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. Choosing between the two often depends on subject matter and nature of sources cited, as each system is favored by different groups of scholars. The humanities style is preferred by many 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 more concise 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.

Below are some common examples of materials cited in both styles. Each example is given first in humanities style (a note [N], followed by a bibliographic entry [B]) and then in author-date style (an in-text citation [T], followed by a reference-list entry [R]). For numerous specific examples, see chapters 16 and 17 of The Chicago Manual of Style, 15th edition.

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. The following examples include some of the most common types of electronic sources.

**Book**

One author

Note:


Bibliography:


In-Text citation:

(Doniger 1999, 65)

Reference:


Two authors

Note:

Bibliography:


In-Text citation:

(Cowlishaw and Dunbar 2000, 104–7)

Reference:


*Four or more authors*

Note:


Bibliography:


In-Text citation:

(Laumann et al. 1994, 262)

Reference:


*Editor, translator, or compiler instead of author*

Note:


Bibliography:


In-Text citation:

(Lattimore 1951, 91–92)

Reference:


*Editor, translator, or compiler in addition to author*

Note:


Bibliography:


In-Text citation:

(Bonnefoy 1995, 22)
Reference:

**Chapter or other part of a book**

Note:

Bibliography:

In-Text citation:
(Wiese 2006, 101–2)

Reference:

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

Note:

Bibliography:

In-Text citation:
(Cicero 1986, 35)

Reference:
Preface, foreword, introduction, or similar part of a book

Note:

Bibliography:

In-Text citation:
(Rieger 1982, xx–xxi)

Reference:

Book 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 the second example below. If an access date is required by your publisher or discipline, include it parenthetically at the end of the citation, as in the first example below.

Note:

Bibliography:

In-Text citation:
(Kurland and Lerner 1987)

Reference:

JOURNAL ARTICLE

Article in a print journal

Note:

Bibliography:

In-Text citation:
(Smith 1998, 639)

Reference:
**Article in an online journal**

If an access date is required by your publisher or discipline, include it parenthetically at the end of the citation, as in the fourth example below.

Note:


Bibliography:


In-Text citation:

(Hlatky et al. 2002)

Reference:


**Popular magazine article**

Note:


Bibliography:


In-Text citation:

(Martin 2002, 84)

Reference:


**Newspaper article**

Newspaper articles may be cited in running text ("As William Niederkorn noted in a *New York Times* article on June 20, 2002, . . . ") instead of in a note or 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.

Note:

Bibliography:

In-Text citation:
(Niederkorn 2002)

Reference:

BOOK REVIEW

Note:

Bibliography:

In-Text citation:
(Gorman 2002, 16)

Reference:

THESIS OR DISSERTATION

Note:

Bibliography:

In-Text citation:
(Amundin 1991, 22–29, 35)

Reference:

PAPER PRESENTED AT A MEETING OR CONFERENCE

Note:
Bibliography:


In-Text citation:

(Doyle 2002)

Reference:


WEB SITE

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.

Note:


Bibliography:


In-Text citation:

(Evanston Public Library Board of Trustees)

Reference:


WEBLOG ENTRY OR COMMENT

Weblog entries or comments may be cited in running text (“In a comment posted to the Becker-Posner Blog on March 6, 2006, Peter Pearson noted . . .”) instead of in a note or 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 first example below.

Note:


Bibliography:


In-Text citation:

(Peter Pearson, The Becker-Posner Blog, comment posted March 6, 2006)
Reference:

**E-MAIL MESSAGE**

E-mail messages may be cited in running text (“In an e-mail message to the author on October 31, 2005, John Doe revealed . . .”) instead of in a note or an in-text citation, and they are rarely listed in a bibliography or reference list. The following example shows the more formal version of a note.

Note:
   2. John Doe, e-mail message to author, October 31, 2005.

**ITEM IN ONLINE DATABASE**

Journal articles published in online databases should be cited as shown above, under “Article in an online journal.” If an access date is required by your publisher or discipline, include it parenthetically at the end of the citation, as in the first example below.

Note:

Bibliography:

In-Text citation:
   (Pliny the Elder, Perseus Digital Library)

Reference: