. The first time a source is cited, the note provides full publication details. Subsequent citations of the same source can use a shortened form, typically including the author's last name, a shortened title, and the page number. The bibliography at the end of the paper lists all sources cited in the notes, alphabetized by the author's last name, and provides complete publication information for each entry.

## First-Time Footnote/Endnote Citation

When citing a source for the first time, the note should be comprehensive. This ensures that readers have all the necessary information to locate the original source. The format will vary slightly depending on the type of source, but the general principle is to provide enough detail to uniquely identify the work.

For a book, a first-time footnote would typically include:

- Author's first and last name
- Title of the book (italicized)
- Publication city
- Publisher
- Year of publication
- Page number(s) being referenced

## Subsequent Footnote/Endnote Citation

After the initial full citation, subsequent references to the same source are shortened. This prevents redundancy and makes the notes more concise. The goal is to provide just enough information for the reader to identify the source from the bibliography without needing to refer back to the first full note.

A shortened footnote for a book would typically include:

- Author's last name
- Shortened title of the book (italicized)
- Page number(s) being referenced

## **Bibliography Entry**

The bibliography is an alphabetized list of all sources cited in the paper. Unlike the notes, the author's last name appears first, followed by their first name. The publication information is presented in a standard format, and the entire entry is typically single-spaced with a double space between entries.

A bibliography entry for a book would typically include:

- Author's last name, first name
- Title of the book (italicized)
- Publication city: Publisher, Year of publication

## **Author-Date System Explained**

The Author-Date system, also known as the parenthetical citation system, uses brief in-text citations to refer readers to a full reference list at the end of the paper. This method is often preferred in the natural sciences and some social science disciplines because it quickly conveys essential source information directly within the narrative flow.

In-text citations in this system typically include the author's last name, the year of publication, and the page number(s) if a direct quote or specific information is being cited. For example, a citation might appear as (Smith 2020, 15). This is followed by a reference list at the end of the paper, which contains full bibliographic information for all sources cited. The reference list is alphabetized by the author's last name.

## **In-Text Citations**

The in-text citations are concise and designed to be unobtrusive. They provide the essential elements needed for readers to locate the source in the reference list without extensive searching. The

placement of the citation is usually at the end of the sentence or clause where the information is presented.

An example of an in-text citation for a book:

- (Author Last Name Year, Page Number)

For instance, if citing a work by Jane Doe published in 2019 on page 42, the citation would be (Doe 2019, 42).

## Reference List Entry

The reference list is the equivalent of the bibliography in the Notes-Bibliography system. It provides complete publication details for every source referenced in the text. Like the bibliography, it is alphabetized by author's last name.

A reference list entry for a book would typically include:

- Author Last Name, First Name. Year. Title of Book (italicized). Publication City: Publisher.

## Citing Books in Chicago Style

Books are foundational sources in sociology, and correctly citing them is paramount. The Chicago Manual of Style provides specific formats for different types of books, including those with single authors, multiple authors, edited volumes, and different editions.

### Single-Author Book (Notes-Bibliography)

For a book authored by one person, the notes and bibliography entries follow a clear structure. Pay close attention to punctuation and the order of elements.

#### Footnote/Endnote (First Reference):

1. John R. sociologist, *The Study of Society: A Comprehensive Overview* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018), 75.

#### Footnote/Endnote (Subsequent Reference):

2. sociologist, *Study of Society*, 112.

**Bibliography Entry:**

sociologist, John R. *The Study of Society: A Comprehensive Overview*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018.

## Single-Author Book (Author-Date)

When using the Author-Date system, the in-text citations are brief, and the reference list provides the full details.

**In-Text Citation:**

(sociologist 2018, 75)

**Reference List Entry:**

sociologist, John R. 2018. *The Study of Society: A Comprehensive Overview*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

## Edited Book (Notes-Bibliography)

When citing a book that has been compiled and edited by one or more individuals, you need to indicate the editor(s) in the citation.

**Footnote/Endnote (First Reference):**

1. Sarah Lee, ed., *Contemporary Social Theories* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2021), 45.

**Bibliography Entry:**

Lee, Sarah, ed. *Contemporary Social Theories*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2021.

## Edited Book (Author-Date)

The Author-Date format for edited books also specifies the editor.

**In-Text Citation:**

(Lee 2021, 45)

**Reference List Entry:**

Lee, Sarah, ed. 2021. *Contemporary Social Theories*. New York: Oxford University Press.

# Citing Journal Articles in Chicago Style

Journal articles are a vital source of current sociological research. Correctly citing them ensures that your readers can access the latest findings in the field.

## Journal Article (Notes-Bibliography)

Journal article citations require specific details, including the author(s), article title, journal title, volume and issue numbers, and the year of publication, along with page numbers.

### Footnote/Endnote (First Reference):

1. Michael Chen and Emily Garcia, "The Impact of Social Media on Political Discourse," *Journal of Sociology and Communication* 45, no. 3 (2019): 301.

### Footnote/Endnote (Subsequent Reference):

2. Chen and Garcia, "Social Media," 305.

### Bibliography Entry:

Chen, Michael, and Emily Garcia. "The Impact of Social Media on Political Discourse." *Journal of Sociology and Communication* 45, no. 3 (2019): 301-320.

## Journal Article (Author-Date)

The Author-Date system for journal articles follows a similar principle of brief in-text citations linked to a detailed reference list.

### In-Text Citation:

(Chen and Garcia 2019, 301)

### Reference List Entry:

Chen, Michael, and Emily Garcia. 2019. "The Impact of Social Media on Political Discourse." *Journal of Sociology and Communication* 45 (3): 301-320.

## Citing Websites and Online Sources

The digital age has made websites and online articles essential resources. Chicago style provides guidelines for citing these dynamic and often less formally structured sources.

## Website with Author (Notes-Bibliography)

When a website article has a clear author, the citation should reflect this. Include the title of the specific page, the website name, and the URL.

### Footnote/Endnote:

1. David Kim, "Understanding Community Dynamics," *Sociology Today*, accessed October 26, 2023, <https://www.sociologytoday.org/community-dynamics>.

### Bibliography Entry:

Kim, David. "Understanding Community Dynamics." *Sociology Today*. Accessed October 26, 2023. <https://www.sociologytoday.org/community-dynamics>.

## Website with Author (Author-Date)

For the Author-Date system, the in-text citation usually includes the author and the year if available. If no year is present, you can use "n.d." for no date.

### In-Text Citation:

(Kim n.d.)

### Reference List Entry:

Kim, David. n.d. "Understanding Community Dynamics." *Sociology Today*. Accessed October 26, 2023. <https://www.sociologytoday.org/community-dynamics>.

## Website without Author (Notes-Bibliography)

If a website article lacks a named author, begin the citation with the title of the specific page or article.

### Footnote/Endnote:

1. "Global Poverty Trends," *World Statistics Bureau*, last modified January 15, 2023, <https://www.worldstats.org/poverty-trends>.

### Bibliography Entry:

"Global Poverty Trends." *World Statistics Bureau*. Last modified January 15, 2023. <https://www.worldstats.org/poverty-trends>.

## Website without Author (Author-Date)

In the Author-Date system, when there is no author, the title of the page or article often serves as the first element in the citation.

### In-Text Citation:

("Global Poverty Trends" 2023)

### Reference List Entry:

"Global Poverty Trends." 2023. *World Statistics Bureau*. Last modified January 15, 2023.  
<https://www.worldstats.org/poverty-trends>.

## Citing Other Common Sources

Sociology papers may draw on a variety of other sources, such as book chapters, conference papers, and interviews. Each requires specific formatting.

## Book Chapter (Notes-Bibliography)

When citing a chapter within an edited book, you must identify both the chapter author and the book editor.

### Footnote/Endnote:

1. Maria Rossi, "Urban Gentrification and Social Displacement," in *Cities in Transition*, ed. by Robert Miller (New York: Routledge, 2020), 115.

### Bibliography Entry:

Rossi, Maria. "Urban Gentrification and Social Displacement." In *Cities in Transition*, edited by Robert Miller, 105-130. New York: Routledge, 2020.

## Book Chapter (Author-Date)

The Author-Date format for book chapters includes the chapter author and publication year.

### In-Text Citation:

(Rossi 2020, 115)

### Reference List Entry:

Rossi, Maria. 2020. "Urban Gentrification and Social Displacement." In *Cities in Transition*, edited by Robert Miller, 105–130. New York: Routledge.

## Interview (Notes-Bibliography)

Personal interviews, whether conducted by the student or published, should be cited. For unpublished interviews, the citation will be more descriptive than a formal publication.

### Footnote/Endnote:

1. Interview with Dr. Anya Sharma, by author, March 15, 2023, personal collection.

### Bibliography Entry:

Sharma, Anya. Interview by author. March 15, 2023. Personal collection.

## Interview (Author-Date)

Due to the nature of interviews, they are typically not cited in-text with a year in the Author-Date system unless they are published with a specific date. Often, they are described in the text or referenced with an identifier.

### Reference List Entry (if published):

Sharma, Anya. 2023. Interview by author. March 15, 2023. Accessed via personal collection.

## Common Citation Errors to Avoid

Even with detailed guides, students often make recurring mistakes when citing sources. Being aware of these pitfalls can help you avoid them.

Common errors include:

- Inconsistent formatting between notes and bibliography entries.
- Incorrect use of italics for titles.
- Omitting essential publication details like page numbers or years.
- Misplacing punctuation, such as commas and periods.
- Confusing the order of author names or publication information.
- Forgetting to cite paraphrased or summarized information, not just direct quotes.

- Failing to alphabetize the bibliography or reference list correctly.
- Using inconsistent abbreviation styles for repeated sources in the Notes-Bibliography system.

## **The Importance of Consistency in Referencing**

Regardless of whether you choose the Notes-Bibliography or Author-Date system, the most critical aspect of Chicago style (or any citation style) is consistency. Once you have established a format for a particular type of source, adhere to it meticulously throughout your entire paper. Inconsistencies can detract from the professionalism of your work and may lead to deductions in your grade.

Consistency in referencing not only makes your paper appear more polished but also demonstrates your attention to detail and adherence to academic standards. It allows your readers to easily follow your citations and locate the sources you have used, thereby strengthening the credibility of your sociological arguments and research findings. Always consult your professor for their specific preferences regarding citation styles and any departmental guidelines.

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

A: The primary difference lies in how sources are cited within the text. The Notes-Bibliography system uses numbered footnotes or endnotes, while the Author-Date system uses parenthetical in-text citations (Author Year, Page). Both systems conclude with a comprehensive list of all sources.

### **Q: Do I need to cite every single piece of information from a source in Chicago style?**

A: You must cite any information that is not considered common knowledge. This includes direct quotes, paraphrased ideas, summaries of arguments, data, statistics, and any specific facts or theories attributed to another author.

### **Q: How do I cite a source that has multiple authors in Chicago style?**

A: For two authors, list both names in the citation. For three or more authors, in the Notes-Bibliography system, list all names in the first note and subsequent notes. In the Author-Date system, list all names in the reference list, but in-text citations use the first author's last name followed by "et al."

## **Q: What should I do if a source has no publication date?**

A: In Chicago style, if a source lacks a publication date, you should use "n.d." (for no date) in place of the year in both your in-text citations (Author-Date system) and your reference list/bibliography entries.

## **Q: How do I cite a book that I accessed online, like an e-book?**

A: When citing an e-book or a book found online, you generally follow the format for a regular book but include the URL and the date you accessed the material. For the Notes-Bibliography system, it would typically be Author, Title, Publication Info, URL, accessed Date. For Author-Date, it would be Author. Year. Title. Publication City: Publisher. URL (accessed Date).

## **Q: Is it acceptable to abbreviate journal titles in my bibliography?**

A: The Chicago Manual of Style generally recommends spelling out journal titles fully. Abbreviations are typically reserved for repeated citations in the Notes-Bibliography system (using shortened titles) or for specific, widely recognized abbreviations if explicitly permitted by your instructor.

## **Q: How do I format the bibliography or reference list in Chicago style?**

A: Both the bibliography and reference list should be alphabetized by the author's last name. Entries are typically single-spaced with a double space between each entry. The first line of each entry is flush with the left margin, and subsequent lines are indented (hanging indent).

## **Q: Can I use a mix of Notes-Bibliography and Author-Date citations in the same paper?**

A: No, you must choose one system and use it consistently throughout your entire paper. Mixing systems will lead to confusion and a lack of academic rigor. Always confirm with your instructor which system is preferred.

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