Chicago-Style Citation Quick Guide

The Chicago Manual of Style presents two basic documentation systems: (1) notes and bibliography and (2) author-date. Choosing between the two often depends on subject matter and the nature of sources cited, as each system is favored by different groups of scholars.

The notes and bibliography style is preferred by many in the humanities, including those in literature, history, and the arts. This style presents bibliographic information in notes and, often, a bibliography. It accommodates a variety of sources, including esoteric ones less appropriate to the author-date system.

The author-date system has long been used by those in the physical, natural, and social sciences. In this system, sources are briefly cited in the text, usually in parentheses, by author’s last name and date of publication. The short citations are amplified in a list of references, where full bibliographic information is provided.

Aside from the use of notes versus parenthetical references in the text, the two systems share a similar style. Click on the tabs below to see some common examples of materials cited in each style, including examples of common electronic sources. For numerous specific examples, see chapters 14 and 15 of the 16th edition of The Chicago Manual of Style.

Author-Date: Sample Citations

The following examples illustrate citations using the author-date system. Each example of a reference list entry is accompanied by an example of a corresponding parenthetical citation in the text. For more details and many more examples, see chapter 15 of The Chicago Manual of Style. For examples of the same citations using the notes and bibliography system, click on the Notes and Bibliography tab above.

Book

One author


[Pollan 2006, 99–100]

Two or more authors


[Ward and Burns 2007, 52]

For four or more authors, list all of the authors in the reference list; in the text, list only the first author, followed by et al. ("and others"): 

[Barnes et al. 2010]

Editor, translator, or compiler instead of author


[Lattimore 1951, 91–92]

Editor, translator, or compiler in addition to author


[García Márquez 1988, 242–55]

Chapter or other part of a book


[Kelly 2010, 77]

Chapter of an edited volume originally published elsewhere (as in primary sources)

[Cicero 1986, 35]

**Preface, foreword, introduction, or similar part of a book**


[Rieger 1982, xx–xxi]

**Book published electronically**

If a book is available in more than one format, cite the version you consulted. For books consulted online, list a URL; include an access date only if one is required by your publisher or discipline. If no fixed page numbers are available, you can include a section title or a chapter or other number.


[Austen 2007]

[Kurland and Lerner, chap. 10, doc. 19]

**Journal article**

In the text, list the specific page numbers consulted, if any. In the reference list entry, list the page range for the whole article.


[Weinstein 2009, 440]

**Article in an online journal**

Include a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) if the journal lists one. A DOI is a permanent ID that, when appended to http://dx.doi.org/ in the address bar of an Internet browser, will lead to the source. If no DOI is available, list a URL. Include an access date only if one is required by your publisher or discipline.


[Kossinets and Watts 2009, 411]

**Article in a newspaper or popular magazine**

Newspaper and magazine articles may be cited in running text (“As Sheryl Stolberg and Robert Pear noted in a *New York Times* article on February 27, 2010, . . .”), and they are commonly omitted from a reference list. The following examples show the more formal versions of the citations. If you consulted the article online, include a URL; include an access date only if your publisher or discipline requires one. If no author is identified, begin the citation with the article title.


[Mendelsohn 2010, 68]

[Stolberg and Pear 2010]

**Book review**


[Kamp 2006]

**Thesis or dissertation**


[Choi 2008]

**Paper presented at a meeting or conference**

Adelman, Rachel. 2009. “Such Stuff as Dreams Are Made On: God’s Footstool in the Aramaic Targumim and

[Adelman 2009]

**Website**

A citation to website content can often be limited to a mention in the text ("As of July 19, 2008, the McDonald’s Corporation listed on its website . . ."). If a more formal citation is desired, it may be styled as in the examples below. Because such content is subject to change, include an access date or, if available, a date that the site was last modified. In the absence of a date of publication, use the access date or last-modified date as the basis of the citation.


[Google 2009]
[McDonald's 2008]

**Blog entry or comment**

Blog entries or comments may be cited in running text ("In a comment posted to The Becker-Posner Blog on February 23, 2010, . . ."), and they are commonly omitted from a reference list. If a reference list entry is needed, cite the blog post there but mention comments in the text only. (If an access date is required, add it before the URL; see examples elsewhere in this guide.)


[Posner 2010]

**E-mail or text message**

E-mail and text messages may be cited in running text ("In a text message to the author on March 1, 2010, John Doe revealed . . ."), and they are rarely listed in a reference list. In parenthetical citations, the term personal communication (or pers. comm.) can be used.

[John Doe, e-mail message to author, February 28, 2010]

or

[John Doe, pers. comm.]

**Item in a commercial database**

For items retrieved from a commercial database, add the name of the database and an accession number following the facts of publication. In this example, the dissertation cited above is shown as it would be cited if it were retrieved from ProQuest’s database for dissertations and theses.