Chicago Citation Style

The Chicago Style is a method of documenting sources in a research paper derived from the house style of the University of Chicago Press. The information on this handout is derived from the 16th edition of The Chicago Manual of Style.

Text Citations (Author-Date Style)

When working information into a research paper which is directly derived from another source, it is necessary to insert a parenthetical reference within the body of the paper. Please note that text citations should only be used when incorporating the Author-Date style of citation preferred by the physical, natural, and social sciences. For more examples, see The Chicago Manual of Style, 16th edition.

Author’s Name in Text (Direct Quotation):
Miele (1993, 276) found that the “the ‘placebo effect,’ which had been verified in previous studies, disappeared when [only the first group’s] behaviors were studied in this manner.”

Author’s Name in Reference (Direct Quotation):
She stated, “The ‘placebo effect,’ . . . disappeared when behaviors were studied in this manner” (Miele 1993, 276), but she did not clarify which behaviors were studied.

Text Citation (not Direct Quotation):
Recent literature has examined long-run price drifts following initial public offerings (Ritter 1991; Loughran and Ritter 1995).

Notes and Bibliography / Author-Date

The Chicago Manual states that the Notes and Bibliography system of citation is favored by writers in literature, the arts, and history and that the Author-Date system is preferred by writers in the physical, natural, and social sciences and is recommended for works in those areas. Chicago recommends the use of the long form of the Notes format the first time a work is cited, then the shortened version for subsequent citations. If a full bibliography is included at the end of the work, then Chicago recommends only using the shortened version for footnotes. Bibliographic (B) and both long and shortened Notes (N) formats as well as Author-Date style Reference List format (A-D) are included below.

Electronic Sources:

[NOTE: Only add the access date if a publication and/or revision date cannot be ascertained.]

Article from a Library Database:

[NOTE: Include URL only if URL is shortened and stable, otherwise include DOI, accession number, or any other identifying number listed in database citation.]


Document on Web Site:


For more examples, see the Chicago Manual of Style, 16th edition.

Print Sources:

Book by a Single Author:


Book by Two or More Authors:


[NOTE: For four or more authors or editors, only include the first author or editor’s name in the Notes.]


Edited Book:


[NOTE: Abbreviation, ed., is omitted in subsequent Notes to the same work.]


Article or Chapter in Edited Book:


Book by a Corporate Author:

[NOTE: When no individual author or editor is listed, but rather a government agency, foundation, or company.]


Article in a Newspaper or Magazine:

[NOTE: The Chicago Manual notes that “a list of works cited need not list newspaper items if these have been documented in the text.” (2010, 740-41).]


Article in a Scholarly Journal:


[NOTE: In the Author-Date style reference list, issue numbers may be omitted if pagination is continuous throughout a volume.]

For more examples, see The Chicago Manual of Style, 16th edition.