Chicago-Style Citation Quick Guide

The Chicago Manual of Style presents two basic documentation systems, the humanities style (notes and bibliography) and the author-date system.

Notes and bibliography system: preferred for literature, history, and the arts. Notes may be footnotes or endnotes. For notes, indent the first line; in the bibliography, indent the second and subsequent lines (examples [N] and [B], below).

Author-date system: used in the physical, natural, and social sciences. Sources are cited in the text in parentheses, by author’s last name, date of publication and page number if needed. Full bibliographic information is provided in a list of references (examples [T] and [R], below). In the reference list, indent the second and subsequent lines.

Online sources that are analogous to print sources (such as articles published in online journals, magazines, or newspapers) should be cited similarly to their print counterparts but with the addition of a URL. Some publishers or disciplines may also require an access date. For online or other electronic sources that do not have a direct print counterpart (such as an institutional Web site or a Weblog), give as much information as you can in addition to the URL.


Books

One author

T: (Doniger 1999, 65)

Two authors

T: (Cowlishaw and Dunbar 2000, 104–7)

Four or more authors

T:  (Laumann et al. 1994, 262)

Editor, translator, or compiler instead of author

T:  (Lattimore 1951, 91–92)

Chapter, essay or other part of a book

T:  (Wiese 2006, 101–2)

Books published electronically

If a book is available in more than one format, you should cite the version you consulted, but you may also list the other formats, as in [B] below. If an access date is required by your publisher or discipline, include it parenthetically at the end of the citation, as in [A] below.

T:  (Kurland and Lerner 1987)
Journals

Scholarly journal (show volume & date)


T: (Smith 1998, 639)

Popular magazine article (show date alone)


T: (Martin 2002, 84)

Newspaper article

Newspapers are more commonly cited in notes or parenthetical references than in bibliographies. A list of works cited need not list newspaper items if these have been documented in the text (e.g., “In an article on rampage killers (*New York Times*, April 10, 2000), Laurie Goodstein and William Glaberson describe...”) would NOT require a corresponding entry in a bibliography or reference list. If you do wish to list a newspaper in a bibliography, see these examples; note that page numbers are omitted, since they can vary in different editions of the newspaper.


T: (Niederkorn 2002)

Article in an online journal, magazine or newspaper

Add the article’s URL to the basic citation. However, for articles accessed through a third-party database (e.g., JSTOR), list the URL of the “main entrance” page of the database instead of the individual article, e.g. http://www.jstor.org/ or http://muse.jhu.edu/ If an access date is required by your publisher or discipline, include it parenthetically at the end of the citation, as in [R] below.

Web sites

Web sites may be cited in running text (“On its Web site, the Evanston Public Library Board of Trustees states . . .”) instead of in an in-text citation, and they are commonly omitted from a bibliography or reference list as well. The following examples show the more formal versions of the citations. If an access date is required by your publisher or discipline, include it parenthetically at the end of the citation, as in the second example below.


Government documents

The author-date style is generally inappropriate for citing public documents, so examples are shown only for note/bibliographic form. Should conversion to author-date system be necessary, refer to Chicago Manual of Style chapter 16 or the examples in section 17.293.

Federal agency with personal author


Congressional hearing


Federal Commission / Agency report with corporate author


Congressional Record


B:  U.S. Congress. Congressional Record. 71st Cong., 2d sess., 1930. Vol. 72, pt.10

[Note: unless required to keep all references together in a bibliography, “U.S. Congress” may be omitted.]

Government Periodical

    (Issued by the US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis C 56.109)

    (Issued by the US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis C 56.109)

U.S. Supreme Court Decision


B:  Plessy v. Ferguson, 163 U.S. 537 (1896).